



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAST LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE PROVIDING FIRE-SAFETY INFORMATION FOR SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MOUNTAINS

Thinning green vegetation, creating defensible space and emergency planning are key messages for mountain residents and property owners

SAN BERNARDINO — To provide a comprehensive fire-safety information resource for residents and property owners in the San Bernardino County Mountains, the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) has launched a new Web site at www.calmast.org.

With a theme of “A Thinner Forest Is a Healthy Forest and a Healthy Forest Is a Fire-Resistant Forest,” the Web site’s primary elements focus on fire prevention and emergency planning.

The site’s colorful graphics reinforce the healthy forest theme, and the in-depth information spotlights the value of and how to thin green vegetation, create defensible space and plan for an emergency. The site also has a section with phone numbers and Web links for obtaining wildfire incident information and a Media Center contains the latest news from MAST, as well as archived news items.

“This Web site is a one-stop shop for anyone looking for fire-safety information related to the San Bernardino County mountains,” said Assistant Chief Peter Brierty. “This is a resource tool to help the people who live, work and play in our mountains become more informed and play an active role in our effort to prevent catastrophic wildfires.”

The site is divided into three primary sections: MAST, San Bernardino County and Riverside County. The top-level MAST section provides useful information on wildfire incidents, MAST’s background and achievements, MAST members, fire-safety Web links and how to contact MAST and fire-prevention organizations.

The San Bernardino County section offers information on the Bark Beetle Emergency Outreach Program — of which this Web site is an important element — photo gallery, newsroom, fire prevention, emergency planning and events.

Within the extensive Fire Prevention section, site users can learn about the importance of a healthy forest, how to create defensible space and how to plant and landscape wisely. Site users can also download community wildfire protection plans.

The Emergency Planning section contains guidelines and checklists for preparing an emergency plan as well as emergency route maps that can be downloaded.

ABOUT MOUNTAIN AREA SAFETY TASKFORCE

MAST is a coalition of local, state and federal government agencies, private companies and volunteer organizations in San Bernardino County that are concerned with public safety in the mountain areas of their respective jurisdictions. For more information about MAST, visit www.calmast.org.

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