



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2007

Contact: Tracey Martinez
Public Information Officer
San Bernardino County Fire Department
(909) 386-8408

MOUNTAIN PROPERTY OWNERS SURVEYED TO ASSESS AWARENESS OF WILDFIRE PREVENTION EFFORTS

***Results of the survey, commissioned by the County and the Mountain Safety Area Taskforce,
will guide public outreach efforts and assess program effectiveness***

SAN BERNARDINO — San Bernardino County and the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) are conducting a survey of property owners in the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains to assess their awareness of wildfire prevention efforts.

The two agencies will use the survey results to guide public outreach efforts and to assess the effectiveness of their two-year public outreach program, launched in November. The program is designed to get the owners of mountain property to play an active role making the forest more fire-resistant by thinning the trees and vegetation on their land.

“This survey is a critical component of our public outreach effort, because it will also tell us how people get their information regarding fire safety and wildfire prevention on the mountaintop,” said San Bernardino County Fire Assistant Chief Peter Brierty. “Then we can be more effective in our public education campaign to get more people involved in reducing the extreme fire danger in our mountains.”

The survey is a random sampling of mountain property owners, including non-resident owners, and consists of 27 questions. The results are expected in mid-January. The survey will be repeated at the end of the public outreach program to evaluate the program’s effectiveness.

“Our goal is a healthier, more fire safe forest,” said CDF Forester Glenn Barley. “To reach that goal, we need the mountain property owners to understand the vital role they play, that they may need to thin the trees and vegetation on their property to help make the forest more resilient to attack by insects, disease and fire. This survey will help us achieve our goal.”

ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN AREA SAFETY TASKFORCE

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

###