



## MAST FIRE-SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS

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### SURVEY

The telephone survey, conducted in late December 2006 and early January 2007, was designed to measure the level of fire-safety awareness among mountain-area residents and property owners and to gauge how many had acted to reduce the risk of a catastrophic fire.

### TOPLINE RESULTS

A significant number of respondents had taken crucial steps toward protecting their property against wildfires, reflecting the achievement of important goals of the MAST education program over the last three years:

- 89 percent of respondents to a telephone survey conducted by San Bernardino County and the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) said they have taken steps to protect their property in case of a wildfire.
- 86.4 percent said they had cleared brush within 30 feet of their home and structures, or within 100 feet if on a hillside.
- 83.5 percent of the respondents said they had removed dead or dying trees.

### HEALTHY FOREST

Restoring the health of the forest requires thinning the trees:

- 67.3 percent of respondents were familiar with the term healthy forest.
- 45 percent of respondents said the term meant minimizing density or thinning trees or removing overgrowth.
- 39.3 percent said they had removed live trees.
- 38.5 percent said it meant removing dead or infected trees
- Of those who gave a reason, 25 percent of residents said they didn't take any or more steps because they didn't know what to do.

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### **GUIDING OUTREACH**

The results of the survey will be used to guide a two-year public outreach program launched in November. The new campaign will shift MAST's program focus from removing dead trees to thinning live trees, or "green fuel," to promote a healthier forest and fire safety, and to reduce the potential for a catastrophic fire.

### **RESPONDENTS**

More than 500 mountain property owners participated in the random survey, including residents, non-residents and business owners.