



Hot Times Quarterly

Summer 2007 Edition

New Fire Safe Council of San Diego County Website

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2007 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Flame-Out Fire Expo 2007

July 14, 2007 from 11 am – 5 pm
Qualcomm Stadium
Parking Section "J" and the Grass Field

Fire Safe Council of San Diego County Bi-monthly Meeting

July 17, 2007 from 9 am – 12 pm
San Diego Fire Department Local 145
10405 San Diego Mission Rd.
San Diego, CA 92108

Rural Home Fire Safety for Real Estate Professionals Course

July 18, 2007 from 9 am – 4 pm
Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District
Fire Station #4
18040 Calle Ambiente
Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067
Advance registration required.
Please call (619) 562-0096.

Community Chipping Day in Julian

July 21, 2007 from 8 am – 4:30 pm
Julian Volunteer Fire Station
2645 Farmer Rd.
Julian, CA 92036

Deer Springs FSC Microchip Clinic

July 21, 2007 from 9 am – 12 pm
Creekside Veterinary Service, Dr. Grove
8647 Indian Hill Rd.
Escondido, CA 92026
\$40 per large animal

Fire Safe Council of San Diego County Bi-monthly Meeting

September 18, 2007 from 9 am – 12 pm
San Diego Fire Department Local 145
10405 San Diego Mission Rd.
San Diego, CA 92108

~ FIRE SAFE SAN DIEGO EVENT ~

September 29, 2007
Dos Picos County Park
Ramona, CA

Recognition Awards Ceremony
& Breakfast from 9 am - 10:30 am
Fire Safety Exhibition from 11 am - 3 pm

The Fire Safe Council of San Diego County (FSCSDC) is pleased to unveil its new and improved website. Paul Christiansen, of High Tech High, interned at the FSCSDC office this past semester and took on the challenge of redesigning the website. The revised website was launched on June 14, 2007 and received over 75 hits in the first two weeks.

The new website features a calendar of events with postings by the FSCSDC, Community Fire Safe Councils (FSCs) and partners. If you are interested in having an event posted, you can download the request form at: <http://firesafesdcounty.org/localfscs.html>.

Regular updates will help to keep the new FSCSDC website as a resource and information center for FSCs and members of the public who are interested in learning more about how to make their families, homes, and communities more fire safe.

The "Local Fire Safe Councils" page is dedicated to FSCs. Let us know if you would like us to provide a link to your FSC website.

Please take a moment to browse the website and contact the FSCSDC at (619) 562-0096 or sharder@firesafesdcounty.org if you have suggestions or would like to add information. ☺



The FSCSDC website has a new look, thanks to Paul Christiansen of High Tech High.

Fire Safe San Diego 2007

Last year, the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County (FSCSDC) hosted the First Annual Fire Safe San Diego County Recognition Event. The event served as an opportunity to salute the outstanding work of Community Fire Safe Councils (FSCs), volunteers, and our partner agencies. Now, for the second year, the FSCSDC, in partnership with the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCD) and the San Diego County Parks and Recreation Department, is pleased to host:

Fire Safe San Diego 2007
Saturday, September 29, 2007
Dos Picos County Park
Ramona, CA

"Fire Safe San Diego 2007" will begin with an invitational Recognition Awards Ceremony and Breakfast at 9:00 am. The exposition portion of the event is open to the general public from 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. We will be hosting numerous exhibits, demonstrations, and workshops highlighting this year's theme: *Prepare, Prevent, Protect*. Through these exhibits and demonstrations we will provide event participants with resources to become more fire safe.

"Event" Continued on page 4...

Tierrasanta Fire Safe Council Conducts Weed/Brush Abatement Demonstration

Lee Campbell, Facilitator, Tierrasanta Fire Safe Council

Recently, Fred Zuckerman, a member of the Tierrasanta Fire Safe Council (T-FSC) volunteered to allow a fire safe weed and brush abatement demonstration to be conducted on the remaining 30 feet of his 100 foot defensible space that lies on San Diego City owned property. The 100 foot defensible space is defined as the landscape between a house and the potential fuel source (natural brush) that is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain to reduce fire risk. Before Mr. Zuckerman's remaining 30 feet of defensible could be abated, it was necessary to obtain a permit from the Tierrasanta Open Space Maintenance Assessment District (M.A.D.) manager. After the permit was granted, Mr. Zuckerman began working on the project with a crew of two to five people at times. Assistance was provided by Barbara Favors and Mark Castiglione, San Diego Code Compliance Officers from San Diego Fire – Rescue; Christine Meyers, San Diego Fire Safe Council; Roberta Froome, Friends of Tierrasanta Canyons; and other T-FSC members. Although billed as demonstration project it also provided an opportunity to train members of the T-FSC who had not performed brush abatement and thinning as defined in the City of San Diego Brush Management Guide.

