



The SCFSC Fireplug

www.SCCFireSafe.org

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Protecting San Jose's East Foothills from Wildfires

By Sergio Alatorre, SCFSC Area Coordinator

In a collaborative effort, neighbors on Lazy Lane and Aborn Road coordinated a Hazardous Fuel Removal project with the Santa Clara County Fire-Safe Council to help create and maintain Defensible Space around their homes and community.

Many neighbors worked together to trim, clear and prepare brush for chipping for an elderly neighbor who was unable to do the work herself. Nobody was left out!

This community effort was so unique and indicative of a very tight-knit group of residents that the San Jose Fire Department's Wildland Officer, Fire Captain Barry Stallard, found it noteworthy, "I was very impressed how this community bonded to bring this project to fruition; they have my respect and thanks." Captain Stallard, who met with the neighbors over the course of several months, assessed the threats in the surrounding area and made specific recom-

mendations for each property.

These residents are no strangers to the ravages of wildfire. The Aborn Fire in September 2007, which caused property damage, came dangerously close to causing major destruction if not for the rapid response of the local fire agency.

Diana and Mark Snitily, who had taken the reins in coordinating the chipping projects, praise the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council's Defensible Space Chipping Program and the help from Treasurer Allan Thompson. "The Aborn Fire in 2007 made us realize that we had to do a lot of work to protect our homes. As a neighborhood, we would not have been able to accomplish what we did without the assistance from Allan and SCFSC."

The SCFSC chipping contractor completed the work in a few days, chipping away at the

hazardous fuel piles which the homeowners arranged.

"Our Chipping Program provides no-cost chipping services to homeowners in high fire danger areas like Aborn Road. It is rewarding to see residents work together to do community chipping projects, especially when they lend a hand to their neighbors who do not have the means or ability to prepare for chipping," states Allan Thompson.

In 2008, SCFSC's Defensible Space Chipping Programs helped protect over 2,100 homes, 6,300 people, and \$2.1 Billion in property values.

Grant funding was provided by a National Fire Plan grant from the USDI Bureau of Land Management through the California Fire Safe Council.

This article has been edited down from its original version. To read the full article, visit www.SCCFireSafe.org/Documents/Aborn_HFR_SS2.pdf



Newcomb Tree Service performs the chipping work on Aborn Road

SCFSC 2008 HFR Project Results

We made great strides with our Hazardous Fuel Reduction Chipping Programs.

In 2008 we protected:

- . 2,100: homes
- . 6,300: people
- . \$2.1 billion: in property values

SCFSC Receives Grant Funding for Fuel Reduction Projects

SCFSC to Fight Sudden Oak Death Syndrome in Lexington Hills

The USDA Forest Service has selected the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCFSC) for two grants totaling \$226,315 to help residents build Defensible Space around their homes.

Funding will be used for the SCFSC Defensible Space Chipping Programs, helping residents reduce hazardous fuel around their homes, including the identification and removal of trees infected with Sudden Oak Death Syndrome (SOD).

These efforts will be focused in the high fire risk areas of Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga and Lexington Hills, which includes the communities of Aldercroft, Cheme-keta and Redwood Estates.

Additional HFR Projects for South County

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant for \$37,971 from the USDA Forest Service to help residents build Defensible Space around their homes.

This grant will allow the organization to expand its current programs in the high fire risk areas of Morgan Hill, San Martin, Gilroy and south San Jose.

The funding will be used for the SCFSC Defensible Space Chipping Programs and critically needed Community Outreach and Education efforts.



San Jose Water Company's Annual Event

Water Awareness Night

May 22, 2009
@ San Jose Giants Stadium

New SCFSC Secretary, John Tang

SCFSC is pleased to announced the election of John Tang as SCFSC Secretary. John is the Manager of Government Relations and Corporate Communications for San Jose Water Company, responsible for directing and executing the company's corporate communications, government affairs and media relations programs.

