



The SCFSC Fireplug



www.SCCFireSafe.org

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SCFSC Director Spotlight: Getting to Know the Team *Deputy Chief Dirk Mattern, Santa Clara County Fire Department*

In this issue's "Getting to Know the Team," we spoke with Dirk Mattern, SCFSC Director and Deputy Chief of the Fire Prevention Division for Santa Clara County Fire Department.

How long have you been involved with SCFSC?

I've been participating in the SCFSC since it's inception in 1998. I was invited by CAL FIRE to become a member, along with other fire agencies and residents, to share our concerns about the Wildland-Urban Interface (then called the I-Zone) and help develop mitigations to the fire dangers there.

What is your main role and area of expertise within SCFSC?

I've been with the Santa Clara County Fire Department for 31 years with the last 19 years as the Department's Fire Marshal. My role with the SCFSC is to bring the local fire agency's perspective to the Council and help to guide the mitigation efforts that are undertaken.

What are some of the biggest challenges and opportunities for SCFSC?

One of the biggest challenges of the SCFSC is to generate the revenue needed to sustain the fuel reduction and community education projects. Without the funding, even the best ideas and intentions can't come to fruition. Fortunately, the Council has become very well respected over the years and has been very successful in obtaining grant monies and other funding for it's various projects. *Continued page 2*



Dirk presents a grant check to SCFSC on behalf of County Fire.

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Established in 1947, County Fire provides ISO Class 2/5 services for Santa Clara County and the communities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, and Saratoga. The department also provides protection for the unincorporated areas adjacent to those cities.

Facilities include 17 fire stations, an administrative headquarters, a maintenance facility, 5 other support facilities, and more than 100 vehicles. The department employs over 285 fire prevention, suppression, investigation, administration, and maintenance personnel; daily emergency response consists of 72 employees. The department's suppression force is also augmented by approximately 40 volunteer firefighters.

Welcome Linda DeSalvo, SCFSC Area Manager

SCFSC welcomes Linda DeSalvo to the team. Linda joins us as an additional part-time Area Manager for the Lexington Hills. Linda and her family have lived in the Santa Cruz Mountains for more than twenty years. She has a real appreciation for Defensible Space, evacuation routes and fire preparedness.

Linda has been active in Boy Scouts as an Assistant Scout Master, along with her husband. Both of their sons achieved the Rank of Eagle Scout. You may have seen the Smokey fire danger sign posted along Highway 17, near the Alma Fire Station. This was a SCFSC supported Eagle project.

Linda enjoys the outdoors, camping, fishing and bird watching are just a few of her favorite activities. She is also an avid gardener in her free time. Drought tolerant plants have led her to an appreciation for California native plants, many of which happen to be a good choice for a Defensible Space.

Linda brings knowledge of the local mountain community and we're happy to welcome her to the team! Linda can be reached at LindaD@SCCFireSafe.org.



Linda and her family are residents of the Los Gatos Mountains and active in the community.

SCFSC Director Spotlight: Dirk Mattern, Deputy Chief Santa Clara County Fire Department (continued)

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Another challenge is to get interest and participation from local residents. Without the buy-in and support by residents, SCFSC would go nowhere. Without that support, it would consist of only regulatory agencies attempting to force those who live in the WUI to comply with minimum regulations. We are very fortunate that SCFSC has a number of very involved local residents who are the life blood of the Council and make things happen.

Describe a memorable SCFSC project or event that you were a part of. What was it, and why did it make such an impression on you?

For many years, the Santa Clara County Fire Department coordinated a brush chipping program in the Lexington Hills area each spring. It was a somewhat well-received program by the local residents but, it was extremely difficult to coordinate and a challenge for County Fire to manage due to limited resources.

However, several years ago, the SCFSC took over the management and coordination for that program and it has expanded and grown into what is now nearly a year-round effort that is very sought after by the local residents.

What impressed me the most is how much more resident participation and acceptance was experienced after the SCFSC took over the responsibility. Because the program is now managed by local residents who are SCFSC members, it's taken on more of a grass-roots tone rather than a program administered by regulatory agencies.

Meet Deputy Chief Mattern

31: number of years working with SCCFD.

Weather: The year round mild climate is #1 reason to live Santa Clara County.

SCFSC Supporter Spotlight

Karen Murakami, Assistant Vice President for Union Bank/Union Bank Foundation Officer

Our "Supporter Spotlight" series continues with a conversation with Karen Murakami from Union Bank/the Union Bank Foundation. We welcome the Union Bank Foundation as a new contributor to SCFSC and look forward to building our partnership together.

Meet Karen



2: No. of kids, both teenage boys!

Cookies: Karen's favorite tradition for the Holidays and celebrations

Favorite Hobbies: Reading and hiking

For more information about Union Bank Foundation's contributions and grant making program, visit www.UnionBank.com

What are Union Bank's primary areas of giving and how much has Union Bank donated to the community through the grant program?

Union Bank's primary areas of giving are: affordable housing, community economic development, education (particularly in low-income neighborhoods), and the environment. Union Bank has donated nearly \$8 million bankwide to date in 2010; of that amount, more than \$2 million has been given in Northern California. We also give to Oregon and Washington.

Tell me about your work with Union Bank – how long you've been there, what you are responsible for?

I have been at Union Bank for a total of 22 years, with the Union Bank Foundation for about 16 years. I am responsible for pretty much everything! My geographic responsibility is Oregon, Washington, North and Central California. I read funding applications, keep track of the budgets, manage the monthly meetings, process donation checks, and conduct site visits.

What Union Bank community programs/initiates are you most proud of?

Those programs that support early childhood education, senior citizens, and financial education.

Share a personal story about how your work with the community – any special moments or events that made a lasting impression on you?

I had volunteered to work on a house owned by a couple in their 80's. Our team cleaned, painted and repaired practically the entire house. At the end of a long work day, the couple expressed much happiness and gratitude. It was so very touching! I bring my sons along with me to volunteer whenever I can. By doing so, I hope to show them how good it feels to show kindness to others less fortunate or to lend help wherever help is needed. I also hope that they will someday teach their children the same thing.

Save the Date!

SCFSC Annual Meeting, Celebration
and 10th Anniversary Kick Off!

*Volunteer Recognition Awards Donor
Appreciation Community Celebration*

Tuesday January 11th, 2011 @ 2:00PM

San Jose Fire Department Training Center
255 South Montgomery St., San Jose 95110

South County FireSafe Council
Monthly Meeting

*Take part in helping make the South
County Communities Fire-Safe*

Thursday January 6th, 2011 @ 10:30AM

Morgan Hill Community Center
17000 Monterey Rd., Morgan Hill 95037



The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCFSC) is a non-profit organization composed of individuals, public and private agencies and companies that share a common, vested interest in preventing and reducing losses from wildfires.

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Visit our website
Resources for Homeowners, Past Newsletters,
Kids Outreach Materials and more!

www.SCCFireSafe.org

“Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires.”

Support SCFSC

Thanks to the following who have made recent contributions to support our SCFSC programs.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company **California Water Service Company**

Aldercroft Heights County Water District **Pakpour Consulting Group, Inc.**

Los Altos Hills County Fire District **S.P. McClenahan Co.**

A special thank you to our recent individual donors and supporters!

Consider making a tax deductible year end donation to support SCFSC.

Donations can be made online at www.SCCFireSafe.org.

If you prefer to donate by mail, please mail your check payable to the:

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
16174 Highland Drive, San Jose, CA 95127

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