

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

Media Contact

For interviews, photos, more information:

Patty Ciesla, Executive Director

pciesla@sccfiresafe.org

650-867-4485

PRESS RELEASE – for immediate use

Attached Photo: Smokey The Bear and Yan Zhao

October 21, 2018

Radio PSAs on page 2

**Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Announces
New Programs for Wildfire Readiness**

www.sccfiresafe.org

Saratoga: - The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council has new programs and new staff to increase the impact of their wildfire prevention services.

The FireSafe Council has brought on True Tourtillott as the new Fuel Reduction Program Manager. True will be responsible for developing wildland fuel breaks, roadside evacuation route treatments, neighborhood wildfire risk reduction projects, and managing the free spring chipping program.

He will also be developing a new defensible space volunteer assistance program and outfitting a tool trailer to equip volunteers as well as conservation crews.

True was raised in the area, and he brings a passion for community safety. He recently deployed to help hurricane and flood damaged communities with Team Rubicon, the veterans volunteer disaster response organization. True also has a lifelong commitment to conservation of natural resources, so his combination background is a great fit for the FireSafe Council's vegetation management work to help avoid catastrophic wildfire.

True says, "My goal is to develop an efficient and scalable structure to the program, so we can grow our wildfire readiness services as well as the organization as a whole."

Commissioner Eugene Zambetti of the Saratoga Fire Protection District, along with Yan Zhao, Chair of the Saratoga Cemetery District Board of Trustees, are very excited to about the FireSafe Council's new program leadership. Chair Zhao of Saratoga says, "I am pleased with the FireSafe Council's choice in recruitment and I look forward to seeing the FireSafe Council grow in the future."

The FireSafe Council's mission is to mobilize people to protect their lives, homes, communities, and environment from wildfires. Programs and projects are primarily funded by federal, state, county, utility, and local government contracts including funding from the City of Saratoga and the Saratoga Fire District. A new initiative to secure more local funding for other communities at risk of wildfire is underway.

The FireSafe Council also provides two new education programs: customized evacuation workshops for neighborhoods, and individualized home ignition zone wildfire risk assessments.

If you live in or next to the hills around Saratoga, Los Gatos, or Cupertino, you are in one of the many wildfire hazard zones in the county. Ask for assistance to prepare for wildfire by contacting the FireSafe Council: visit www.sccfiresafe.org email info@sccfiresafe.org or call (408) 975-9591

Radio PSAs

(20-second spot)

October is Fire Prevention month! The FireSafe Council is here to protect the many communities at risk from wildfire in Santa Clara County and is happy to help you create defensible space for your home. Visit us@ www.sccfiresafe.org or visit us on Facebook@ <https://facebook.com/SCCFireSafeCouncil>.

(30-second spot)

October is Fire Prevention month! The FireSafe Council is here to protect the many communities at risk from wildfire in Santa Clara County. Get help identifying actions you can take to create defensible space or prepare your family for evacuation. Request a neighborhood evacuation workshop or a home ignition zone risk assessment, to help make your family and home FireSafe. Contact them today! Visit us@ www.sccfiresafe.org or visit us on Facebook@ <https://facebook.com/SCCFireSafeCouncil>.



Picture: Smokey The Bear and Yan Zhao, Chair Saratoga Cemetery District Board of Trustees