

South Orange County Fire Watch Volunteers

South County Land Stewards¹ together with the Orange County Fire Authority invite you to participate in the South County Fire Watch, a partnership to deter and report behaviors that could lead to fires and to detect fires quickly if they start.

Protect Your Community

- Nearly all wildfires in Orange County in the last 100 years have been caused by humans;
- Fire is an extreme hazard to communities built close to wildlands;
- Wildland fires are a significant threat to rare wildlife and plants.
- The communities of Dove Canyon, Coto de Caza, Wagon Wheel, Las Flores, and Ladera Ranch are adjacent to south county wildlands;
- Portions of south county wildlands haven't burned in over fifty years

In 2008

- Over 30,000 acres were burned in the 2008 Freeway Fire;
- 381 structures were damaged or destroyed;
- The cost for fighting the Freeway Fire was \$6.1 million.

Fire Watch Training

- Volunteers will receive training from Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) personnel.
- Training Date: to be decided (August).
- Training will last three hours and focus on: understanding basic fire behavior, identifying signs of wildfire, dealing with suspect behavior, providing useful fire information, contacting proper fire authorities
- OCFA training prepares volunteers for deployment under conditions of severe fire hazard. On "Red Flag" days, South County Land Stewards will assign rotating shifts of volunteers to wildland vantage points to serve as deterrents and lookouts for fire professionals. We seek to place participants in locations easily accessible from where they live or work.

How Can You Help?

Become a Fire Watch Volunteer! Contact Sandy DeSimone (949) 858-0309, sdesimone@audubon.org or Laura Coley Eisenberg (949) 240-3363 Ext 297, lcoleyeisenberg@ranchomv.com.

¹ Audubon's Starr Ranch Sanctuary, Rancho Mission Viejo Land Trust, Cleveland National Forest, Riley Wilderness Park, Caspers Wilderness Park, O'Neill Regional Park, and Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy. NOTE: Orange County Park staff is not involved in recruitment or supervision of volunteers.