

California Fire Safe Council

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Fire Line



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Senator Pavley Warns of Increased Fire Danger



State Senator Fran Pavley recently warned her constituents that the Santa Monica Mountains are at serious risk of fire due to increased flashy fuels due to last winter's rains. Her teaching materials? Santa Monica Mountains Fire Alliance's new brochure, "A Road Map to Fire Safety: How to Create Defensible Space in the Santa

Monica Mountains."

The 36-page resource is the product of a great working relationship between public agencies, departments and communities. It details the many actions homeowners can take to make their homes more fire safe and even relates Fire Safe Council success stories!

Download your own copy of the brochure from:

<http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/Forestry/RoadMaptoFireSafety.pdf>.

Thank you Senator Pavley for helping get the word out!

Tech Tools: Yankee Hill FSC Fundraiser

Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council is using technology in a creative way to raise funds. They are competing for a grant from Pepsi that will allow them to rebuild three of over 200 homes lost in the 2008 Camp Fire. The national Pepsi Refresh Project allows groups to compete for grants up to \$250,000. The competition is fierce, and depends on a large network of supporters who are willing to vote regularly. Yankee Hill provides supporters a wide range of ways to vote for their idea, from texting votes, to a Facebook link, to directly voting on Pepsi's website. They even offer email reminders!

In September they were able to place 106th out of 348 ideas just through local word of mouth. Imagine what can happen if Fire Safe Councils throughout California commit to help with this worthwhile project! For more info, please visit www.yankeehillfiresafe.org

Good Luck Yankee Hill!

From the Desk of Bruce Turbeville



We've had a relatively 'quiet' year this year in terms of fire activity, but a 'riot' of fire *safe* activity. Fire Safe Councils are continuing to come up with creative ways to get the message out:

Carveacre Fire Safe Council co-hosted a workshop with UC Cooperative Extension Service about San Diego County's latest forest health threat, the gold-spotted oak borer, a pest which is decimating that region's centuries-old oaks.

Westhills Fire Safe Council "reverse trick-or-treated" to bring fire safe information to families in their neighborhood.

And we here at California Fire Safe Council just wrapped up a multi-hazard mitigation workshop series sponsored by Farmers Insurance Group.

Keep sharing your stories with us—they inspire not only the CFSC staff, but Councils throughout California and beyond! Stay Fire Safe,

BRUCE

Help for New and Not-So-New Fire Safe Councils

Affiliate Manager Katie Ziemann sends pointers in her monthly email series designed to share best practices, tips for organizing, tricks to make events engaging, and general inspiration from lessons learned by other Councils. To be part of this community, drop Katie a line at: kziemann@cafiresafecouncil.org

2012 Grant Writing Workshop Series Announced

California Fire Safe Council will be publishing a request for applications on November 29, 2010. Be ready to submit a winner by attending one of the following Grant Writing Workshops:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 11/30/2010—Siskiyou County | 12/1/2010—El Dorado County |
| 12/2/2010—Humboldt County | 12/2/2010—Sacramento County |
| 12/2/2010—Mendocino County | 12/7/2010—Los Angeles County |
| 12/7/2010—Tehama County | 12/7/2010—Tuolumne County |
| 12/8/2010—Alameda County | 12/9/2010—San Diego County |
| 12/10/2010—Fresno County | 12/11/2010—Inyo County |
| 12/14/2010—Monterey County | 1/13/2011—Kern County |
| 1/14/2011—Riverside County | |

While the workshop dates are subject to change, one date you should mark on your calendar in pen is the application deadline: February 25, 2011 at MIDNIGHT!

Visit www.grants.firesafecouncil.org for more details.

La Crescenta Commemorates Anniversary of Station Fire

Crescenta Valley Fire Safe Council spent the first anniversary of the 160,000+ acre Station Fire working to protect their community. "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" was the theme of the day as Council representatives and Los Angeles County Fire authorities shared fire safety tips with homeowners adjacent to the burned area.

Crews from Gothic Grounds Management created a demonstration landscape to show proper techniques for reducing hazardous fuels and helped by removing larger brush and vegetation on the day of the event. The Fire Safe Council appreciated the local sponsorships, including refreshments donated by a local coffee shop, a large bin for green waste delivered by Allied Waste, and volunteer support from a local Boy Scout troop.

Together, this team removed an astounding 30 tons of hazardous vegetation from various properties, retrofitted vents with one-eighth inch mesh on five homes, and talked with residents about future priorities for maintaining the day's work. But perhaps the most significant success of the day: the event transformed 30 individual homes into a community.

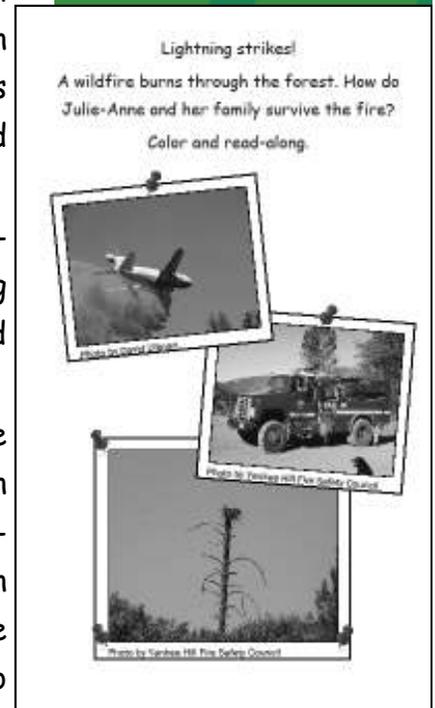


Butte County 6th Graders in the Know

Butte County's 6th grade students know more about wildfires than many adults! Butte County Fire Safe Council worked with local educators to develop "Wildfire in the Foothills," a five-lesson curriculum that meets state curriculum requirements and provides teachers with in-service credits. The program has been shared with school districts as far away as San Diego County.

This year Butte County students got a new resource, an age-appropriate wildfire book that combines words, photos and coloring pages. "Once Upon a Wildfire" tells the story of Julie-Anne and her family as they face a wildfire.

Author and Butte County Fire Safe Council Executive Director Calli-Jane Burch said, "After conducting my Masters on fire safe literature and searching for children's outreach information I found no books that combined story and illustration in an interactive, fun and instructional way." She's happy to share the 6th grade curriculum and arrange for other organizations to have "Once Upon a Wildfire" printed for their own kids.



Contact Calli-Jane at (530) 877-0984 or buttefirecouncil@yahoo.com



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Safe Evacuation During West Fire



Kern County officials had long been concerned about picturesque Old West Ranch. Many of this rustic community's 150+ homes are accessible by narrow unpaved roads and lack both utilities and water resources. Century-old fuels included standing bug-killed trees. Clearly this community was vulnerable to fire.

California Fire Safe Council funded two Greater Tehachapi Fire Safe Council projects, the 2004 "Blackburn Canyon Escape Route" and this year's "Blackburn Mendiburu Shaded Fuel

Break," the second of which was 70% complete when the 1658-acre West Fire started on July 27, 2010.

This fast-moving fire destroyed 23 structures. However, the damage could have been far worse. Pre-planning and fuel reduction projects stopped the fire's southern progress. This is a great success story, but much more importantly, the Escape Route project lived up to its name. All of the residents evacuated safely. Protecting lives is the greatest success story of all.