



FAST TRAX

Forest Area Safety Taskforce • Hotline: 1-866-402-6044 • www.sdcdpw.org/tree • QTR 4 / OCTOBER 2006

PARTICIPANTS



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



California State Parks



County of San Diego



Fire Safe Council



Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County



San Diego Gas & Electric



USDA Forest Service



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



Community Organizations and Interested Stakeholders

A FREE LIFE SAVING PROGRAM FOR SENIORS

By Rosella Aplin, Burn Institute

National safety statistics show that adults age 65 and older are two times more likely to die in a home fire than any other segment of the population, and for those over age 75 that risk nearly quadruples. Yet, thousands of seniors throughout San Diego and Imperial counties live in homes without a working smoke alarm.

The Burn Institute's Senior Smoke Alarm Program provides seniors with a FREE smoke alarm installation. Fire service personnel from various fire departments throughout the county, and other volunteer groups, assist the Burn Institute year-round in installing the smoke alarms. To qualify for this lifesaving program, you must be 55 years or older, own your own home, and not currently have a working smoke alarm.

"One way seniors can improve the chances of escaping a home fire is by making sure their home is equipped with a working smoke alarm, and to maintain those alarms by changing the batteries at least once a year," said James Floros, Burn Institute Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer.



Firefighters and community volunteers assist the Burn Institute with installing FREE smoke alarms.

The Burn Institute is a local non profit health agency dedicated to reducing the number of burn injuries and deaths in San Diego and Imperial counties through fire and burn prevention education, burn care research and treatment, and burn survivor support services. To sign up for this program, call the Burn Insitute at (858) 541-2277.

Holiday Tips

The Burn Institute and the Natural Resources Conservation Service offer the following tips to keep you safe from fires and burns this holiday season:

Halloween

- Wear only flame-resistant or flame-retardant costumes and accessories
- Do not illuminate pumpkins, walkways and yards with candles and never use an open flame inside a paper luminary bag
- Keep matches and lighters away from children

Winter Holidays

- Do not leave burning candles or holiday lights unattended
- Inspect holiday lights and do not overload electrical outlets
- Never put lit candles on or near a holiday tree
- If using an artificial holiday tree, make sure it is flame-retardant

FIRE SAFE COUNCILS GET RECOGNITION

By Christine Meyers, FSC

The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County honored Community Fire Safe Councils and volunteers at the First Annual Fire Safe San Diego Recognition Event on Saturday September 30, 2006 at Dos Picos County Park in Ramona. Approximately 150 participants and exhibitors attended the event. "It was exciting to have so many Fire Safe Council volunteers in one place to exchange ideas, resources, and their accomplishments," commented Christine Meyers, Coordinator for the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County.

Two "Volunteer of the Year" awards were presented on behalf of the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County and the U.S. Forest Service Cleveland National Forest. Jerry Mitchell was honored for his outstanding fuel reduction project coordination, Community Wildfire Protection Plan leadership and community outreach efforts with the Chimney Canyon and Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Councils. Shana Ackerman who was deemed by Tina Terrell, Cleveland National Forest Supervisor, as the "angel of Palomar Mountain," also received an award in recognition of her efforts in fuel reduction project coordination and leadership of the Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council. Nineteen other volunteers also received certificates of appreciation as recognition for their accomplishments in making their communities more fire safe.

The efforts of community fire safe councils were also applauded by honoring the Fire Safe Councils from Fallbrook and Carveacre as "Outstanding Community Fire Safe Councils" on behalf of their fuel reduction project coordination, partnership efforts and community outreach. Numerous Fire Safe Councils,

Federal, State and County agencies, and vendors hosted display booths highlighting local efforts to help increase community fire safety and disaster preparedness.

In addition to the awards ceremony, workshops were offered to attendees and were facilitated by Thom Porter of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Karen Parker of the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services, Cathy Brooke of the California Fire Safe Council, and Attorney Kristen Young Rayder.

The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County would like to extend special thanks to our partners and sponsors who helped make this event a success. We look forward to an even bigger success at next year's Second Annual Fire Safe San Diego Recognition Event!

For information on Fire Safe Council programs, please contact the RCD of Greater San Diego County at 619-562-0096 or 760-745-2061.



Tina Terrell (lt) and Marty Leavitt (rt) honor Jerry Mitchell with the Volunteer of the Year award.

COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND EVACUATION PLAN

By Karen Parker, OES

After the 2003 Firestorms, the County Board of Supervisors wanted to create community protection and evacuation plans in unincorporated areas. That task went to the County's Office of Emergency Services (OES). OES set up the Community Protection and Evacuation Plan (CPEP) committee to work with County representatives to develop a model county template. Input came from the Sheriff's Department, Department of Public Works, Department of Planning & Land Use, Animal Control, American Red Cross, California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, U.S. Forest Service, Fire Protection Districts, County Services Areas, Volunteer Fire Departments, San Diego Fire Safe Council and OES.

Since the completion of the first template in June 2004, the CPEP was refined to reflect the introduction of the Community Wildfire Protection Plans and the invaluable input provided by some of the first communities to complete a CPEP.

The first 10 communities to finish their CPEP include Alpine, Boulevard, Campo/Lake Morena, Descanso, Dulzura, Fallbrook, Jamul, Julian/Cuyamaca/Pine Hills, Potrero/Tecate, Ramona. Seven more are currently in the process of developing a Plan; Carveacre, Crest, Harbison Canyon, Deer Springs, Elfin Forest, Palomar Mountain, Valley Center.

The CPEP development process provided a significant experience for everyone involved. Not only have community members produced invaluable information for their area, but effective and mutually beneficial relationships have formed between community members and agency staff members. OES will introduce the template to new communities and continue to work with volunteers who make the CPEP process a success.

USING THE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

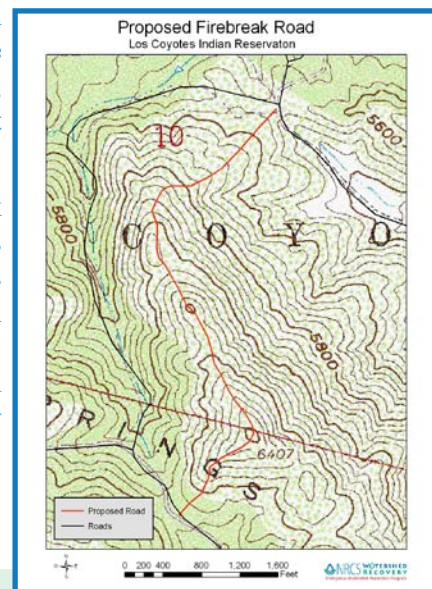
By Tony Blazevic, GIS Specialist, NRCS/RCD

Geographic Information System (GIS) according to ESRI is a collection of computer hardware, software, and geographic data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information. GIS is currently being used in Forest Area Safety Taskforce (FAST) projects for project monitoring, creating maps, project analysis, and processing global positioning system (GPS) data. The FAST area projects currently target forested areas of Palomar Mountain, Julian, Lost Valley, Cuyamaca, Mt. Laguna, Pine Valley, Guatay, and Descanso.

Currently, NRCS is using GIS to derive a location on which to place a firebreak road within the upcoming project area of Los Coyotes Indian Reservation, located near Warner Springs. This location is being sought by using data that is easily accessible including; digital elevation model, topographic map, and a current road network of the area. Using this data, NRCS can determine where the ridge line is located in order to place the firebreak road on the ridge line and connect it to other roads within the reservation.

GIS is also being used for partnering projects by agencies such as the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCD), the County of San Diego, United States Forest Service (USFS), and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), to name a few. For more information on NRCS projects please call (760) 233-9507, or contact the RCD at 760-745-2061.

Heads Up: The week of November 13th is Geography Awareness Week, with the 15th designated as GIS Day. For more information on GIS and GIS Day please visit www.gis.com and www.gisday.com.



This map shows the location of a proposed firebreak road in red, at the Los Coyotes Indian Reservation

TREE REMOVAL STATUS REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 2006

FAST Agency	Trees Removed*
CDF	1604
CalTrans	76
County of San Diego	383,091
Fire Safe Councils	286
NRCS	4,753
SDG&E	12,307
Sierra Cedar	22,117
State Parks	9,491
USFS	23,291
Cumulative Tree Total:	457,016
Cumulative Brush (acres):	8,401.92
Brush (cu.ft.)**:	248,404,775

* Some numbers may not be up to date
** Numbers do not incorporate every agency

ADDITIONAL FAST PARTICIPANTS:



American Red Cross
<http://www.sdarc.org>



CA Department of Fish & Game
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>



Office of Emergency Services
http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/oes/oes_home.html



Bureau of Indian Affairs
<http://www.doi.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html>



California Highway Patrol
<http://www.chp.ca.gov/>



People for Trees
www.peoplefortrees.org



Bureau of Land Management
<http://www.blm.gov/>



Caltrans
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist11/>



San Diego County Sheriff's Department
www.sdsheriff.net

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