



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*PETER R. HILLS
Fire Chief
County Fire Warden*

DATE: *March 29, 2004*
CONTACT: *Tracey Martinez, Public Information Officer
(909) 386-8408, 800-426-8689, pager #3307*

San Bernardino County Offers Tree Removal Assistance Program

In an effort to help homeowners remove dead & dying trees, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors has allocated \$600,000 in combination with funding secured by Congressman Jerry Lewis through the Hazard Mitigation Grant to fund the Tree Removal Assistance Program. This is in addition to the \$1 million revolving fund previously allocated by the board.

Through this program, homeowners living in the San Bernardino mountains (from Wrightwood through Forest Falls) can receive up to \$5,000 in assistance to have dead and dying trees removed from their property.

Here's how the program works:

- Homeowner applies for assistance
- Once approved, a San Bernardino County Fire Program Coordinator completes a property inspection and obtains bids from a qualified licensed tree removal service
- Once the contract is awarded, the job will be completed within 30 days
- In the event the bid exceeds \$5,000, San Bernardino County Fire Slash Crews will assist by removing slash once the trees are felled and timber removed, thus passing on an additional savings to the homeowner.

Applicant must be owner-occupant of a single-family dwelling and meet the criteria set forth by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD has recently raised the maximum income amount. If you have been previously denied due to income earned, we encourage you to reapply or call for a list of new guidelines. Funding is not available for vacant land.

To obtain an application call (909) 337-1225 or visit the Hazardous Tree Removal Program office at 301 South State Hwy 173, Lake Arrowhead, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

###