



# The SCFSC Fireplug

March 2013



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

## The FireSafe Council Recognizes Outstanding Service Staff, Directors and Volunteers receive awards for their dedication

At the December 11, 2012, FireSafe Council meeting, six handsome framed certificates of appreciation were presented to our 2012 FireSafe All-Stars to honor their hard work and diligence in carrying out the work of the Council.

Dirk Mattern, Deputy Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department, received the **Lifetime Service Award** for his outstanding service to the council from its inception and serving as a director for ten years.

Two **Fuel Reduction Giant** awards were given to South County leaders: Carla Ruigh, Area Manager, and Brian Turner,

Project Coordinator, to honor their contributions and achievements to promote and implement Hazardous Fuel Reduction projects in South Santa Clara County.



Jenn Viane Riese was presented the **Leadership Award** in recognition of her contributions and achievements as SCFSC's first Executive Director.

The Council's **Ready, Set, Go!** award was received by Captain Steve

Forman, the San Jose Fire Department Wildland Officer who served as an SCFSC director for three years.

The **Smokey's Friend** award was presented to Jan Cokely, SCFSC's first coordinator who served the council faithfully for nine years.

We appreciate the leadership and accomplishments that led to these awards.



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## The FireSafe Council Welcomes Chief John Justice

Chief Justice joins the board representing Santa Clara County Fire Department

County Fire's Deputy Chief John Justice is now filling the shoes of recently-retired Chief Dirk Mattern on the FireSafe Council.

John tells us he was raised in the small town of Moraga in Contra Costa County and attended Campolindo High School. If Moraga rings a bell, it might be because it's the home of Saint Mary's College which was well-known as the 49ers training grounds.

He got his first taste of fire service as a young volunteer firefighter with the Zayante Fire Protection District in tiny Felton in Santa Cruz County. He jumped in with 25 other community members who would help meet the needs of their community by responding to calls for assistance. At the time, he appreciated the relationship-building aspects of being a volunteer firefighter but had no idea it would lead to a career.

John earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business

Administration at Cal State Chico as well as a Hazardous Materials Management Certificate from UCSC Extension which led to work with a hazardous materials management company in the City of Santa Clara.

In 1990 he began his professional firefighting career when he joined the Scotts Valley Fire Protection District where he implemented a hazardous materials regulatory program for the City of Scotts Valley.

In 1996, John joined the Santa Clara County Fire Department as a Hazardous Materials Specialist in the Fire Prevention Bureau. Since then he has expanded his expertise to include terrorism response; chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives response; and natural disaster response and recovery.

As of December 2011, when he was named Deputy Chief of Support Services, he has been responsible for facilities, communication systems, supply

services and maintaining the Department's vehicle fleet.

John and his wife Debbie and their two daughters live in Santa Cruz. His 15-year-old aspires to a career which capitalizes on her singing and dancing talents. She's already performed the National Anthem at several high school sporting events.

John's 17-year-old daughter's autism challenges the family to help her prepare for a successful adulthood. She and John regularly pedal around Santa Cruz together on her tandem bike. This fits in well with John's passion for road biking and mountain biking. He says he is now retired from coaching girls' softball.

We're happy to have John on the SCFSC team!

Story written by Contributing Writer, Judy Thompson. Judy can be reached at [Info@SCCFireSafe.org](mailto:Info@SCCFireSafe.org)



## Chipping Application NOW ONLINE!

We have a new online Chipping Application – just fill in the blanks and hit the Submit button. We'll send you an automatic e-mail with your input and information on how we'll handle your application and how to stay in touch with us.

To find this wonderful new thing

1. Go to our Web Site at [www.SCCFireSafe.org](http://www.SCCFireSafe.org)
2. Click on Fuel Reduction Programs in the black Navigation Bar at the top.
3. Look down at the left for Defensible Space Chipping Program.

Post project, complete the online Fuel Reduction Satisfaction Survey in the *More Information* section below the online Chipping Application.

We'll still accept faxed, e-mailed and mailed Chipping Applications and Satisfaction Surveys but we hope you will try our new online forms because they will help us communicate with you better and also help us manage our applications.

We meet at 2:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. All are welcome!

Any comments or suggestions on our new forms will be appreciated. Send an e-mail to [AllanT@SCCFireSafe.org](mailto:AllanT@SCCFireSafe.org) or call (408) 975-9591.



Redwood Estates Pavillion in the Los Gatos Mountains  
provides a beautiful setting for meetings



## Tour the County with SCFSC

Our council meets at 2PM on the second Tuesday of each month at various locations around the county, each offering its own unique character.

Visit the Mountain Lion and Bobcat at Midpenninsula Regional Open Space District, rub elbows with firefighters at San Jose Fire Department Training headquarters or Santa Clara County Fire Department. Check out the helicopter at CAL Fire Alma Station. How about meeting a new insurance agent at State Farm in downtown San Jose or a lesson in water conservation at Santa Clara Valley Water District?

Our membership includes agency representatives, homeowners, environmentalists, rangers and business people – our meetings are always informative and our meeting locations offer a tour around the county!

## 2013 Lexington Hills Chipping Schedule

The 2013 Lexington Hills  
Chipping Schedule  
is available online!

Visit [www.SCCFireSafe.org](http://www.SCCFireSafe.org)  
Mouse over Communities  
and click on Lexington  
Hills.

The schedule and  
applications are also in  
the March edition of  
Mountain Network News and  
in letters mailed by the  
Santa Clara County Fire  
Department.

*Check the online version  
for updates and changes.*

Connect with us for more  
Information:

[www.SCCFireSafe.org](http://www.SCCFireSafe.org)  
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## Recent Supporters

Thank you to the following companies and organizations for support of programs and projects.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company	\$5,046 (In-Kind Services)
San Jose Water Company	\$5,000
State Farm Insurance	\$5,000
Redwood Estates Services Association	\$4,000
Santa Clara County Fire Department	\$2,519 (In-Kind Services)
Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District	\$1,000

## Matching Gifts

Your donation to the FireSafe Council may be matched up to 100% or more by your company! Maybe you give because you've benefited from a chipping project, you love Smokey Bear, or simply believe in our good work. Ask your employer if they match charitable contributions to help increase your financial support.

**You + Your Company = Double Impact on Wildfire Prevention!**



President Jerry Serpa receives a grant check from State Farm Insurance



SJFD Captain Steve Forman presented with his FireSafe Council recognition award

Where were we? Admiring public art at SJFD Station 12!



AROUND TOWN