This weed/brush abatement project focused on landscape that extends 30 feet from the rear of Mr. Zuckerman's back yard and is approximately 120 feet across. Half of the area consisted of tall natural brush and the remaining area was covered with lower growing native plants with several large pampas grass stands. The tall brush was thinned and had the lower branches removed (limbed-up), the lower growing plants were thinned and the pampas grass (an invasive species, which requires special handling) was removed and taken to the city landfill. It took the crew approximately 10 man-hours to complete and dispose of the cuttings using brush clippers and a battery powered electric chain saw. In addition, Mr. Zuckerman, now a committed brush defensible space man, had purchased a brush chipper that was used to create ground cover from most of the woody cuttings that was spread on the steeper areas to help reduce erosion. After project completion, Mr. Zuckerman reported to the M.A.D. manager for inspection and approval of the project.

“Brush Abatement Demo” Continued on page 4...

The City of San Diego Brush Management Guide can be viewed at:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/fireandems/pdf/brushpdf.pdf>.

Summer of Fun and Fundraising Strategies

There are many ambitious Community Fire Safe Councils (FSCs) in San Diego County. Although the number of FSCs around the state may continue to grow, available funding is limited. It is important to consider a wide range of funding options as FSCs look to developing and sustaining their community projects.

Fundraising possibilities are only limited by the imagination. Since summer is upon us, consider getting outdoors to host a community picnic or potluck. The Mt. Laguna Fire Safe Council (FSC) recently hosted a “Newcomers Orientation” to provide resources and information for new cabin owners to understand what's involved in maintaining their cabin (right). The orientation was followed by a picnic where a 50/50 drawing was held with half of the money raised going to the Mt. Laguna FSC



The Mt. Laguna FSC Newcomers Orientation and Community Picnic was a great event of food, fun, and funds raised for an active FSC!

Raising funds can be as easy as asking for donations in person, in printed materials, or on a website. Although these methods may not bring in as much money as a grant award, it important to have a diversified fundraising strategy for your FSC projects.

“Fundraising” Continued on page 5...

Spotlight on San Diego County Community Fire Safe Councils

*We would like to welcome
Los Tules FSC, Talmadge FSC,
and Campo/ Lake Morena FSC
as Associate Member
Community Fire Safe Councils
of the Fire Safe Council of
San Diego County!!*



The Tierrasanta FSC shared information about fire safety with attendees of the Tierrasanta Craft Fair.

The Tierrasanta FSC is one of the organizations benefiting from the

"Taste of Tierrasanta and Beyond"

on Saturday, August 25, 2007 from
4:30 pm - 7:30 pm at
6050 Santo Rd., San Diego, CA 92124.
Tickets are \$40 in advance. Sales end on August
19th. NO ticket sales at the door!
For more information, visit:
<http://tierrasantacc.org/TasteofTierrasanta.htm>.



Donna Lorenz of Stone Ridge at Warner Springs Estates FSC points

out that you should not construct your home with wood shingles. Donna accompanied FSCSDC coordinator, Christine Meyers, and Sunshine Summit FSC Facilitator, Nina Karavasiles, to the South West Riverside's FSC Fire Wise Garden.



The Sunshine Summit Volunteer Fire Department (SSVFD) hosted a dedication for the SSVFD founder, Sue Clark, with a community breakfast on April 28, 2007. The three Community FSCs of this area participated. Nina Karavasiles, Facilitator of Sunshine Summit FSC, shows Fire Prevention Officer Kerri Uglick, the Fire Wise Garden (left). Nina worked with the SSVFD in designing the garden and provided an informational display highlighting fire wise landscaping concepts and recommended plant species. The SSVFD Fire Wise Garden was designed and sponsored by Sunshine Summit FSC and the SSVFSD.



Captain Amistoy of Deer Springs Fire Protection District - CALFIRE points out the fire risk of Moosa Canyon that threatens Hidden Meadows residences. Deer Springs has hosted several community meetings educating residents of the fire threat that surrounds this region and how homeowners can mitigate these threats with proper defensible space and preparedness tips.



Members of the Scripps Ranch FSC march in their community 4th of July Parade.

**The Los Tules FSC
hosted their
1st Annual
Community Chipping
Event where
approximately
20 school bus size
piles of materials
were chipped!**

“Event”...Continued from page 1

We are asking local FSCs and partner agencies to nominate volunteers from their communities to receive the **“Volunteer of the Year” Award**. Nominees should be actively involved with fire prevention, fire protection or fire preparedness projects or programs developed through work with a FSC in San Diego County. Once the nominations are submitted, the FSCSDC awards committee will choose a “Volunteer of the Year” from the nominees. All nominated volunteers will receive certificates of appreciation. The FSCSDC is also seeking nominations for the **“Outstanding Community Fire Safe Council” Award** to recognize the extraordinary work of a local FSC to make their community more fire safe.

