

Firefighters crush 30-acre Moraga vegetation fire



Photo courtesy MOFD

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga vegetation fire the evening of Oct. 11 was a powerful reminder for residents to complete their exterior abatement projects by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District deadline

of June 1.

The Irvine Fire, a one-alarm grass fire first reported before 6 p.m., required a response from four fire agencies, including MOFD, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and the East Bay Regional Park District. The

Sanders Ranch blaze occurred in a Mutual Threat Zone, meaning that it started in the MOFD local responsibility area but had a high probability of spreading into the state responsibility area. Hence, the response from Cal Fire and the park district.

According to MOFD, the fire was caused by a resident who was mowing tall grass behind a house.

"In short, it is too late to complete fuel reduction work for this year, and we ask that residents use the winter to plan their late spring work to protect their homes during

next year's fire season," MOFD Chief Dave Winnacker said. "In my time with the district, three of the four significant vegetation fires have been caused by residents carrying out late season fuel mitigation work and it has been only thanks to the timely response and aggressive attack by our firefighters that the loss of homes has been avoided."

The Sanders Ranch fire burned 30 acres and took two hours to contain. No structures were threatened, as the fire burned away from houses, unaided by wind or severe weather.

"The biggest challenge was the hilly topography," said MOFD's Steve Gehling, the on-scene battalion chief. The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and the park district provided aerial suppression support, preventing the

fire's forward progress into areas inaccessible to the firefighters.

Winnacker again stressed the need to complete exterior abatement by June 1 of next year. He reminded residents to cut annual grasses and weeds to less than 3 inches; to limb up trees to create at least a 6-foot air gap between the ground, ground fuels or roofs; and to maintain roadside vegetation to create a 3-foot horizontal and 15-foot vertical clearance.

MOFD has the authority to issue citations for violations of the fire code and health and safety code, and also has the authority to seek cost recovery for fires within their jurisdiction. "The fire district is not seeking cost recovery nor have we issued a citation," said Fire Marshal Jeff Isaacs of the Irvine Fire.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Nov. 18, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



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MOFD official renders split decision in PG&E-San Ramon Valley Fire hearing

By Nick Marnell

At an October hearing over the justification of two fines issued by the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, hearing officer Jeff Isaacs sided with the district on one citation and with the utility on the other.

It was the first time Isaacs, fire marshal of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, presided over such a hearing. "My role as the hearing officer was to protect the process, and insure that there was fair process and that each side was provided the opportunity to present their side and submit evidence," he said. "I then reviewed all testimony and evidence and issued a decision."

At issue was San Ramon Valley Fire Ordinance No. 35, which prohibits PG&E and any other electric utility from performing non-emergency electrical work — or any electrical work during periods of high fire danger — within district

boundaries without 48 hours' prior notice to the district.

The ordinance also prohibits PG&E from deploying a safety and infrastructure protection team without notice, and it allows the district to fine the utility and recover costs for overseeing the company's electrical utility work after each violation.

In May, San Ramon Valley Fire responded to the explosion of a power transformer that occurred while PG&E maintenance crews performed work on-site, with two company safety and infrastructure protection teams on standby alert. Per its ordinance, the district fined the company \$1,000 for failing to provide advance notice of the two deployments and billed the utility for costs incurred.

Isaacs found that one of the safety and infrastructure protection teams on site was merely passing through the fire district, and technically not deployed to the incident. He dismissed that citation.

But because the second SIPT was specifically assigned work within the fire district, and PG&E gave no notice to the fire district as required by its ordinance, Isaacs upheld the district's \$500 fine against the utility.

"We are very happy that our ordinance, intended to hold PG&E accountable for their actions, is exposing PG&E for their lack of concern for our citizens' safety," San Ramon Valley Fire Chief Paige Meyers said. "I want the citizens to know we offered to waive the fine in its entirety if PG&E would agree to just follow our ordinance in the future. Not only did they not take me up on the offer, they never even responded."

According to PG&E spokesman Matt Nauman, the company is evaluating the decision and deciding how to proceed.

The MOFD board unanimously passed a similar ordinance Oct. 21.

