

## STAKEHOLDERS

A stakeholder is defined as any person, agency or organization with a particular interest - a stake - in fire safety and protection of assets from wildland fires. Fire Safe Councils are a way for stakeholders in the San Bernardino Unit to become involved in risk identification and appropriate community fire defense plans and projects.

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### FIRE SAFE COUNCILS IN THE SAN BERNARDINO UNIT

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The Unit continues to develop Fire Safe Councils by identifying and targeting individuals and organizations with an interest in hazard reduction and fire safety. There are currently 13 Fire Safe Councils active within the San Bernardino Unit. See Appendix #3.

#### **Goals:**

- To develop local community participation in pre-fire planning projects and events.
- To establish Fire Safe Councils with the intention of mobilizing private citizens within the communities who share a common, vested interest in wildland and urban fire prevention and loss mitigation.

Recent accomplishments include incorporation of all councils as non-profit/501c3 tax exempt entities, the final word in community fire prevention organizations in their respective communities, networking with local, state and federal agencies, as well as with other community groups with the goal of more effective citizen awareness and commitment.

Committees have been established in all 13 councils in order to explore the availability of grant money and to determine funding sources for all manner of pre-fire projects. Work progresses on pre-fire issues such as fuel modification zones, residential smoke alarms, road access identification, hazard reduction, residential housing addressing, demonstration forests, LE-100 inspections and public information and education, targeted community outreach efforts to communities interested in establishing their own fire safe councils and much more. The San Bernardino Unit has elected to support and advise Fire Safe Councils in their quest for funding. As such, Fire Safe Councils have been successful in obtaining more than \$800,000 in federal National Fire Plan funding for operations, planning and pre fire projects throughout the Unit.

Community meetings are held during the year and working group meetings held constantly throughout the council areas with the goal being to increase the effectiveness of all Fire Safe Councils.

Additionally, all San Bernardino Unit Fire Safe Councils and several from the Riverside Unit have collectively organized to form the "Inland Empire Fire Safe Alliance". The goal of this organization is to further enhance the political, fundraising and on-the-ground effectiveness of all member Fire Safe Councils.

## The IEFSA purpose is to:

- promote consistent and comprehensive collaborative community stakeholder messages regarding forest health and fire safe concepts to citizens
- serve as a centralized resource for literature and other media on urban wildland interface, defensible space and forest health
- provide grant administration, writing, and reporting for those councils without the resources to perform these functions; coordinating the member councils to assist one another or contracting the professional services on behalf of the Alliance
- offer to serve as fiscal sponsor to areas without 501c3 status, if needed
- create a one-stop shop for information and research; using the existing councils and their personnel and professional resources to investigate issues and bring to the network
- develop of a monthly newsletter to member FSC's and agencies
- maintain the [www.fireinformation.com](http://www.fireinformation.com) website in conjunction with agency PIO's
- provide coop insurance policy for those without other insurance options
- coordinate regional contracts for equipment, labor, projects to reduce costs
- help organize community presentations, school programs, etc. for those member councils needing this assistance
- provide a "speakers bureau" drawing upon the talent and expertise of various individuals within the Alliance and its member councils
- most importantly, provide a forum for discussion of issues, challenges and successes

## Benefits

- Agencies can contact one organization rather than 13-plus for rapid dissemination of information via email trees etc.
- Assistance to PIO's can help them prepare concise message
- Reduce council expenses due to co-op agreements (i.e. insurance)
- Identification of regional projects will reduce redundancy
- FSC concept can be embraced more readily in some smaller areas by eliminating the need for individual 501c3 status for grants
- Less cost for brochure/literature printing by coop efforts and shared equipment, bulk purchases coordinated to save all member councils money (i.e. "Turboflares")
- Overall consistence in disaster prep programs and efforts - regional perspective
- Alliance has ability to switch focus to other disasters because of infrastructure
- Continuation of projects if local FSC fails in their efforts or needs administrative assistance
- Regional communication link between citizens and others

\*\*\*Consistency, continuity, efficiency, effectiveness, collaboration, cooperation\*\*\*

The success of this organization is measured easily as these cooperative operations manifest themselves in regional grants, regional projects, and regional conferences benefiting all communities, with or without a fire safe council