

# MOFD red tags 320 properties for fire code violations

By Nick Marnell

In light of the catastrophic wildfires over the past several years, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has heightened its enforcement on problem district properties, requiring weed abatement to be in strict compliance with the district fire code. Unlike in previous enforcement efforts, when MOFD only responded to citizen complaints, the district has proactively assessed problem properties in 2019, especially those near district

evacuation routes.

The district began its fire code enforcement program in March. Fire inspectors went door to door, with the focus on education, pointing out what violations existed on the properties.

In April, the district returned to the same property owners to see what work had been done. "The numbers were not good. Eighty percent had not done noticeable work," Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said.

With the weed abatement

deadline of June 15, MOFD began aggressive enforcement the next day. A staggering 320 properties were red tagged by the district. Owners of those parcels received a five-day notice to correct fire code violations on their property, such as unruly brush, a dead tree or overgrown grasses.

"Some people have just refused to do the work," a frustrated Winnacker said. The chief stressed that the district is more than willing to work with residents, but it

is of utmost importance that those who are red tagged contact the district, especially if there is a reason they are unable to do the work. MOFD will provide a list of contractors who are qualified to do the weed abatement.

In the event that a resident totally ignores the citation, the district board conducts a hearing, and can authorize a work order for an outside contractor to do the abatement. Contra Costa County advances the district the money to pay the contrac-

tor and the county places a lien on the property for the amount of the clean up. The district does not negotiate favorable prices with the contractor on a board authorized work order.

But Winnacker stressed that the time and effort required by the MOFD staff to place a lien on property is last thing the district wants to do. "Our goal is always to achieve voluntary compliance," the chief said.

# MOFD floats radical concept to effectuate weed abatement

By Nick Marnell

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Dave Winnacker has made mandatory weed abatement by the owners of all 14,000 district parcels one of his top priorities. But the chief is not happy with the progress.

"Thirty percent of the homes on Moraga Way are still not done," Winnacker said, referring to the section of the road from south of the Orinda Crossroads to the Moraga Shopping Center, one of the main district evacuation routes. The MOFD weed abatement deadline was June 15.

As a way to guarantee that hazardous fuel mitigation is completed on a parcel, Winnacker has proposed that every time there is a real property transfer, one of the conditions of closing becomes an inspection by the fire district to ensure that all weed abatement is up to code.

"My first instinct is that this is an issue that typically would be a real estate agent disclosure responsibility," said Mark Zinman of MZ Financial Group in Moraga.

Clark Thompson, a broker with Village Associates in Orinda, said that weed abatement compliance is already

part of the seller disclosure material. On Page 10 of the Statewide Seller and Buyer Advisory, which Thompson said is customarily used by most real estate companies to assure that buyers and sellers understand all aspects of the transfer of property, Item No. 6 advises of potential fire dangers on the property for sale. The Seller Property Questionnaire requires sellers to check a box that they are aware of all government regulations, including that "tall grass, brush or other vegetation be cleared."

Being aware of the regulations is one thing; Winnacker proposes a stronger mandate - that weed abatement on the real property be done to MOFD specifications before escrow can close.

Though Thompson has no issue with mandatory weed abatement, "Having a government representative come out prior to close of escrow, who does not understand the dynamics and intricacies of closing, would be not at all appropriate," he said.

"There are things where only government can set the regulations about items of public safety. This is one, and we support the concept," Compass associate broker Larry Hood said of Win-

nacker's proposal, but with a similar caveat as Thompson's. "The primary danger with these types of public safety concerns is that they become bloated with administrative costs and add time to a transaction. The key is to put them into place without adding costs and time to the transaction."

Claudia Gohler, Compass real estate agent in Lafayette, agrees with the chief in principle. "It makes sense, and maybe that's something that should be done before the seller puts the property on the market," she said. "Having an added inspection could delay the process. You'll be relying on the fire department's schedule to conform to the time of the closing."

Winnacker discussed his proposal at a recent district board meeting, and the item may return with greater detail later this year.

# Smoke alarm recall



The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection advised of a smoke alarm recall issued late July by Universal Security Instruments



and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The company has received reports of 132 smoke alarms that did not properly activate.

Cal Fire advises consumers to check models MI3050S and MI3050SB, as shown in the photos.

The products were sold online through specialty wholesalers. The CPSC website contains details on the recall.