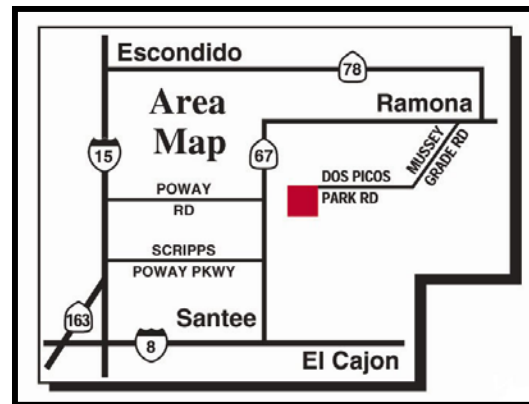
Nomination Forms can be downloaded from the FSCSDC website at www.firesafesdcounty.org. Please submit nominations to the FSCSDC by *Monday, August 20, 2007*. More details about nominations can also be found on page 6 of this issue.

Please RSVP by September 14th if you will be joining us for the Community FSC Awards Ceremony and Breakfast from 9:00 am - 10:30 am on Saturday, September 29, 2007

All awards will be presented at the FSCSDC’s Recognition Breakfast and Awards Ceremony, from 9 am – 10:30 am, to kick-off the Fire Safe San Diego Event to be held Saturday, September 29, 2007 at Dos Picos County Park in Ramona, CA.

If you will be joining us for the awards ceremony and breakfast, please RSVP with the FSCSDC at (619) 562-0096 by *Friday, September 14, 2007*.

The FSCSDC is incredibly appreciative of the support and involvement of community volunteers and agency partners throughout San Diego County. We look forward to continuing our efforts and strengthening our network. We are hopeful that you will attend our Fire Safe San Diego Event 2007! ♡



Map to Dos Picos County Park in Ramona, CA.

“Brush Abatement Demo”...Continued from page 2



Fred Zuckerman of the Tierrasanta Fire Safe Council prepares brush piles to transport as part of the weed/brush abatement demonstration conducted on his property.

The T-FSC volunteers work in cooperation with federal, state and local agencies that assist in community wildfire prevention, protection and preparedness. If you have questions, suggestions, would like to volunteer, or would like more information covering T-FSC activities, meetings, and the fire risk areas please check the T-FSC link at www.tierrasantacc.org or contact Lee Campbell at Lee@Campbellot.com.

The City of San Diego’s Fire Prevention Bureau, as part of its Pro-active Brush Management program has been conducting canyon rim inspections of neighborhoods in Tierrasanta. They will be doing the follow-ups and working with people who need more time. Then they will move on to conduct inspections in other communities outside of Tierrasanta. The fire station crews will also contact homeowners city-wide, including Tierrasanta. ♡

“Fundraising”...Continued from page 2

The Deer Springs FSC is one of the organizations registered with eScrip, a fundraising program where participating business partners contribute a percentage of grocery loyalty cards, credit card, and debit/ATM card purchases to the school, group or organization of the shopper's choice (<http://www.escrip.com/>).

In addition to fundraising, grants may also provide resources for FSCs seeking funding. Take the time to educate yourself about the commitment requirements and resources available for different grants. It is important to track volunteer time spent at meetings or working on projects for reporting. If your meeting space is donated or contractors donate services, that may count towards in-kind contributions as well.

Finding appropriate grant opportunities can be time consuming. The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's Office of Resource Development (ORD) seeks to increase funding for building, improving and sustaining the environment, health and human services in the San Diego region. The ORD researches federal, state and private grant opportunities and distributes information about funding opportunities to local nonprofits registered to receive notifications. Contact the ORD at (619) 685-2292 for more information.

When looking for money, be creative. Having a good time makes it easier for organizers to work on raising money and may encourage donors to contribute. ♡

\$\$\$ Resources \$\$\$

California Fire Safe Council Grants Clearinghouse:

<http://www.grants.firesafecouncil.org/>

The San Diego Foundation's Funding Information Center: <http://www.sdfoundation.org/grant/fundinginfocenter.shtml>

County of San Diego Office of Resource Development: <http://www2.sdcountry.ca.gov/hhsa/ServiceCategoryDetails.asp?ServiceAreaID=33>

GRANTS.GOV:

<http://www.grants.gov/index.jsp>

Tax Information for Charities and Other Non-Profits:

