



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

For Immediate Release

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June 4th training burn a success for local fire agencies, MROSD

Los Altos, California [June 5, 2009] – The Santa Clara County Fire Department and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District conducted a successful training burn on nine acres in the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve June 4.

The burn provided valuable live fire training to about 50 staff from Santa Clara County Fire, the Open Space District, CAL FIRE, and Milpitas Fire, including 14 new firefighters going through the Joint Fire Academy. Firefighters practiced lighting back fires, making fire line with hand tools and mobile attacks with fire engines, all techniques used to fight wildfire. They also practiced deploying emergency fire shelters and progressive hose-lays, in which firefighters increase the length of a hose attached to a stationary truck while putting out fire. The exercises provided invaluable coordination between agencies as well. Four previous training burns have been successfully implemented in this area since 1997.

The nearby Cherry Springs Reservoir, several hydrants, water tanks and trucks provided an ample water supply to the engines, equipment and fire personnel carefully monitoring the burn.

The purpose of the training burn was to improve fire safety by reducing dry vegetation and providing invaluable live fire training to local fire departments and the Open Space District. Fire benefits the environment as well by reducing the spread of invasive plants and improving the health of native California grasslands and wildflowers that are adapted to periodic fire.



Created by voters in 1972, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has successfully protected more than 57,000 acres of open space. The public enjoys the District's diverse and beautiful preserves 365 days a year. The District is a public agency whose mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. www.openspace.org