

Sandridge - Outingdale Fire Safe Council
sofiresafe.org

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**SANDRIDGE - OUTINGDALE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL ANNOUNCES
FIRE SAFETY WORKSHOP AND START-UP MEETING**

Local Fire Officials to Discuss Fire Safety Measures and Formation of New Group

Somerset, April 19, 2007

The Sandridge - Outingdale Fire Safe Council has announced its inaugural fire safety workshop and organizational start-up meeting. Attending the event will be local, county and state fire officials who will discuss defensible space requirements and ways to protect homes, property and animals from a devastating wildfire.

The workshop will also be the first public meeting of the new community organization, and the organizers are hoping that attendees will volunteer their time and skills toward the protection of the community.

"Many residents and property owners don't fully appreciate the havoc and extreme danger we would face in the event of wildfire," said Gretchen Fretter, a member of the SOFSC start-up committee. "The reality is that we live in the middle of a forest, and in an emergency we will have to depend on each other." Fretter also serves on the board of the Pioneer Fire Protection District.

The Sandridge - Outingdale Fire Safe Council is a group of volunteers that will work with a coalition of public and private sector organizations to develop an emergency preparedness plan for the community before a wildfire occurs. The group will also work to prevent wildfires, and limit losses should a wildfire occur.

Also, because insurance companies assess the potential ability of a community's ability to survive a wildfire before writing insurance policies, participation in the group will increase the chances that homes in the community will continue to be insured. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for community residents to voice concerns about public safety issues. Formed in 1993, the California Fire Safe Council now has more than 60 local Councils statewide.

The meeting will take place Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to noon at Fire Station 32 on Sand Ridge Road, near Bucks Bar Road (aka "the voting station"). For more information, visit the group's Web site at <http://sofiresafe.org>.

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