



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Officials Demonstrate Defensible Space Homes

A defensible home is one that has the greatest potential for surviving a wildfire. Specifically, defensible space around a home is the required space between a structure and the wildland area that, under normal conditions, creates a sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of wildfire to a structure.

On June 2nd, hundreds of residents attended a fire wise Community Demonstration Open House in Mt. Baldy or Wrightwood. San Bernardino County Fire Fuel Reduction Crews removed over 20 tons of material (overgrown brush, tree branches, dead trees, etc.) to create a defensible space around the structure and property, bringing the property in compliance with the County fire fuels reduction ordinance. In 2011, there were seven demonstration homes in the mountain communities, with over 83 tons of fire fuels removed.

On the day of the event, representatives from County Code Enforcement, Hazardous Tree Removal Program, County Fire Fuels Reduction Crews, and Forest Care take citizens around the property and show them what was done to bring the property into compliance and how they can reduce fire fuels on their property. Before photos are displayed throughout the property, showing the fuel reduction to that location.

Two weeks after a home demonstration event, County Fire Fuel Reduction Crews go through the targeted community with chipper trucks and chip all material left at the curb at no cost to the homeowner. For more information regarding the County Fire Curbside Chipping Program, call toll-free (855) 686-2447.

Demonstration homes are being planned for the communities of Arrowbear, Lake Arrowhead, Deerlodge Park, Green Valley Lake, Big Bear and Lytle Creek. Dates and locations are forthcoming.

Contrary to common perception, a wildfire does not have to burn everything in its path. In fact, clearing property of debris and maintaining landscaping are important, yet simple, first steps for homeowners. Residents can do their part and take simple steps today to lessen the risk of damage if a wildfire occurs. Learn more in the San Bernardino County Fire Department Ready! Set! Go! plan available at www.sbcfire.org.

Forest Care is a program aimed at assisting homeowners of forested property thin their trees, bringing the forest back to healthy densities. Forest Care reimburses homeowners up to 75% of the cost of thinning their trees! To learn more about Forest Care, please visit www.sbnfa.com/forestcare.php or call (888) 883-THIN.

Photos are available at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

Cooperators include San Bernardino County Fire Dept., San Bernardino County Hazardous Tree Removal Operations Division, San Bernardino County Fire Fuels Management Program, San Bernardino County Chipping Program, CalFire, Forest Care, U.S. Forest Service - Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests and the American Red Cross.