—N. Marnell

## 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](http://www.mofd.org)



## ConFire

Board of Directors  
Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1:30 p.m.  
Board Chamber Room 107,  
Administration Building  
651 Pine St., Martinez.  
For meeting times and agendas, visit [www.cccfpd.org](http://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](http://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 July 14 - July 27**

Alarms 70  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 12  
Traffic 116  
Suspicious Circumstances 7  
Suspicious Subject 20  
Suspicious Vehicle 23  
Service to Citizen 52  
Patrol Req./Security Check 29  
Vacation House Check 26  
Supplemental Report 26  
Welfare Check 11

**Vehicle violations**

Auto Burglary  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
900 Block Hough Ave.  
1200 Block Rose Ln.  
Stanley Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1100 Block Orchard Rd.  
1700 Block Ivanhoe Ave.  
900 Block Hough Ave.  
1800 Block Ivanhoe Ave.  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
800 Block Rosedale Ave.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Mountain View Dr.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)  
Police Department  
3300 Block Victoria Ave.

Petty Theft From Vehicle  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
900 Block Yorkshire Ct.  
Reckless Driving

Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
El Curtola Blvd./Westminster Pl.  
Moraga Rd./Toflemire Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Hamlin Rd./Solana Dr.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave.

Stolen Vehicle Recovery  
1500 Block Springbrook Rd.  
3300 Block Berta Ln.

Vehicle Theft  
1600 Block Springbrook Rd.  
900 Block 4th St.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

**Other criminal activity**

Forgery  
1000 Block Sierra Vista Way  
Fraud False Pretenses  
800 Block Dewing Ave.

Grand Theft  
3500 Block Brook St.  
1000 Block Via Alta

Identity Theft  
Police Department  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
1300 Block San Reliez Ct.

Misc Burglary  
3400 Block School St.

Panhandling  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)  
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft  
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
20 Block Lafayette Cr.  
1100 Block Hillcrest Dr. (2)

3500 Block St. Marys Rd.  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3200 Block Stanley Blvd.

Shoplift  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)

**Nuisance to the Community**

Disturbance-Domestic  
3500 Block Walnut St.  
800 Block Reliez Station Rd.

Disturbing The Peace  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.

Drunk In Public  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Harassment  
900 Block Dewing Ave.

Loud Music  
Kincheloe Ct./Reliez Valley Rd.  
3300 Block Kincheloe Ct.  
1100 Block Glen Rd.

Loud Noise  
1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd. (2)  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Risa Rd.  
3300 Block Springhill Rd.  
Vista Bella/Martino Rd.

Loud Party  
Stanley Intermediate School  
3300 Block N Lucille Ln.  
1100 Block Glen Rd.

Public Nuisance  
Palomares Ct./Palomares St.

Unwanted Guest  
900 Block East St.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3300 Block Ridge Rd.

Vandalism  
Springhill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

**Other**

Animal Cruelty  
1st St./Golden Gate Way  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Elder Abuse  
1000 Block Regio Ct.

Fireworks  
3500 Block Rowe Pl.  
3400 Block School St.

Ordinance Violation  
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave.

Threats  
1100 Block Magnolia Ln.

Trespass  
1100 Block Palomares Ct.  
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Trespass W/ Vehicle  
800 Block Broadmoor Ct.

## Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report July 16- July 28

Alarms 20  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 8  
Traffic 52  
Suspicious Circumstances 2  
Suspicious Subject 6  
Suspicious Vehicle 7  
Service to Citizen 51  
Patrol Req./Security Check 27  
Supplemental Report 5  
Vacation House Check 1  
Welfare Check 2

**Vehicle violations**

Accident Injury  
1500 Block Canyon Rd.

Auto Burglary  
Not Available  
Not Available  
Not Available

Excessive Speed  
Moraga Way/Southwaite Ct.  
Corliss Dr./Moraga Rd. (3)  
In Front of Commons Park (2)  
Rheem Blvd./Stewart Ct. (4)  
Alta Mesa Dr./Moraga Rd. (2)  
Moraga Rd./Devin Dr.  
500 Block Block/Rheem Blvd.  
3700 Block Campolindo Dr.  
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.  
Draeger Dr./Moraga Rd.  
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.

Reckless Driving  
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.  
CVS

Tc - Property Damage  
Moraga Commons

**Other criminal activity**

Fireworks  
Rancho Laguna Park

Forgery  
Police Department

Grand Theft  
Police Department

Petty Theft  
CVS

**Nuisance to the Community**

Barking Dog  
100 Block Miramonte Dr.

