



COUNTY OF MARIN
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
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May 9, 2009

Dear Neighbors of Ring Mountain Preserve and Old St. Hilary's Open Space Preserve:

Re: Restrictions on Vegetation Removal

The Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) together with the Marin County Fire Chief's Association would like to remind you that it is time to make your home fire-safe. Throughout the year, the MCOSD and County Fire perform a variety of tasks to reduce the possibility of fire on open space lands. The State's fire agency, Cal Fire (California Department of Forestry), requires that property owners create a low-fuel defensible space zone of 100 feet from habitable structures on their property.

The Ring Mountain and Old St. Hilary's Open Space Preserves are home to unique habitats that support a variety of rare plants and animals. The MCOSD is bound by the Federal Endangered Species Act to protect these species. Adjacent property owners must get a permit from the MCOSD to cut grass or other fuels on open space lands. For information as to the best timing for cutting of grass, or modification of other fuels, and to request a permit, please contact the MCOSD field office at (415) 507-2816.

As a neighbor, you may be interested to know that the MCOSD is undertaking a comprehensive Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan, in conjunction with county and local fire agencies, to address the wide range of wildland fire fuel and resource management issues on open space lands. Community meetings regarding the development of this plan will be held later this year and details will be available on our website.

You can learn more about defensible space and find other valuable fire safety information at the following websites: www.marincountyfire.org, www.firesafemarin.org, and www.firewise.org.

Thank you for your help and cooperation in keeping Marin fire safe.


Sharon McNamee, General Manager
Marin County Open Space District


Ken Massucco, Fire Chief
Marin County Fire Department