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Contacts:

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

Jan Cokely, JanC@SCCFireSafe.org, 408.975.9591

Allan Thompson, AllanT@SCCFireSafe.org, 408.272.7008

Local fire prevention groups observe Wildfire Awareness Week 2006 – “Why 100 Feet?”

San Jose, May 5, 2006 - Governor Schwarzenegger has designated May 7th through the 13th as Wildfire Awareness Week. The theme “Why 100 Feet?” is a reminder to residents living in the Wildland Urban Interface that Public Resources Code 4291 - a new state law which went into effect in January 2005 - extended the Defensible Space clearance around homes and structures from 30 feet to 100 feet.

Proper clearance to 100 feet dramatically increases the chance of your house surviving a wildfire. This Defensible Space also increases firefighter safety when protecting homes during a wildland fire. With summer – and Wildfire Season – around the corner, residents should begin planning how to incorporate these new recommendations into their fire season preparation.

Santa Clara County residents have a clear choice in making fire safe decisions if they live in a wildland area. Clearance, installing and maintaining a fire resistant landscape, building with fire resistant materials, using spark arrested gas power tools before 10 a.m., and reporting suspicious activity are just some of the “choices” that can make a difference.

Wildfire Awareness Week is sponsored annually by the California Fire Safe Council, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) and, locally, by the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council and fire protection agencies in Santa Clara County.

Residents may contact the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council at (408) 975-9591. More information is available on the SCFSC Website at www.SCCFireSafe.org. The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council also has a 20-page, step-by-step guide for homeowners and residents available on-line. The guide, *Living With Fire in Santa Clara County*, is available at <http://www.sccfiresafe.org/FireSafe/LivingWithFire.htm>. This guide is appropriate for the Wildland Urban Interface areas and includes information on creating Defensible Space, fire resistant plants and roofing materials.

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council meets at 10:30 AM on the second Wednesday of each month. Homeowners, residents and representatives of all interested organizations are welcome! For more information, visit our Web site at www.SCCFireSafe.org or E-mail info@SCCFireSafe.org.

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The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve California's natural and man-made resources by mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to make their homes, neighborhoods and communities "Fire Safe."

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