

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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Public Provides Defense CDF Provides Offense For Wildfire Awareness Week May 6 - 12, 2002

CDF to Demonstrate Firefighting Aircraft At Kick-Off Event

Sacramento – “You provide the defense. We’ll provide the offense” that is the theme for this year’s Wildfire Awareness Week proclaimed by Governor Davis as May 6-12, 2002. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) will kick off the week with a **media event and demonstrations of firefighting apparatus** at the new CDF Aviation Center at McClellan Air Field in Sacramento.

“We can send our firefighters, engines, airtankers, and helicopters when wildfire threatens,” said CDF director Andrea Tuttle. “Unless homeowners have done their part by clearing defensible space 30 to 100 feet around their homes, our resources may never have a fighting chance to save them.”

More than 100 communities in California have formed Fire Safe Councils consisting of citizens who work to make their neighborhoods fire safe. At this year’s kick off event in Sacramento members of those councils will be seated under a giant banner reading “**Defense**”. They will provide information on the work they have done to make their homes defensible from wildfire. Near another giant banner reading “**Offense**” will be CDF fire engines, helicopters, air tankers and firefighters.

(More)



All around California CDF will be working with local fire agencies to host events promoting fire safety and community collaboration. CDF firefighters ask residents to create a defensible space around their homes and families. “Give us the space we need to save your property, and maybe your life”, added Director Tuttle. For tips on creating a defensible space, consult the CDF website at www.fire.ca.gov

The media and the public are invited to meet local fire safe council members and to observe demonstrations of firefighting techniques by fire crews on the ground along with water “target drops” by helicopters and airtankers. Please join us:

Wildfire Awareness Week Kick-Off
Monday May 6, 2002
10:00 A.M.
Enter McClellan at A St.
Maps available upon request

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