

Fuel break kickoff features successful test of MOFD-developed warning system



Photo courtesy Mike Marquart, MOFD

MOFD's Dennis Rein outlines the day's program to fuel break participants July 11

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District and its program partners July 11 kicked off the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break project, a state-funded effort to prevent a catastrophic wildfire by removing dangerous fuels along a 14-mile ridge from Tilden Park to Acalanes High School. The kickoff featured the first major test of MOFD-developed

heat sensing technology, which detects components of fire behavior and forwards the data for preparation of an evacuation plan.

"It was one of the most exciting demonstrations ever put on in the world of wildfire prevention, taking data from the sensors to provide an evacuation model," said Tim Woodbury of Splunk Technology, a San Francisco data analytics company that

parsed the information.

The district tested heat sensing technology on a small scale during evacuation drills in December and January. "The system detected and transmitted data that resulted in both an alert, fire modeling and notifications to public safety," said Dennis Rein, MOFD emergency preparedness coordinator, who supervised the drills.

Shortly afterward, the

Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation expressed interest in the sensor program, and through the Rescue One Foundation, which has contributed more than \$500,000 to the fire service over 42 years, authorized a \$100,000 grant to MOFD for the venture. Genny Biggs of the Moore Foundation called the program "a promising and potentially life-saving, near-term tech solution to reducing the threat and impact of severe wildfires. We believe the system MOFD has developed could significantly improve early detection and response."

To produce the prototypes, MOFD teamed up with various partners including Analog Devices, which built the sensors, and ZoneHaven, a newly formed company that developed the software system.

At the fuel break kickoff, the district placed 200 sensors around a 15-acre controlled burn off of Bear Creek Road in north Orinda. The sensors picked up a rise in temperature and triggered a simulation model of where the fire would spread over the next five hours. That information was used to determine and recommend an evacuation plan, to be put in place by the appropriate public safety agencies. "The sensors all worked perfectly," said MOFD

Chief Dave Winnacker Robert Shear of ZoneHaven sees the program as far more than simply detecting fire conditions. "We've built a community collaboration platform for wildfires, evacuations and any type of natural disaster," he said. "We want to help communities understand the real threats and understand more about their evacuation zones. Our real value is bringing this interface to the community."

Other technology exists to detect wildfires, including satellite programs, automated surveillance and other sensor products. But Shear said that only the MOFD sensor program gives an instantaneous readout of fire danger along with an evacuation model. "You don't have hours when a wildfire hits. You have minutes," Shear said.

Though the fire district developed the sensor technology under Winnacker's leadership, MOFD cannot convert the concept into a marketable product, because that is not what a public agency does. That is the challenge for ZoneHaven, which is looking at private-public partnerships and also a subscription model for property owners.

"We want this to become a common platform across all of California," Shear said.

ConFire experiments with four-person truck crews

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District increased staffing on three of its five truck companies from three to four personnel starting July 13 thanks to a three-year federal staffing grant. The experimental program began after the 16 firefighters who graduated from Academy 53 completed their orientation tours as an extra person with various district engine companies, including the three companies in Lafayette.

"We will use the three years to evaluate the efficiency of having that extra person on a

truck," said Chuck Stark, Assistant Fire Chief, Operations Division.

Stark explained that at a small residential fire, with a four-person truck crew, two firefighters could cut a hole in a roof while the other two could go inside the structure for search and rescue. "You can get two jobs out of one truck as opposed to just one," Stark said. Industry best practices dictate that each of those two jobs requires two suppression personnel.

ConFire provides automatic aid to six neighboring fire agencies, including the Moraga-

Orinda Fire District. "Each of these agencies would also benefit from this enhanced staffing as well. This brings further benefits to these surrounding agencies and the communities they protect," the district said in its Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grant application.

Truck companies in Antioch, Concord and Pittsburg, the busiest truck companies in the district, will add the fourth crew member, with truck companies in Martinez and Walnut Creek – the closest truck company to Lamorinda – continuing with three-person crews.

"It is our ultimate goal to

show all stakeholders that these staffing levels are essential to our abilities to protect our community safely and efficiently," the district said. "This project provides the basis for a potential expansion of the fourth firefighter to many more of our engine and truck companies."

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, Aug. 21, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Aug. 6, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber Room 107,
Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com
Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com
Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd.,
925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King
ext. 7049
Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way
925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Mark Nagel
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report June 30 - July 13

Alarms	65
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	11
Traffic	181
Suspicious Circumstances	15
Suspicious Subject	37
Suspicious Vehicle	15
Service to Citizen	67
Patrol Req./Security Check	44
Vacation House Check	23
Supplemental Report	32
Welfare Check	13

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
Lafayette Cir./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
50 Block Lafayette Cir.
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
1000 Block Carol Ln.
800 Block Solana Dr.
800 Block Avalon Ct.
1000 Block Brown Ave.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

DUI Misd
St. Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft From Veh
1000 Block Dolores Dr.

1200 Block Barott Rd.
800 Block Avalon Ct.
Reckless Driving
Deer Hill/Pleasant Hill
500 Block St. Mary'S Rd.
St. Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
Rohrer Dr./Castello Rd.
Mt. Diablo Bl/Happy Valley Rd.
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
1200 Block Woodborough Rd.
Moraga Rd./Hamlin Rd.
Brown Av/Briones To Las Trampas Trail
El Curtola Bl/Lincolnshire Ct.
Pd Laf Police Department
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.

