



"To provide education, exchange information and foster emergency preparedness, fire prevention and safety in and around the East Orange County foothill and canyon communities."

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For Immediate Release: July 24, 2012

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL EAST ORANGE COUNTY CANYONS EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

SILVERADO, CALIFORNIA – Due to efforts made in reducing the vulnerability of homes and landscapes to wildfire, the Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons, has earned Firewise Communities/USA® recognition from the National Firewise Communities Program. The FSCEOCC is the first community in Orange County to be recognized as Firewise Communities/USA, joining over 700 communities nationwide that have been recognized since the programs inception in 2002.

To meet the program criteria, the Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons (FSCEOCC) formed a Firewise Advisory Team of seasoned experts that included Silverado residents Pat Antrim, Kim Brown, Mike Colgan, Steve Kerrigan and Mary Schreiber who worked with Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and a Firewise Communities consultant in conducting a wildfire assessment of the area that enabled a plan to be developed to address safety concerns. Residents are now working together under the leadership of FSCEOCC to implement the plan to improve awareness and wildfire survivability in the area.

FSCEOCC conducts fuel mitigation programs like Chipper Days and Canyon Cleansweep encouraging residents to remove flammable vegetation from and around their homes and other neighborhood structures and provides information to educate the community about prevention and vegetation clearance. Their next event is scheduled on September 15, 2012 in conjunction with largest non-coastal cleanup event in California the Inner-Coastal & Watershed Cleanup.

The National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Firewise Communities program encourages local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, business owners, firefighters, and others in the effort to protect people and property from wildfire risks. The program is co-sponsored by the USDA Forest Service, the US Department of the Interior, and the National Association of State Foresters.

The Fire Safe Council East Orange County Canyons includes the foothill and canyon communities from the 241 toll road south beyond Trabuco. The FSCEOCC is a 501(c)3 organization open to all local residents and stakeholders. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at Station 14 (Silverado Fire Hall). Tax-deductible donations will help to support community services.

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For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact FSCEOCC President Mary Schreiber by sending an email to mary@fsceocc.org