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2010 Wildfire & Disaster Awareness Week Recap

This year marks the 7th event we've held and each year the planning process becomes more involved as we now hold multiple events throughout Wildfire Awareness Week. Each year expectations are higher than ever to outdo the previous event and 2010 was no exception. 550 hours of volunteer time was put in by the planning committee in a 75 day period of time and hundreds of additional hours by volunteers involved in work parties and preparing their exhibits for WAW week.



Wildfire Awareness Week:

The Wrightwood Fire Safe Council kicked off Wildfire Awareness Week by hosting a press conference on Monday, May 3rd, along the roadside of Highway 2 in Wrightwood. The conference was well attended by representatives from the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests and CAL FIRE along with crews and Chiefs from throughout San Bernardino





County, including Fire Chief Pat Dennen and Chief Doug McKain. The location of the press conference was chosen to coincide with the unveiling of a new fire safety awareness sign created and built by 13-year old Wrightwood Boy Scout Ryan Foley for his Eagle Scout Project. The sign incorporated the new Ready! Set! Go! Program, which San Bernardino County Fire

officially launched at the press conference.

1,000,000 pound Milestone Reached During 2010 Green Waste Recycling Event:



When it started 4 years ago, the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council thought it would be a good idea for residents to have a convenient drop spot for getting green waste recycled. Nobody ever thought that it would develop into a fine-tuned green waste recycling event.

The SBCFD Slash Crew, in cooperation with CR&R, Volunteers and Wrightwood Fire Safe Council members, recycled 263,440 lbs of pine needles and green waste this year (1640 Cubic Yards).

In the 4 years since the Green Waste Recycling event began residents have now hit the **1 Million pound** mark and that's equal to 350 lbs for each of the 2864 structures in Wrightwood.



There was a 41% increase over 2009 (we feel this was accomplished by re-naming the event, Tri-Community Green Waste Recycling, this year to help attract a broader audience. We know we had participants from Wrightwood, Phelan, Pinion Hills, Oak Springs Valley (DFR), Horse Canyon and other areas.

1271 Vehicle loads of Green Waste was up by 19% in 2010 over 2009 and up by 5.8% over 2008.

A daily record of 271 vehicle loads was dropped off on the final day and a CHP Cruiser had to be used at the end of the line to cut off people continuing to line up beyond closing time. Crews continued processing vehicles an additional 1/2 hour past closing time to handle the volume.



236 hours were put in by CR&R crews of which about 50% was volunteer time by their employees.

San Bernardino County Code Enforcement contributed by assisting with printing for the event and insured that tipping fees for disposal were waived. The San Bernardino County Fire Fuels Crew responded again this year with an incredible job of handling the waste for the event as they worked non stop for 8 straight days giving 110%.

Sheep Fire Recap and Ready! Set! Go! Community Meeting:

On the evening of May 4th the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council and the Wrightwood Property Owners' Association hosted a special recap of last October's devastating Sheep Fire in the community center. The community center was filled with



concerned residents who came to hear from the firefighters who fought the wildfire as it raced up Lone Pine Canyon and threatened our town. They learned why the firefighters were successful, watched previously unseen professional video of the fire and had all of their questions answered. All those in attendance were also the first in the county to learn about San Bernardino County Fire's new Ready! Set! Go! Program for keeping their families and property safe during emergencies.



Wildfire and Disaster Awareness Day:

When the 7th annual Wildfire & Disaster Awareness Day opened at 10am the entire event area was shoulder to shoulder with visitors and remained that way until closing at 3pm with people still sitting at tables. It was by far the largest crowd that remained for the longest time in event history.





The broad range of this year's exhibitors provided an excellent educational experience for the day's large turnout. After last year's success the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council decided to rent the Portable Rock Climbing Wall again and it paid off with a line continuing throughout the 5 hour event, then visiting kids and parents

checked out various educational events.

Some of the stats for day included:

43 dogs were Micro Chipped

Emergency Supplies Provided to Visitors



52 – 55
gallon FDA
water
barrels

were sold at cost (double 2009)
18 - 3 day 2 person first aid kits
3 - 3 day pet kits & 5 fire extinguishers
630 gallon containers of emergency
water was made available Free by the
WFSC and distributed during the event





Hot Dogs-Popcorn-Water

1475 hot dogs (47.5% increase over 2009)

35 lbs popcorn (17% increase over 2009)

Also consumed during the week of events:

Over 45 cases of water (1575)

12 feet of sandwiches by slash/chipping crew

7 large pizzas by slash/chipping crew
(donated by Mile High Pizza)

130 bags of chips

14 dozen cookies

90 Danish

4 dozen bottles of orange juice

Hundreds of cans of soda pop



People in attendance were also able to visit different displays and receive information from organizations and groups such as CAL FIRE, SB County Code Enforcement, Wrightwood Disaster Preparedness Group, Wrightwood Communications Group, and San Bernardino/ Angeles National Forest just to name a few. They also

participated in the live CERT demos, and the Station 101 Annual Jr. FF Challenge. The Wrightwood Fire Safe Council had a "Cool Off Your Firefighter" dunk tank as a fund raiser that was very popular.

In closing:

The Wrightwood Fire Safe Council would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers, exhibitors, participants, sponsors, agency representatives and every other person involved in this year's week of activities. It's truly rewarding to have the unconditional cooperation of federal, state, county agencies and the public as we continue to prepare for disasters that are inevitable.



Here's a few quotes made during the week that we are proud to share:

Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt said, "Wrightwood is among the safest and most prepared communities in the entire state."

SBCFD Chief Pat Dennen said, "With the cooperation of all the volunteer groups around, you guys put on quite a show and are not duplicated any where else in San Bernardino County. You have it figured out!"

Dennis West, retired SBCFD OES said, "Wrightwood has to be the premiere program in San Bernardino County."

Thanks for everyone's support,
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council

For more photos and videos visit: www.WrightwoodFSC.com

