



Orange County Fire Authority  
Captain Greg McKeown/PIO

# NEWS RELEASE

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**JULY 2, 2009**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SUBJECT: ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY ROLLS OUT READY! SET! GO! PERSONAL WILDFIRE ACTION PROGRAM COUNTY WIDE**

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Fire season is upon us and the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) is prepared to respond. Fire Season has not closed since May of 2006 and due to drought conditions, increased temperatures, and very dry vegetation, the OCFA is expecting a very dangerous 2009 peak fire season.

In an effort to create safer communities within our jurisdiction, the OCFA has initiated a new program called READY! SET! GO! This program targets communities in several high risk, wildfire prone areas known as the "Urban Interface." "The OCFA is partnering with residents in 14 identified communities", says Assistant Chief Laura Blaul. "We are letting homeowners how significant their risk is, telling them what they need to do about it, and encouraging homeowners to prepare their homes and themselves before a wildfire strikes."

READY! SET! GO! is about helping residents understand how their home's location, surrounding vegetation, construction elements, and other factors place their property and them at risk during a wildfire. More importantly, it teaches them what they can do to reduce that risk - get READY! It also instructs them on the importance of having an evacuation and survival plan - get SET! Finally, it emphasizes the need to GO! and go early, before the fire arrives to ensure the safety of themselves and their family. The goal of this program is to educate and engage residents in reducing the risk in their communities, which will help save lives and property.

OCFA Firefighters will go door to door throughout this summer in these 14 communities where they will make personal contact with residents. The firefighters will offer to provide the resident with a home wildfire consultation in an effort to help them make their home more fire safe. This valuable information will help the residents make their community safer. The 14 communities are:

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| -Silverado Canyon           | -Pacific Island 1,2,3 (top of Pacific Island Drive, Laguna Niguel) |
| -Baker Canyon               | -The Forest (Lake Forest)  |
| -Black Star Canyon          | -Turtle Rock (Irvine)  |
| -Modjeska Canyon            | -Coastal Canyons in San Clemente                                   |
| -Trabuco Canyon             | -Emerald Bay   |
| -Santiago Canyon            | -Tustin Heights Unincorporated                                     |
| -Ortega Hwy. (and vicinity) | -Lemon Heights/Cowan Heights/North Tustin Areas                    |

Captain McKeown will coordinate both photo and interview opportunities for this program. Captain McKeown can coordinate with the media if you would like to accompany OCFA Firefighters on a Home Wildfire Consultation. Additional information on READY! SET! GO! can be found at [www.ocfa.org](http://www.ocfa.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.*