Living with Wildfire in Santa Clara County

East Foothills Community Meeting
June 10, 2019
Presented by:

• Santa Clara County Fire Department

• San Jose Fire Department

• Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office
Collaborative partnerships are key to building & maintaining fire resilient communities.
7 of CA’s 10 most destructive fires have occurred since 2015!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Structures</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2018</td>
<td>Camp Fire</td>
<td>153,336</td>
<td>18,804</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 2018</td>
<td>Woolsey</td>
<td>96,949</td>
<td>1,643</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 2018</td>
<td>Carr</td>
<td>229,651</td>
<td>1,604</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2017</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>281,893</td>
<td>1,063</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2017</td>
<td>Tubbs</td>
<td>36,807</td>
<td>5,636</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2017</td>
<td>Nuns</td>
<td>54,382</td>
<td>1,355</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 2015</td>
<td>Valley</td>
<td>76,067</td>
<td>1,955</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2007</td>
<td>Witch</td>
<td>197,990</td>
<td>1,650</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 2003</td>
<td>Cedar</td>
<td>273,246</td>
<td>2,820</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 1991</td>
<td>Tunnel</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>2,900</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

50% fewer mutual aid resources ...source CAL OES
“Crews control fast-moving grass fire in San Jose foothills”

- 24 engines responded to battle 30-acre blaze
- Adding to the challenge, a live power line fell and electrified a metal fence in the area
- Source: Mercury News, Sept. 25, 2018
Local Fire History...
East Foothills Fire History

- 2017 Lariat – 102 acres / 1 home
- 2016 Sierra – 124 acres
- 2007 Lick – 48000 acres
- 2003 Jump – 4900 acres
- 1982 Sweeny – 1700 acres
- 1955 Fletcher – 6500 acres
Last 72-hours

- **Malech Fire**
  - 210-acres
- **Nelson Fire**
  - 24-acres
  - 27 fire engines
- **Sand Fire**
  - 2200-acres
  - 82 fire engines
FUEL (Dense & Dry Vegetation) + WEATHER (Hotter & Drier) + WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE COMMUNITIES = DEVASTATING WILDFIRES
Santa Clara County Fuel Models

- Wildland areas surround Santa Clara County
- Nearly every community within Urban Interface (WUI) areas
California’s Changing Climate 2018 indicates hotter & drier weather

“The science is highly certain that California will continue to warm and experience greater impacts from climate change in the future.”

This report forecasts areas burned by wildfires could increase 77% as a result of the changing climate.
Local Wildland Urban Interface – East Foothills

- Structures in designated WUI
  - San Jose FD – 25,362
  - Central FPD Zone 1 - 943

No single agency can address this challenge alone!
What can you do?

&

What are we doing?
Get READY

• Create defensible space
  - **Zone 1** (0-5 ft non-combustibles)
  - **Zone 2** (5-30 ft clean & green)
  - **Zone 3** (30-100 ft reduced fuel)

• Harden your home
  - Roof
  - Windows
  - Deck

• Register for AlertSCC
  - [www.alertscc.com](http://www.alertscc.com)

• Download ReadySCC mobile app
Get **SET**

- Prepare your household for the possibility of having to evacuate
  - Create a Wildfire Action Plan
    - Designate a meeting location
    - Identify evacuation routes (x2)
    - Develop a communications plan
    - Loss of power – battery backups
    - Plan for large animals & pets

- Assemble an emergency supply kit
  - Pack essential items to grab & go when needed
Red Flag Warnings

What is a red flag warning?

• Public warnings are issued by the National Weather Service to alert that current weather conditions are at extreme risk for wildfires and rapid spread.

Maintain Situational Awareness

• Monitor information sources
• Review your Evacuation Plan Checklist
• Place Emergency Supply Kit in your vehicle
• Prepare:
  1. Yourself (dress appropriately!)
  2. Your kids
  3. Your Pets
  4. Your home
• Leave immediately when ordered or if you feel unsafe!
GO!

• Prepare home for evacuation
  • Inside & outside the home
  • Large animals & pets

• DRESS for survival

• Large Animal Evacuation Team
  • Capabilities & limitations
  • www.scclaet.org

• Call 911 ONLY for emergencies

• Leave early
Evacuation Terms

• **Evacuation ORDERS:** There is an imminent threat to life or property
  - Leave now
  - Attempt to evacuation with pets & animals
  - Individuals have the right to refuse evacuation orders

• **Evacuation WARNINGS:** There is an existing or expected threat to life or property
  - Stay informed & leave early to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion
  - Leave sooner if you have special needs, large animals, or feel unsafe

• **Shelter in Place**
  - Stay secured in current location. May be used if evacuation not needed or would create a greater threat.
STAY IN YOUR CAR!

- You’re safer in your car
- Lights on, windows up, inside air
- Go on foot only if there’s no other option
- Avoid fire roads! It’s safer to stay on pavement
- Take the fastest route to valley floor/grocery store!
- Consider Refuge Areas if trapped
- Carpool to reduce cars on road
Community (Temporary) Refuge Areas

Temporary Refuge Areas

1. Ball fields, parking lots, golf-courses, large open areas with little or no vegetation.
2. May provide safe refuge when evacuation is impossible
3. Go to Safety (TRA)
4. Wait for the danger to pass
5. Listen for instructions from the authorities
Evacuation Coordination

- Decisions to evacuate or shelter are made in unified command – law & fire
- Evacuations are conducted by law enforcement
- Evacuation information will be shared via AlertSCC, social media and other methods
- Routes will be determined based on the location of the fire
- Door-to-door & vehicle loudspeaker – don’t expect law enforcement to get to every house
Stay Informed

Emergency Alerts
- ALERTSCC – when action is needed
- Register phone, mobile devices, email address, physical address

Social Media
- Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor
- General information and incident updates

Other
- Horns, sirens, loudspeakers, etc.

Cal Fire
- Facebook - @CalFire
- Twitter - @Cal_Fire

SJFD
- Facebook - @SanJoseFD
- Twitter - @SJFD

SCCFD
- Facebook or Twitter - @SCCFireDept

SCCSO
- Facebook or Twitter - @SCCoSheriff
Dual Jurisdiction / Mutual Threat Zone

**Local – ”Tier 2”**
- 3 Engines
- 4 Wildland engine companies
- 2 water tenders
- 3 Chief Officers
- MED 30

**State – High Dispatch**
- 8 Engines
- 2 Bulldozers
- 2 Hand crews
- 2 Chief officers
- 2 Air tankers
- 1 Air tactical plane
- 1 Helicopters
Addressing the Wildfire Problem

- FUEL (Fuel Reduction)
- WEATHER (Quicker detection & response)
- WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE COMMUNITIES (Planning & Educating)

DEVASTATING WILDFIRES
Fuel Reduction

Quicker Detection & Response

Coordinated Prevention & Planning
Resources & Information

San Jose Fire Department
- www.sjfd.org
- 408.378.4010

Santa Clara County Fire Department
- www.sccfd.org/rsg
- 408.378.4010

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection
- www.fire.ca.gov
- www.readyforwildfire.org

District 2 Supervisor
- www.sccgov.org/sites/d2
- 408.299.5020

District 3 Supervisor
- www.sccgov.org/sites/d3
- 408.299.5030

Santa Clara County Sheriff
- www.sccgov.org/sites/sheriff
- 1.800.211.2220
QUESTIONS