



SRCA Newsletter Article October 2008



SR Fire Safe Council

The Scripps Fire Safe Council (SRFSC) began as a group of concerned homeowners following the Cedar Fire. Our mission was to remove the volatile ground fuel and create a firebreak for our 75-home neighborhood. We incorporated as a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation. We won two federal fire prevention grants. Since then we have won six more grants and our grants and donations approach \$1 million.

In 2005 we began our expansion program to three nearby neighborhoods. In 2006 we utilized goats to provide a 200-foot firebreak along the wildland/urban interface between SR and MCAS Miramar's open space--directly across the path of the Cedar Fire. There are now 23 SRFSC neighborhood chapters, and we have established firebreaks for more than 1,200 homes. (See map on page 15.)

Are You Ready for the Next Wildfire?

The SRFSC offers a new program for homeowners to help prepare for the next wildfire. In collaboration with RB United, a coalition of 10 RB homeowners associations, the SRFSC has acquired a state-of-the-art, online computer-based system that allows residents to easily assess their fire risk and provides them recommendations to reduce that risk.

Research on the Witch Creek Fire has shown that the destruction of nearly 80% of the homes could have been prevented by homeowners taking action to protect their property from ignition by showers of wind-driven flying embers.

The goal of the Living With Wildfire Home Assessment Program is to provide homeowners with a "one-stop shop" approach to understand and minimize wildfire loss. At the core of the program is a customized checklist and action plan for each homeowner. The program will:

- Identify danger points in homes and landscape where spot fires can be ignited by approaching wildfires.
- Provide affordable options to increase protection from wildfires.
- Address periodic maintenance, a critical issue of fire risk reduction.
- Track the progress of homeowners and neighborhoods as they adopt the program's recommendations.
- Provide trained volunteers to help.
- Provide homeowners a way to demonstrate to insurance companies they have taken steps toward making their homes fire safe.

The program is based on science developed by the Center for Fire Research and Outreach at UC Berkeley and research by the Institute for Business and Home Safety. You can access the program at [www.srfiresafecouncil.org]. For more about the SRFSC, contact us at 945-6303 or [srfiresafecouncil@mac.com]

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