



For Immediate Release

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Wildfire Awareness Week, May 2-8, 2010

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council promotes education and safety

San Jose, April 26, 2010 – The threat of wildfire is a reality throughout California and for many communities within Santa Clara County. May 2-8 has been designated by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and CAL FIRE as Wildfire Awareness Week this year.

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. These programs, which reduce hazardous fuels in selected areas of the county, are funded by federal grants from the USDA Forest Service and the USDI Bureau of Land Management as well as matching funds from local fire agencies, companies, organizations and individuals.

In 2009, our Chipping Programs helped protect 2,700 homes, 8,000 people and \$2.6 Billion in property values. We expect significant increases this year.

SCFSC will be joined by local fire agencies and other partners to participate in several events throughout the County to encourage residents living in Wildland Urban Interface areas to create and maintain Defensible Space clearance around homes and structures 100 feet or to the property line (per Public Resources Code 4291 – a state law which went into effect in January 2005). Efforts are also targeted at raising awareness for fire-safe behavior for all residents planning to visit high fire risks areas, including city, county and state parks.

“A large number of wildfires are human caused and therefore preventable” states SCFSC President, Jerry Serpa, Assistant Chief with the Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Department. “All it takes is an improperly extinguished campfire or irresponsible flick of a lit match to ignite a devastating fire. Our programs have helped protect thousands of residents and empowered them in making educated choices.”

To learn more about free Defensible Space Chipping Programs or upcoming educational events the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, visit the SCFSC Website at www.SCCFireSafe.org or call (408) 975-9591.

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! For more information and meeting locations, see www.SCCFireSafe.org, e-mail info@SCCFireSafe.org or call (408) 975-9591. SCFSC appreciates tax-deductible donations of any amount.

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