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, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report



Oct. 4 - Oct. 17

Alarms	37
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	14
Traffic	73
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subject	13
Suspicious Vehicle	10
Service to Citizen	53
Patrol Req./Security Check	53
Public/School Assembly Check	2
Supplemental Report	26
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	17
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary	
1000 Block Carol Ln.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
1200 Block Warner Ct.	
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.	
300 Block Saranap Ave.	
Reckless Driving	

Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
15t St./School St.
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.
Bacon Way/Springbrook Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
10 Block Eleven
Mt. Diablo Blvd./2Nd St.
El Charro Restaurant

Vehicle Theft
3600 Block Walnut St.
Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
Police Department
1000 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
1000 Block Carol Ln.

Identity Theft
Police Department
Petty Theft
1800 Block Del Rey St.
3400 Block Black Hawk Rd.
3300 Block Mildred Ln. (2)
1200 Block Monticello Rd.
4200 Block Canyon Rd.

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Warrant Arrest
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.

Warrant Service
1100 Block E Waterloo Rd.
Stockton

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
900 Block Risa Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Disturbing The Peace
900 Block Hough Ave.
60 Block Bacon Ct.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd. (2)

Loud Music
10 Block Eleven
900 Block Mountain View Dr.
Florence Dr./St Marys Rd.

Loud Noise
Bickerstaff St./Dewing Ave.
3400 Block School St.
900 Block Dewing Ave.
3300 Block Springhill Rd.

Loud Party
900 Block Diablo Dr.
1000 Block 2Nd St.
Glenside Dr./Las Trampas Rd.

Public Nuisance
900 Block S Thompson Rd.
Golden Gate Way/2Nd St.
2Nd St./Moraga Blvd.
3500 Block Brook St.
Magnolia Ln./Laurel Dr.
East St./Brook St.
Lucas Dr./Michael Ln.

El Curtola Blvd./Camino Diablo
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block 2Nd St.

Vandalism
3300 Block Betty Ln.

Other
Animal Cruelty
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Indecent Exposure
4000 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
K9 Outside Assist Request
Sams Club Warehouse, Con
1500 Block Mendocino Dr., Con

Trespass
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.(2)
3600 Block Deer Hill Rd.
N Thompson Rd./Deer Hill Rd.

Trespass W/ Vehicle
3400 Block School St.
Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Violation Custody Order
1200 Block Warner Ct. (2)
Violation Restraining Order
3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



Oct. 6 - Oct. 18

Alarms	8
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	12
Traffic	42
Suspicious Circumstances	5
Suspicious Subject	1
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	38
Patrol Req./Security Check	49
Supplemental Report	8
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	5
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations

Accident Property	
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.	
Moraga Way/School St.	
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.	
Rheem Blvd./Fernwood Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Not Available	
Reckless Driving	

2000 Block Donald Dr.
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.

Other criminal activity

Burglary
1100 Block Moraga Way
Commercial Burglary
100 Block Moraga Rd.

Fraud False Pretenses
2000 Block Donald Dr.
Petty Theft
Moraga Country Club (2)
Not Available
70 Block Shuey Dr.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
1900 Block Canyon Rd.
Disturbing The Peace
10 Block Corliss Dr.

Loud Music
1200 Block Rimer Dr.
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.
Canyon Club Brewery
300 Block Draeger Dr.
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Not Available (2)

Loud Noise
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
100 Block Ascot Ct.
300 Block Draeger Dr.

Public Nuisance
70 Block Hardie Dr.

Other
FAnimal Cruelty
McCaulou's
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Mentally Ill Commit
Not Available
Revoked License
St. Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.

Unwanted Guest
Starbucks



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

Oct. 11 - Oct. 17

Alarms	19
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	43
Suspicious Circumstances	1
Suspicious Subject	1
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	27
Patrol Req./Security Check	20
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	1
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	4
Ordinance Violation	0

Vehicle violations

Reckless Driving	
Miramonte High School	

Other criminal activity

Checks Non Suff Funds	
Orinda Intermediate School	
Fraud False Pretenses	
20 Block Irwin Way	
Identity Theft	
Police Department	
Petty Theft	
100 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln. (2)	
Petty Theft Purse Shoplift	
Cvs	
Warrant Arrest	
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante	
Warrant Arrest	
Safeway	

Nuisance to the Community

Loud Music	
Sleepy Hollow Swim And Tennis (2)	

Loud Party

100 Block Overhill Rd.	
30 Block Descanso Dr.	

Vandalism

Unocal Station And Food Mart	
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Other

Death Unknown Causes	
20 Block La Campana Rd.	
Dependent Adult Abuse	
10 Block Altarinda Rd.	
Harassment	
500 Block Moraga Way	
Trespass	
10 Block Orinda Fields Ln.	