<http://www.irs.gov/charities/index.html>

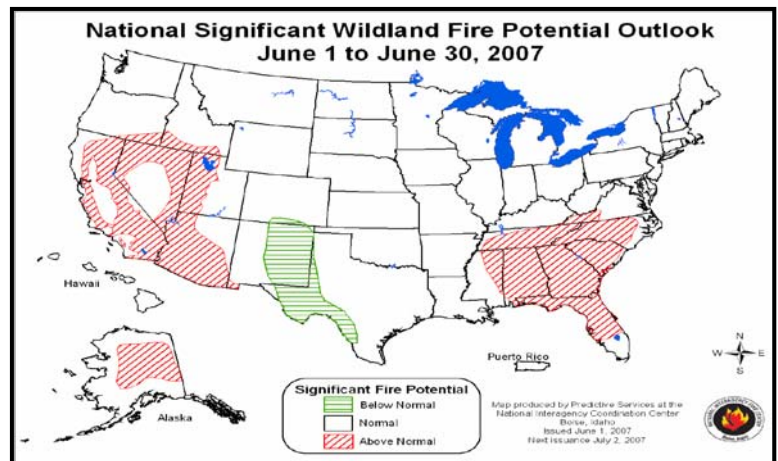
Grant Writing Specialists:

<http://www.grantwrtr.com/index.htm>

Concerning Fire Conditions in Southern California

We are now in the midst of the **driest summer in over 90 + years** and the potential for rainfall is looking grim as temperatures begin to soar. Below-normal precipitation has occurred state-wide since October 2006, reports the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC). NIFC also notes that the lower third of California has received less than 50% of its normal rainfall. Combustibility of vegetation fuel loads is very high due to a combination of area vegetation drying out early in the season and January's freeze that affected much of Southern California. There is increasing concern about the potential for large fires in these freeze-killed areas.

Drought stress and recent occurrence of insect-killed timbered areas of the Southern California forests constitute further concerns. Prescribed fires and early season wildfires confirm lower than average 1000-hour fuel moistures (moisture content in dead fuels used to classify ignitability).



This map demonstrates the above normal fire potential in both the Western and the South Eastern portions of the continental US.

Fire officials advise San Diego County residents to be aware of the heightened fire risk and strongly encourage homeowners to create and maintain their defensible space. ♡

2007 “Volunteer of the Year” and “Outstanding Community FSC” Award Nomination Guidelines

Please submit the following nomination information by **Monday, August 20, 2007** to:

Fire Safe Council of San Diego County
1524-A Graves Ave. El Cajon, CA 92021
Fax: 619-562-4799
Email: sharder@firesafesdcounty.org

Nomination Forms are also available on our website: www.firesafesdcounty.org

All awards will be presented at the FSCSDC’s Recognition Breakfast and Awards Ceremony, from 9 am – 10:30 am, to kick-off the Fire Safe San Diego Event on Saturday, September 29, 2007 at Dos Picos County Park in Ramona, CA

2007 “Volunteer of the Year” Nomination Guidelines

Tell us about the nominee:

1. Name
2. Title
3. Community Fire Safe Council Affiliation
4. Address
5. Phone Number
6. Email
7. How long has the Nominee been working with your FSC?
8. What makes this volunteer outstanding? Give specific examples of ideas, projects, and activities that make this volunteer unique. Attach additional supporting materials or pictures as appropriate. Submitted materials will not be returned and may be used in future FSCSDC outreach materials and publicity.

Tell us about you, the nominator:

1. Name
2. Title
3. Organization/Community Fire Safe Council Affiliation
4. Address
5. Phone Number
6. Email

2007 “Outstanding Community Fire Safe Council ” Nomination Guidelines

Tell us about the nominee:

1. Community Fire Safe Council Name
2. Facilitator/ FSC Contact Person Name
3. Address
4. Phone Number
5. Email
6. How long has this FSC been active?
7. What areas/communities does this FSC serve?
8. What makes this FSC outstanding? Give specific examples of current projects, and activities and include information about number of volunteers. Attach additional supporting materials or pictures as appropriate. Submitted materials will not be returned and may be used in future FSCSDC outreach materials and publicity.

Tell us about you, the nominator:

1. Name
2. Title
3. Organization/Community Fire Safe Council Affiliation
4. Address
5. Phone Number
6. Email

If your Community Fire Safe Council has news or information to share , or you would like to receive a copy of the SDCFSC Hot Times Quarterly, contact Sabrina Harder at 619-562-0096 or sharder@firesafesdcounty.org

Donations to the Fire Safe San Diego Inc., dba Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, are used to further our Fire Safe Council and fuel reduction objectives.

Your generous contributions are tax deductible to the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, a California non-profit corporation #C2156248, as provided by Section 23701d of the Internal Revenue Code.



Fire Safe Council of San Diego County
1524-A Graves Avenue
El Cajon, CA 92021
Phone: 619-562-0096 * Fax: 619-562-4799
Website: www.firesafesdcounty.org



332 South Juniper Street, Suite 110
Escondido CA 92025
Phone: 760-745-2061 * Fax: 760-745-3210
Website: www.rcdsandiego.org