Road Rage
3300 Block Beechwood Dr.

Vehicle Theft
3200 Block Marlene Dr.
900 Block Hough Ave.
Deer Hill Rd./Happy Valley Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Other criminal activity
Commercial Burglary
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Mountain View Dr.

Grand Theft
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Identity Theft
10 Block Dianne Ct.
1000 Block Carol Ln.

Panhandling
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Oak Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.

Petty Theft
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Deerhill Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.

Petty Theft Bicycle
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block East St.

Residential Burglary
3200 Block Andreasen Dr.

Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)

Threats
3700 Block Highland Rd.
700 Block Grondine Rd.
10 Block Greenvalley Dr.
3900 Block N Peardale Dr.

Violation Custody Order
Happy Valley Rd./Happy Valley Ct. (2)
700 Block St. Mary'S Rd.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-Domestic
1000 Block 2Nd St.
Drunk In Public
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Loud Music
1000 Block Dewing Ave.

Loud Noise
1300 Block San Reliez Ct.
3300 Block Springfield Rd.

Loud Party
3600 Block Chestnut St.
900 Block Risa Rd.
1200 Block Monticello Rd.

Neighbor Dispute
3300 Block Mildred Ln.

Public Nuisance

3500 Block Golden Gate Way
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
3100 Block Somerset Dr.
Lucas Cir./Lucas Dr.
3300 Block Mildred Ln.

Vandalism
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.
700 Block Solana Dr.

Other
Fireworks
Burton Dr./Murray Ln.
Broadmoor Ct./St. Marys Rd.
3200 Block Fairholm Ct.
Judy Ln./Reliez Station Rd.
1100 Block Monticello Rd.
Peaceful Ln./Bacon Ct.

Harassment
3300 Block Beechwood Dr.
2300 St./Golden Gate Way

Ordinance Violation
Via Alta/Via Media
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
3900 Block S Peardale Dr.

Prom Shoot
3100 Block Cordova Way

Trespass
1200 Block Laurel Ln.
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Unwanted Guest
1200 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd. (2)
1200 Block Laurel Ln.

Violation Restraining Ordinance
3600 Block Bickerstaff St.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report July 2- July 15

Alarms	20
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	7
Traffic	52
Suspicious Circumstances	11
Suspicious Subject	5
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	38
Patrol Req./Security Check	23
Supplemental Report	12
Vacation House Check	3
Welfare Check	2

Vehicle violations

Accident Injury
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.
CVS

Accident Property
80 Block Corliss Dr.

Excessive Speed
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr. (2)
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.
No House Number
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr. (2)
Lucas Dr./Moraga Rd.
600 Block Moraga Rd.
Drager Dr./Moraga Rd.
Buckingham Dr.
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
Rheem Blvd.

Reckless Driving
Homegoods
Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr.

Other criminal activity
Battery Domestic Misd
600 Block Camino Ricardo

Fireworks
Larch Ave./Shuey Dr.

Fraud False Pretenses
1000 Block Wickham Dr.

Grand Theft
400 Block Center St.

Residential Burglary
1700 Block St. Andrews Dr.

Nuisance to the Community
Barking Dog
10 Block Wandel Dr.
Disturbance-Domestic
400 Block Woodminster Dr.
Disturbing The Peace
Rheem Bumoraga Rd.

Loud Noise
200 Block Tharp Dr.
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.
St. Marys College

Loud Party
Not Available
Draeger Dr./Moraga Rd.
10 Block Moraga Valley Ln.

Public Nuisance
60 Block Wandel Dr.

Other
Other Misdemeanor
Draeger Dr./Moraga Rd.
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.
Public Assembly Check
Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Trespass
Campolindo High School

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report June 30 - July 6

Alarms	33
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	18
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	9
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	27
Patrol Req./Security Check	7
Vacation House Check	10
Supplemental Report	6
Welfare Check	3

Vehicle violations

Accident Property
Meadowlands Ct./Moraga Way

Dui Misd
Beverages And More
Exhibition Of Speed
Bear Creek Rd./Camino Pablo
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
70 Block Moraga Way

Reckless Driving
Moraga Way/Whitehall Dr.
100 Block Moraga Way
Miramonte High School
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.

Traffic Hazard
Via Floreado/Las Vegas Rd.
El Toyonal/Camino Pablo
St Stephens Cr./El Nido Ranch Rd.

Vehicle Theft
60 Block Brookwood Rd.

Other criminal activity
Burglary
Rite Aid

Fireworks
Orinda Senior Village
Dalewood Dr./Mossbridge Ln.
200 Block Overhill Rd.
50 Block St Stephens Cr.
10 Block Sally Ann Rd.

Misc Burglary
10 Block Overhill Rd.

Residential Burglary
10 Block Richard Ct.

Shoplift
Cvs

Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
Tappan Ln./Bear Ridge Rd.

Vandalism
10 Block Orinda Way
10 Block Camino Sobrante
20 Block Orinda Way
Library
20 Block Orinda Way

Other
H&S/Poss of Contr. Sub.
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.

Ordinance Violation
10 Block Camino Lenada
100 Block Underhill Rd.
El Toyonal/Loma Vista Dr.
100 Block Underhill Rd.

Trespass
El Ribero/Camino Sobrante

Unauthorized Possession
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way

Uncontrollable Juvenile
100 Block Camino Sobrante