

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FIRE CREWS TO CONDUCT HOME SURVEYS

LAKE ARROWHEAD - Starting this month, San Bernardino County Fire Department firefighters will be going door-to-door promoting wildfire safety to homeowners and families across the mountaintop. Crews from County fire stations in Lake Arrowhead, Green Valley Lake, Fawnskin, Angelus Oaks and Forest Falls will be walking their neighborhoods, inspecting properties that abut the forest border and would therefore be the first threatened by encroaching fire.

The door-to-door project has been in development for some time, and is an extension of long-term efforts by agencies across the mountaintop to create a safer forest. With the exhaustion of federal grants that have funded hazardous tree and fire safety programs for over a decade, local fire suppression crews will be "boots on the ground" supporting the efforts of county agencies such as code enforcement, hazard trees, and prevention. Firefighters will deliver door-hangers containing publications such as the county's "Ready, Set, Go" preparedness plan, a comprehensive guide for homeowners who want to make their homes defensible and their families mobile if a fire occurs.

"We're looking forward to getting out there to meet our neighbors," said Fire Captain Kyle Hauducoeur, coordinator of the local surveys. "We want to enlist homeowners as partners in keeping the mountain safe and to preplan the neighborhoods so we're better prepared should an emergency occur. When homeowners help to reduce fire hazards, we can do our job to protect homes in a wildfire."

The guidelines in the door-hanger packet are gleaned from multiple resources, including the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce, the U.S. Forest Service and county ordinances. Fire officials stress that the surveys are not punitive in nature, and are merely serving to provide information and techniques for homeowners to be ready this and every fire season.

San Bernardino County Fire Department welcomes members of the media to join firefighters on the streets as they conduct these property inspections. Inquiries should be directed to the contact listed above or call Tracey Martinez at (909) 387-5950.

A photo of the packet can be located at www.sbcfire.org under latest news.

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