

Exercises in Moraga train area firefighters and reduce flammable fuels



Photos Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

In late June a controlled burn at the John Muir Land Trust's Painted Rock property in Moraga served the dual purpose of reducing fuels that might feed a wildfire and providing an opportunity to train firefighters from around the Bay Area. Moraga-Orinda Fire District Battalion Chief Steve Gehling was the incident commander.

Moraga residents were warned that they might smell or see smoke during the exercises June 21-24. Bystanders

came from as far as Walnut Creek, from where they could see the smoke.

The exercises started at 10 a.m. and concluded no later than 5 p.m. each day. According to Gehling, 10 MOFD firefighters were joined by 20 firefighters from East Bay Regional Parks, three from the Berkeley Fire Department, and four each from the Oakland Fire Department, the Military Ocean Terminal Concord Federal firefighters, and Cal Fire Santa Clara Unit.

The Fire District coordinated the training with the

Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Fire Weather Forecasters at the National Weather Service to ensure the size and timing of the training burns would minimize smoke impacts on homes and smoke-sensitive sites in the area. As it happened, the conditions did not require rescheduling any of the training days.

Signs were posted cautioning motorists and bicycles of the additional fire equipment traffic and potential for reduced visibility along Moraga Road and Rheem Boule-

vard. As the firefighters set fire to the hillside starting at the top of the hill and coming down toward Moraga Road,

one traffic lane was closed. Moraga Police Department cars were present to monitor the situation.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, July 21, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, July 13 1 p.m.



For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org

Local residents asked to reduce water usage

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In fact, EBMUD's voluntary water consumption reduction is far more flexible than some neighboring districts which have adopted mandatory limitations. The San Jose Water Company, which serves a million South Bay residents, has implemented mandatory water conservation rules: Landscape watering may be done

no more than twice a week before 10 a.m. or after 8 p.m. for only 15 minutes per day and washing cars at home is banned.

Marin Water's board recently adopted mandatory water consumption restrictions with the goal of a 40% reduction in water use. Spray irrigation is limited to no more than twice a week and is prohibited between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m.

EBMUD has been working for decades to build up supplemental supplies, develop partnerships to purchase water in times of need and shore up systems to make the district more resistant to drought. This year EBMUD is purchasing water through a cooperative effort enabling it to use water from the Sacramento River. "We'll be taking 33,000 acre feet of water from this agree-

ment," Rodriguez explains, "and we'll be able to use this to help fill our reservoirs." One acre-foot equals about 326,000 gallons, or enough water to cover an acre of land. An average California household uses between one-half and one-acre-foot of water per year.

The District has also developed a new Super Rebate program which offers rebates

of \$1.50 (up to \$2,000) per square foot of lawn converted to a more water-wise landscape. For more information, go to ebmud.com/rebates.

"EBMUD customers are excellent at conserving water when necessary," Rodriguez proclaims. "We consider that part of our arsenal when fighting these long periods of drought. We should all enjoy our water responsibly."

ALERTWildfire cameras

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The success of the program grew eastward into northern Nevada. As word spread of the successful summers between 2014-16, new contracts came in from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah and California where 300 new cameras were installed in the year following the 2018 Camp Fire. An additional 300 cameras were installed in the Western United States during the disastrous

2020 fire season.

ALERTWildfire projects over 175 more cameras for installation across five states this year. Between 2016-2020, the cameras have provided critical information for over 1,500 fires. ALERTWildfire hopes to install 1,000 cameras in California alone by 2022.

First responders aren't the only agencies taking advantage of the extra pair of eyes on the horizon. Utility companies, such as Pacific Gas & Electric Co., have installed the

high-definition fire-watching cameras in locations where extreme fire risks pose a threat. By doing so, according to its website, PG&E is hoping to reduce the size and number of Public Safety Power Shutoffs. At the end of this year, they will have installed 340 cameras throughout Northern and Central California, with a projection of 600 total camera installations by the end of 2022.

Some of the camera locations covering the Lamorinda area include:

Briones Tabletop; Highway 24 and Lucas Drive both in Lafayette; Alta Mesa and Mulholland Ridge both in Moraga; and the areas near Vollmer Peak by Orinda. The cameras are capable of zooming in between 10 to 40 miles in order to verify directions given from a 911 call. This feature helps to either pinpoint a fire or redirect firefighters to a corrected location.

ALERTWildfire also is available for viewing by the

public, and the company boasts that people have begun having watch parties where a group of volunteers come together to try and detect early fires in their area. When told about this activity, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Captain Jacob Airola stated before the holiday weekend, "We're [MOFD] going to have an 'in-person' watch party during the Fourth of July on Mulholland Ridge!"

For more information visit www.alertwildfire.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, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

June 13 - June 26

Alarms	61
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	16
Traffic	62
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	17
Suspicious Vehicle	15
Service to Citizen	38
Patrol Req./Security Check	32
Pubic/School Assembly Check	1
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	28
Welfare Check	20
Ordinance Violation	6



Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary
Deer Hill Rd./1st St.
Reckless Driving
Deer Hill Rd./Happy Valley Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Risa Rd.
St Marys Rd./Glenside Dr.
Moraga Blvd./Carol Ln.
St Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.
Tc - Property Damage
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
Deer Hill Rd./1st St.

