



For Immediate Release

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The City of Saratoga Eats and Dances for Wildfire Prevention

Foodie Fun on the Run Food and Music Festival to raise money for FireSafe Council programs

San Jose, May 15, 2013 – The low rainfall and high temperatures means an early wildfire season for Santa Clara County. The importance of wildfire awareness and prevention remains a high priority for government officials, fire agencies, and residents especially in high-risk communities like the City of Saratoga and its surrounding neighborhoods.

On Sunday May 19th, Smokey Bear and friends will be dancing to live music and enjoying the Silicon Valley's favorite food truck vendors at Foodie Fun on Run Food and Music Festival, hosted by Saratoga Gateway Businesses. The event, which takes place on various Sundays from May until September, raises money for local non-profit organizations and features local bands and artisans.

The FireSafe Council was chosen as a grantee because of the importance of wildfire prevention, education and protection for the residents of Saratoga. "Saratoga has not experienced a large-scale wildfire in several years, making it ripe for disaster. Even a small-scale fire could shut down the community including schools, businesses and services, and greatly impact the air quality, posing a health threat for many residents," states John Justice, Santa Clara County Fire Department Deputy Chief, Fire Prevention Division. "The FireSafe Council provides outreach and education to remind folks of the risks and provide ways to protect their homes and be fire-safe."

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCFSC), a non-profit organization dedicated to wildfire prevention, is working with fire agencies and other partners to reach out to residents with our Defensible Space Chipping Programs and Community Outreach and Education Programs. In 2012, these programs, which reduce hazardous fuels in selected areas of the county, helped protect 3,625 homes, 10,850 people and \$3.6 Billion in property values. In addition, we completed 9 Special Needs Assistance Projects for qualified seniors, low-income and disabled residents and worked with partner stakeholders to complete 7 fuel break evacuation route projects.

The FireSafe Council, Smokey Bear, and partner fire agencies, including CAL FIRE, Santa Clara County Fire Department, San Jose Fire Department, and Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Department, will be participating in community events throughout the month of May to educate the public, especially those living in Wildland Urban Interface areas, to create and maintain Defensible Space and raise awareness for fire-safe behavior for all residents, including youth, planning to visit city, county and state parks.

Help support wildfire prevention, education and protection by attending Foodie Fun on the Run on May 19th, 2013 from 4:00pm-8:00pm at 12341 Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road, San Jose 95070

To learn more about free Defensible Space Chipping Programs or volunteer with the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, visit www.SCCFireSafe.org or call (408) 975-9591. To learn more about Foodie Fun on the Run, visit <https://www.facebook.com/SaratogaGatewayBusinesses>

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is "Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires." The council meets at 2:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. Interested organizations and individuals are welcome to attend! SCFSC appreciates tax-deductible donations of any amount.

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