His career spans over 14 years in the areas of environmental engineering and public affairs. Prior to joining San Jose Water Company, he was employed by FMC Corporation and managed a diverse portfolio of contaminated industrial facilities, including State and Federal Superfund sites, in the U.S. and Canada. John is a graduate of SJSU where he earned a BS and MS in Civil Engineering, and Columbia University where he received an MBA in Finance.

John is a member of the San Jose Rotary Club, San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, and Santa Clara County Firesafe Council. He is also a member of the San Jose Leadership Council (Class of 2008). John enjoys spending time with his family which includes his wife, Sachie and their two boys, Ryan 4 and Eric 2. In his spare time, he tries to catch up on as much sleep as possible.

We thank Rick Parfitt for his years of service as SCFSC Secretary. Rick now holds the position of 2nd Vice President for SCFSC.

Stimulus Plan Earmarks Funding for Fire Service

By Jamie Thompson, FireRescue1 Editor

[This article is reprinted with permission from www.FireRescue1.com]

WASHINGTON — Additional funds for the fire service are included in the huge economic stimulus plan that the Senate and House of Representatives will vote on in the coming days.

Hundreds of millions of dollars are earmarked for fire stations and wildfire management.

Members of both houses of Congress reached a deal Wednesday over the stimulus plan, with the total package now worth \$789 billion. Votes on the final bill could come Thursday.

As part of the Senate version of the plan approved Tuesday, \$500 million, to remain available until September 30, 2010, will be allocated to grants for modifying, upgrading, or constructing state and local fire stations.

In addition, it outlines:

- "An additional amount for Wildland Fire Management, \$15 million, to remain available until September 30, 2010."
- "An additional amount for Wildland Fire Management, \$485 million, to remain available until September 30, 2010, for hazardous fuels reduction and hazard mitigation activities in areas at high risk of catastrophic wildfire, of which \$260 million is available for work on state and private lands using all the authorities available to the Forest Service."

Reports have not indicated the compromise reached Wednesday by both houses concern fire and wildland-related funding.

Robert Tutterow, vice-president of the Fire Industry Equipment Research Organization, which runs the Annual Fire Station Sym-

posium, said firehouses have often struggled to keep up with the changes in the fire service as a whole.

"Lots of modifications are needed to many fire stations and there are also some stations that should be relocated more strategically," he said.

"There's also a need for fitness rooms in stations, and as more women come into the fire service there's the need for female restrooms and in some cases dormitories.

"There's also the requirement to tackle exhaust emissions as well as the need in many stations for new training and IT facilities."

Other modifications that many fire stations are needing to make, Tutterow said, include rooms for biohazard waste, dedicated storage areas for PPE and cleaning equipment for turnout gear.

"More energy efficient buildings and 'going green' is also something that we are going to have to start dealing with," he said.

Among those hoping to receive a share of the firehouse funding is the Marshfield, Wis., Fire Department. Marshfield city administrators sent a list of projects to the state governor's office earlier this month that they hope will qualify for funding through the stimulus package — with a new fire station the number one priority.

It is already at an advanced planning stage, so would easily meet the "shovel-ready" criteria of the package, which states projects that are ready to start by July 1 will be a priority.

Marshfield Deputy Fire Chief Robert Haight said the department's current 12,700-square foot fire station, which was built in 1961, is "woefully inadequate."

"We have determined that we need at least 26,000 square feet, as we're bursting at the seams here," he said.



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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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 grant contributions to support our chipping and other programs.

Santa Clara County Fire Department \$10,000

Los Altos Hills County Fire Department \$7,500

San Jose Water Company \$2,500

Aldercroft Heights County Water District \$1,500

San Jose Firefighters Local 230 \$1,000

Lake Canyon Mutual Water Company \$500

Loma Prieta Community Foundation \$500

Firefighters Charitable Foundation \$250



Stu Farwell receives a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Los Altos Hills County Fire Department for their ongoing support of SCFSC

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