## Supervisor John Gioia's Weekly eUpdate

### May 12, 2010

#### Fire Prevention Steps Help Protect Homes from Wildfire

With all the rain, great weather, and blossoming of vegetation all around us, most people are not thinking about fire prevention right now.

However, this is exactly the time we need to think about fire prevention since our dry summer is approaching.

The tragic Oakland Hills Firestorm occurred almost 20 years ago, but Bay Area residents are still learning from its devastation. With 6,000 homes in Contra Costa County located on the urban wildland interface, including many in West County, wildland fire prevention must be taken seriously.

In partnership with local fire departments including the Contra Costa Fire Protection District, Richmond and El Cerrito Fire Departments, East Bay Regional Park District, and the Diablo FireSafe Council, I have been co-sponsoring a series of community meetings in West County to discuss "defensible space" practices so residents can learn about some relatively easy ways to make sure their homes have the greatest chance of surviving a wildland or structural fire.

Topics covered will include vegetation management, building fuel breaks, using fire resistant roofing materials -- and more.

Our next defensible space meeting is scheduled in El Sobrante on: Saturday, May 15, 2010
10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
El Sobrante Boys & Girls Club
4660 Appian Way, El Sobrante

We will also be holding a Defensible Space meeting for residents in El Cerrito on:

Monday, May 24, 2010
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Arlington Clubhouse
1120 Arlington Blvd., El Cerrito

The Contra Costa Fire Protection District also has great information on defensible space on its website. <a href="http://www.cccfpd.org/exhazard/intro.html">http://www.cccfpd.org/exhazard/intro.html</a>

I look forward to seeing you at one of these meetings.

Supervisor John Gioia

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# Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia Contra Costa Fire Protection District Richmond Fire Department East Bay Regional Parks District Diablo FireSafe Council

# INVITE YOU TO A COMMUNITY MEETING ON FIRE SAFETY – CREATING DEFENSIBLE SPACE AROUND YOUR HOME

As an El Sobrante Valley resident living near the wildland/urban interface, it is important to create a line of defense around your home from an approaching wildfire or structural fire. Come and learn best practices on how to protect your home through vegetation management, plant spacing, weed abatement, creating fuelbreaks, and use of new roofing materials.

When: Saturday, May 15, 2010

Time: 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Where: El Sobrante Boys & Girls Club

4660 Appian Way, El Sobrante

For more information about the meeting, contact Terrance Cheung at Supervisor Gioia's Office at 510-374-3231 or <a href="mailto:terrance.cheung@bos.cccounty.us">terrance.cheung@bos.cccounty.us</a>

For on-line information about creating defensible space: <a href="https://www.cccfpd.org/fpb/exhazarddocs.html">www.cccfpd.org/fpb/exhazarddocs.html</a>