



# NEWS RELEASE

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**July 23, 2007**

**Subject: CAL FIRE hosts public hearing on proposed Orange County (Unincorporated) fire hazard map**

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(IRVINE)—CAL FIRE (formerly known as the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection) will introduce a proposed update to the fire hazard severity zone map for state responsibility area lands in Orange County at a public hearing on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 at 5 p.m. The hearing will be held at Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) headquarters, 1 Fire Authority Road (Jamboree and Tustin Ranch Road), in Irvine, CA.

“Record low rainfall, along with various other weather related factors, have created tinder dry brush throughout Southern California, including Orange County, and has set the stage for a very bad brush fire season,” said OCFA Fire Chief Chip Prather. “One important way to keep homes safe is through flame and ember-resistant construction materials.”

California law requires CAL FIRE to produce maps identifying areas with moderate, high or very high fire hazard severity. The maps are used to determine legal requirements such as building construction standards. The maps were last updated in the late 1980s. It is necessary to update these maps to ensure accuracy and to incorporate improved fire science and mapping techniques.

The July 24 hearing will include an overview of the process used to develop the map. A large format version of the map will be on display at the hearing and on the CAL FIRE website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov). The public will have the opportunity to submit a public comment on the map at the hearing and by mail or e-mail following the hearing. CAL FIRE will review and respond to all public comments before the maps are adopted or revised by the CAL FIRE Director.

Comprehensive information on the map update process is available at [www.fire.ca.gov/fireprone](http://www.fire.ca.gov/fireprone). The website includes an interactive map that allows users to find the proposed hazard rating for a specific address. For more information on the public hearing, contact OCFA Public Information Officer Captain Stephen J. Miller at (714) 573-6201 or via e-mail at [stephenjmiller@ocfa.org](mailto:stephenjmiller@ocfa.org).

*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.*