
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



SAN LUIS OBISPO UNIT SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRE



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CAL FIRE/SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT TO HOST WILDLAND FIREFIGHTING TRAINING EXERCISE

On Saturday, May 1, 2010, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., approximately 200 firefighters from throughout San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Monterey Counties as well as the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management will gather taking part in the annual wildland firefighting training exercise. ***This year's exercise will take place within the Hwy. 58/Parkhill Road area east of Santa Margarita.*** The exercise is intended to provide firefighters with the training necessary to help prepare them for the upcoming fire season.

The training will commence at the Santa Margarita Elementary School, located at 22070 H Street in Santa Margarita with an overview of the historical large scale fires in the area surrounding Santa Margarita. This overview will be followed by a comprehensive briefing of the training exercise. During the briefing, topics such as strategy, predicting fire weather/fire behavior, use of communications, structure defense and SAFETY of both the public as well as emergency services personnel will be addressed.

Many residents within the greater Hwy. 58/Parkhill Road area have graciously volunteered to allow access to their property for purposes of conducting the training exercise. This affords firefighters the opportunity to address the challenges and constantly evolving techniques utilized in protecting lives and property from the threat of wildland fires.

It is anticipated that approximately 40 vehicles will be involved with the training exercise, so motorists are encouraged to exercise caution if driving within the area on May 1, 2010. Helicopters from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) as well as the California Highway Patrol will be conducting operations within the training area.

NO LIVE FIRE WILL BE SET.

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