Disturbance-Domestic  
900 Block Country Club Dr.  
200 Block Scofield Dr.  
Not Available

Disturbing The Peace  
Crossbrook Ct./Crossbrook Dr.

Loud Motorcycle  
Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.

Loud Noise  
1000 Block Alta Mesa Dr.

Loud Party  
Paseo Del Rio/Campolindo Dr.  
Laird Dr./Donald Dr.  
1700 Block School St  
50 Block Buckingham Dr.  
Not Available  
1200 Block Larch Ave.

Vandalism  
Canyon Rd./Larch Ave.

**Other**

Accident Property  
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Ordinance Violation  
1700 Block School St.

Violation Custody Order  
1700 Block St. Andrews Dr.

**Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report July 7 - July 27**

Alarms 76  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 16  
Traffic 94  
Suspicious Circumstances 10  
Suspicious Subject 23  
Suspicious Vehicle 15  
Service to Citizen 73  
Patrol Req./Security Check 25  
Vacation House Check 18  
Supplemental Report 27  
Welfare Check 10

**Vehicle violations**

Accident Injury  
10 Block Crest View Terrace  
Moraga Way/Altamount Dr.

Auto Burglary  
Moraga Way/Brookwood Rd.  
Casa Orinda Restaurant  
30 Block Orchard Rd.  
Safeway  
Orinda Theater  
Beverages And More  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor  
Police Department  
Moraga Way/Brookside Rd.

Petty Theft Vehicles Parts  
10 Block Camino Pablo

Reckless Driving  
Camino Pablo/Bart Track  
St Stephens Dr./Wb Sr 24  
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.  
El Toyonal/Camino Pablo  
Meadow View Rd./Glorietta Blvd.  
Wb Sr 24 At Camino Pablo  
Los Amigos/Camino Pablo  
Camino Pablo/Manzanita Dr.  
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.  
Glorietta Blvd./Moraga Way  
Moraga Way/Stein Way  
El Nido Ranch Rd./St Stephens Dr.  
Camino Pablo/Claremont Ave.

Tc - Property Damage  
10 Block Valley Ct.  
Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo  
10 Block Edgewood Rd.

Safeway  
100 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.

Vehicle Theft  
McCaulous

**Other criminal activity**

Commercial Burglary  
500 Block Bear Creek Rd. (2)  
Safeway

Grand Theft  
Beverages And More

Identity Theft  
Police Department (2)

Panhandling  
Safeway

Petty Theft  
CVS  
St Stephens Dr./Wb Sr 24

Residential Burglary  
50 Block Davis Rd.  
50 Block Dolores Way  
100 Block Tappan Ln.

Warrant Arrest  
Chevron  
20 Block Orinda Way  
10 Block Orinda Way  
Camino Pablo/Brookwood Rd.  
Wb Sr 24 At Wilder Rd.

**Nuisance to the Community**

Disturbance-Domestic  
Wilder Sports Fields

Loud Music  
10 Block La Campana Rd.  
Valley Dr./Heather Ln.  
100 Block Silver Oak Terrace

Loud Noise  
Camino Lenada/Miner Rd. (2)  
Shadow Creek Ln./Glorietta Blvd.  
Monte Vista Ridge Rd.

Loud Party  
10 Block North Ln.  
Donald Dr./Hall Dr.

Public Nuisance  
200 Block Courtney Ln.  
50 Block Charles Hill Rd.  
20 Block Hillcrest Dr.  
Safeway  
McCaulous

Unwanted Guest  
Safeway

Vandalism  
Orinda Intermediate School  
Wilder Public Works Bldg

Vandalism - Felony  
Miramonte High School

**Other**

Accident Property  
Camino Pablo/Camino Encinas

Defraud Innkeeper  
10 Block Camino Sobrante

Ordinance Violation  
30 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.  
Martha Rd./Glorietta Blvd.  
10 Block Stanton Ct.

Revocation Of Probation  
60 Block Moraga Via  
Bart Orinda Station  
Beverages And More

Terrorist Threats  
20 Block Francisco Ct. (2)

Threats  
10 Block Crown Ct.

Trespass  
500 Block Orindawoods Dr.  
10 Block Risa Ct.

Violation Restraining Order  
10 Block Nonie Rd.

