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Wildfire Awareness Week, May 4-10, 2008

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Works to Protect Residents

San Jose, April 18, 2008 – The threat of wildfire is a reality throughout California and for many communities within Santa Clara County. May 4-10 has been designated by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and CAL FIRE as Wildfire Awareness Week this year.

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCFSC), a non-profit organization dedicated to wildfire prevention, is working with fire agencies and other partners to reach out to residents with our Defensible Space Chipping Programs and Community Outreach and Education Programs. These programs, which reduce hazardous fuels in selected areas of the county, are funded by federal grants from the USDI Bureau of Land Management as well as matching funds from local fire agencies, companies, organizations and individuals.

In 2007, our Chipping Programs helped protect more than 1,400 homes, over 4,000 people and in excess of \$1,400 million in property values.

SCFSC will be joined by local fire agencies and other partners to participate in several events throughout the County to remind residents living in the Wildland Urban Interface areas of Public Resources Code 4291 – a state law which went into effect in January 2005 – extended the Defensible Space clearance around homes and structures from 30 feet to 100 feet or the property line.

“Santa Clara County residents have a clear choice in making fire safe decisions if they live in a wildland area,” states SCFSC President, Jerry Serpa, a Fire Captain with the Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Department. “Our programs have helped protect thousands of residents and empowered them to be proactive in making educated choices to make their properties fire safe. We hope that they will take advantage of the resources we offer the community.”

To learn more about these free Chipping Programs or the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, visit the SCFSC Website at www.SCCFireSafe.org or call (408) 975-9591.

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The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is “Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities and environment from wildfires.” The council meets at 2:00 PM on the second Tuesday of each month. Interested organizations and individuals are welcome to attend! For more information and meeting locations, see www.SCCFireSafe.org, e-mail info@SCCFireSafe.org or call (408) 975-9591. SCFSC appreciates tax-deductible donations of any amount.

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