



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Wildfire Preparedness Meetings Planned for West Valley Communities**

*Now is the time to start preparing for wildfire.*

LOS GATOS, CA – Santa Clara County Fire Department and our law enforcement partners in the west valley communities and surrounding unincorporated areas will be hosting eleven community wildfire meetings reminding residents to be ready for wildfire.

“The last few fire seasons have resulted in unprecedented fire behavior and destruction throughout northern California, and many residents have asked what they can do to be better prepared,” said Fire Chief Tony Bowden. “It is imperative those living in communities that interface with the surrounding open space areas provide defensible space around their properties and have a plan.”

Starting April 10, a series of eleven community meetings will focus on preparing local residents for the upcoming fire season. Specifically, the meetings will focus on steps residents can take to be, “Be Ready,” by creating defensible space and hardening their homes. Residents should, “Get Set,” by developing an emergency plan complete with meeting locations and knowing their 6 Ps (people, plastic, personal electronics, prescriptions, pictures/papers, and pets). Finally, given the fire behavior seen the last few years, residents need to be especially aware during Red Flag fire weather to, “Go or leave early.”

“Every year, Santa Clara County Fire Department conducts defensible space inspections in designated wildland urban interface (WUI) areas,” according to Julie Linney, Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention. “The inspections are one way we can help residents prepare their properties for fire season, and the community meetings will provide additional information residents can use to be prepared.”

To attend one of the meetings or for more information, please visit: [www.sccfd.org/RSG](http://www.sccfd.org/RSG).

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The Santa Clara County Fire Department is a California fire protection district serving Santa Clara County and the communities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga and the surrounding unincorporated areas. For more information, please visit [www.sccfd.org](http://www.sccfd.org).