



Orange County Fire
Authority
Captain Greg McKeown/PIO

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MEDIA ADVISORY

April 22, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY AND ORANGE COUNTY SUPERVISOR PAT BATES
HOLD AN OPEN HOUSE FOR OC FIRE WATCH VOLUNTEERS

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Who: The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) and Orange County Supervisor Patricia C. Bates are holding an open house for all current Fire Watch volunteers and those interested in the program.

What: In November of 2009, the OCFA and OC Parks joined Supervisor Pat Bates in officially launching OC Fire Watch. OC Fire Watch is associated with OC Parks and is one of many Fire Watch Groups located throughout Orange County. These agencies have been attending meetings where they have worked together along with other fire watch groups to discuss methodologies and issues. These meetings have resulted in what has informally been called the "OC Fire Watch Network".

Fire Watch volunteers work to deter arson, report possible fires, and report behavior that could lead to catastrophic wildfire in our wilderness areas. Fire Watch volunteers are deployed during red flag conditions that occur when situations of low humidity are coupled with high winds. These volunteers help monitor the wildland areas within and around OC Wilderness Parks and other selected areas throughout Orange County.

The OC Fire Watch Network Open House will provide volunteers and members of the various Fire Watch groups, as well as those interested in joining the OC Fire Watch program, an opportunity to network with one another and to learn about the different Fire Watch groups and what they do. "I am very pleased to have our Fire Watch partners together in one place," said Supervisor Bates. "OC Fire Watch is a unique and innovative program that will help protect lives and property as well as our wilderness areas by working to prevent catastrophic wildfire in Orange County through direct community involvement."

Where: Orange County Fire Authority located at 1 Fire Authority Rd. in Irvine, Ca.

When: Tuesday, April 27 at 6:00 PM

Photo and interview opportunities will be available at the event. Please contact Captain McKeown or Chief Concepcion. For more information about OC Fire Watch, please visit: www.OCFireWatch.org.

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The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.3 million residents in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county