

CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection San Mateo/Santa Cruz Unit

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COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN FOR SAN MATEO AND SANTA CRUZ

Felton – CAL FIRE (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) and the Resource Conservation Districts of Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are heading up an effort to create a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). A CWPP is a plan that addresses how communities will reduce the risk of wildfire through cooperation and collaboration between emergency response agencies and the community. Each fire agency in San Mateo and Santa Cruz County with wildland urban interface is providing input for the development of the CWPP. All stakeholders are encouraged to be involved in the process and to provide input regarding wildfire issues and the ways that our communities can address these concerns. Four major wildfires in Santa Cruz and San Mateo Counties in 2008 have emphasized the need for communities to organize and for various agencies and stakeholder groups to collaborate to make the best use of our resources in addressing the wildfire problem.

A series of public meetings will be held to inform public members about the process of creating a CWPP and to provide a means for the public to be involved with the creation of the CWPP. A blog has been created to provide updates and information CWPP at <http://wildfireplan.blogspot.com>. Soon there will be an online survey available to the public to gather information about priorities and current actions regarding wildfire prevention in our communities. Once a draft of the CWPP is created it will be posted to the blog for review and comment.

The first public meeting will be at the Coastside Fire Protection District, 1191 Main Street, Half Moon Bay, June 2 at 7 pm. The second meeting will be at the Zayante Fire Protection District, 7700 East Zayante Road, Felton on June 9 at 7 pm. Additional meetings in Corralitos and Woodside will be scheduled for later in the year. More meetings may be added depending on the level of community interest.

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