

During the summer months coastal fog is common and extends inland to the crest of the ridges, often pouring through passes onto the eastern slopes, into the San Francisco Bay Area, and the Santa Clara Valley. Local topographic features prevent fog from reaching some of the higher ridge top areas. As a rule of thumb, the fog normally burns off about midday, allowing for daily temperatures to reach an average of 70 to 85 degrees.

Snow occasionally falls on the higher crests and ridges of the mountains usually melting within a day.

STAKEHOLDERS

Recognizing the need for resources to provide the work on fuel reduction projects within San Mateo County, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department, local government and CDF/County Fire developed a working partnership that would provide two "deputy" supervised inmate conservation crews to work on projects.

In the fall of 1991, two crews began work on Old Stage Road adjacent to the San Francisco Watershed (Crystal Springs), to provide fire department access below the Highland Subdivision (Bunker Hill area).

Due to budget challenges, one crew remains funded and their quarters have moved to a Transitional Unit within the San Mateo County Jail.

In 2003 *Fire Safe Crews* worked a total of 24 project days clearing 28 tons of vegetation and protecting property worth 34 million dollars.

Originally named the "San Mateo County Wildland Hazard Task Force", the founding members included CDF Ranger Unit Chief Dave Mack, Captain John Wells of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department and retired Division Chief Steve Richmond.

This organization preceded the state's own Fire Safe Council by three years.

Fire Safe San Mateo continues to be the driving force behind fuel reduction projects within the county and continues to encourage and support Fire Safe presentations and activities. It has supported community events in Woodside (San Mateo County), La Honda (San Mateo County) July 4th Celebration, and the Half Moon Bay Fire Department's (San Mateo County) Safety Fair. Other accomplishments include developing a Fire Safe Speaker's Bureau, a grant program for homeowner groups to reduce hazardous vegetation from around their neighborhoods; working with local fire agencies on press releases, and providing self-help procedures and Fire Safe information for homeowners. As part of its 2004 Goals, *Fire Safe San Mateo* will actively seek public and private grants to fund Fire Safe projects, seek projects with new agencies or homeowner associations, and provide defensible space demonstrations to homeowner or road associations.

Santa Cruz County. Since the dissolution of the Santa Cruz County Fire Safe Council, the idea that a smaller council be established under the auspices of the Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs' Association is currently being explored.

Several communities within the County have or are in the process of establishing smaller focused community fire safe groups. They are:

Las Cumbres Homeowners' Association, has worked with the Unit off and on over the past 20 years. The residences are located on the south and west slopes of Beatty Ridge above the Bear and Shear Creek drainages. This community has participated in several fuel reduction projects.

The residents of Las Cumbres have combined their efforts to organize a community focused fire safe committee addressing wildland fire potential. CDF is working with them to accomplish their goals.

The *Rural Bonny Doon Homeowners' Association* has approached CDF to assist them in addressing their fire safe needs. The community, located above Felton, is surrounded by stands of Knobcone Pine, scattered Eucalyptus trees, Douglas Fir and stands of chaparral scrub. On one side of the residential area lies the Bonny Doon Ecological Preserve (managed by California Fish and Game). The threat of a disastrous fire could potentially start within this preserve. The area has limited access. Homes in the subdivision can exceed \$850,000 dollars in value.

The *Bonny Doon Community Fire Safe Committee* has been organized to plan and support fuel management projects within the community as well as the preserve. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) maintain the preserve. In a cooperative venture, CDF and DFG are working to develop a Fire Management Plan for the preserve. This plan will address fuel reduction projects and any future vegetation management burns.

Additional stakeholders include:

Santa Cruz County Resource Conservation District. This public resource agency was created to assist people to protect, conserve and restore natural resources through information, education and technical assistance programs. CDF continues to work cooperatively with the District on several projects. The most current is the Loch Lomond/Zayante Watershed Fuel Management Project.

San Mateo County Parks

Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District

San Francisco Water Department

Peninsula Open Space Trust

Santa Cruz County

California Department of Parks and Recreation

City of Santa Cruz Water Department