



NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority
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State Fire Marshal to Address Fire Hazards & Construction Standards

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(Irvine) –Fire hazards and building codes in the state’s wildlands will be the focus of a meeting June 1 hosted by the Orange County Fire Authority. California State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan will meet with interested community members Friday, June 1, from 9 a.m. until noon at Orange County Fire Authority Headquarters, 1 Fire Authority Rd, Irvine.

California law requires CAL FIRE to produce maps identifying areas that face moderate, high or very high fire hazard in areas where the state has financial responsibility for wildland fire protection. The maps were last updated in the mid-1980s. It is necessary to update the maps to ensure accuracy and incorporate improved fire science and mapping techniques. The meeting is intended to ensure that those who will be affected by the new building standards and fire hazard severity maps have an opportunity to ask questions and understand the process.

The proposed map updates were developed using a field-tested model which addresses the probability of the area burning and potential fire behavior. Many factors are considered such as fire history, existing and potential fuel, expected flame length, local terrain, weather and the ability of flying embers to spread the fire.

The maps will be introduced for public comment in each of the 56 counties with state responsibility area lands. CAL FIRE Director Ruben Grijalva will review and respond to all comments prior to adoption or revision of the maps. Chief Dargan will explain this hearing process as well as the new California Building Code that goes into effect next January which will impact all new construction in the designated areas.

For more information regarding the community meeting, please visit the website: www.fire.ca.gov/wildland.php or call (Stephen Miller, 714-573-6201).

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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.