3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Springhill Rd.
500 Block St. Mary's Rd.
Police Department
Deer Hill Rd./Oak Hill Rd.
Moraga Rd./Wilkinson Ln.
Vehicle Theft
Hough Ave./Lafayette Cir.
Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
600 Block Glorietta Blvd.
1100 Block Bacon Way
1000 Block Woodbury Rd.
Grand Theft Veh Parts
3300 Block Woodland Way
Identity Theft
Police Department
30 Block Hidden Valley Rd.
Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Warrant Service
200 Block Florence Ave., Oakland
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
3300 Block N Lucille Ln.
3200 Block Sweet Dr.
Disturbance-fight
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24
Loud Music
3100 Block Kingsley Pl.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3400 Block Orchard Hill Ct. (2)
20 Block Monticello Ct.

Loud Party
3100 Block Andreasen Dr.
Andreasen Dr./Reliez Station Rd.
3100 Block Bradena Ln.
3400 Block School St.
Public Nuisance
3500 Block Terrace Way
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3100 Block Sandalwood Ct.
3500 Block Silver Springs Rd.
Timothy Ln./Pine Ln.
3600 Block Nordstrom Ln.
1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
4000 Block Block Happy Valley Rd.
3900 Block Los Arabis Dr.
4000 Block Tilden Ln.
1100 Block Sierra Vista Way
Vandalism
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3100 Block Old Tunnel Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other
Fireworks
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
Sweet Dr./Woodview Dr.
Intoxicated Subject
50 Block Lafayette Cr
K9 Outside Assist Request
30 Block Sanford Ave., Nri
Prowler Heard
1800 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
Trespass

Happy Valley School
3400 Block School St.
3300 Block Springhill Rd.
3300 Block Johnson Rd.
Unwanted Guest
3700 Block Meadow Ln.
Violation Restraining Order
3100 Block Camino Diablo.
Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
June 15 - June 28

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	58
Suspicious Circumstances	10
Suspicious Subject	4
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	41
Patrol Req./Security Check	19
Supplemental Report	5
Vacation House Check	6
Welfare Check	9
Pubic/School Assembly Check	4
Ordinance Violation	1



Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
Fernwood Dr./Willow Spring Ln.
Accident Property
20 Block Sanders Ranch Rd.
1100 Block Alta Mesa Dr.
Not Available
Dui Misd
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
Excessive Speed
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way (3)
Rheem Blvd./Chalda Way
Moraga Rd./Lucas Dr.
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr.
Moraga Way/Hall Dr., Ori
Corliss/Moraga Rd.
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.
Moraga Way/Coral Dr., Ori
Exhibition Of Speed
Moraga Country Club
Reckless Driving
40 Block York Pl.
Corliss Dr./Crossbrook Ct.
Canyon Rd./Country Club Dr.
Tc - Property Damage
Moraga Way/Canyon Rd.
Other criminal activity
Fraud Credit Card
Police Department
Fraud False Pretenses
Police Department
Grand Theft
400 Block Center St.
Grand Theft Veh Parts

200 Block N Sandringham
Petty Theft
Moraga Commons Park
T J Maxx
Petty Theft From Veh
700 Block Crossbrook Dr.
Petty Theft Veh Parts
1000 Block Larch Ave.
Shoplift
OSH
1500 Block Canyon Rd.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
Moraga Rd./St Marys Rd.
Loud Music
Canyon Club Brewery
1300 Block Camino Peral
Hacienda (2)
Loud Noise
1600 Block Canyon Rd.
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.
200 Block Fayhill Rd.
Loud Party
Rheem Bumoraga Rd.
600 Block Rheem Blvd.
Public Nuisance
100 Block Donald Dr.
3800 Block Via Granada
60 Block Sullivan Dr.
1000 Block Sanders Dr.
100 Block Devin Dr.
Vandalism
200 Block Rheem Blvd.
Other
Battery Sexual
400 Block Center St.
Fireworks
Joaquin Moraga Int School
Mentally Ill Commit
1000 Block Alta Mesa Dr.
400 Block Woodminster Dr.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

June 13 - June 26

Alarms	47
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	31
Suspicious Circumstances	2
Suspicious Subject	7
Suspicious Vehicle	4
Service to Citizen	76
Patrol Req./Security Check	70
Supplemental Report	10
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	12

Pubic/School Assembly Check 5
Ordinance Violation 1
Vehicle violations
Accident Injury
10 Block Valley View Dr.
Accident Property
20 Block Irwin Way
Auto Burglary
Bear Creek /Camino Pablo
Dui Misd
Moraga Way/Coral Dr.
Grand Theft Veh Parts
10 Block Estabueno Dr.
100 Block Moraga Way
300 Block Camino Pablo
Petty Theft From Veh
30 Block Overhill Rd.
40 Block Martha Rd.
Reckless Driving
Moraga Way
Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24
Camino Pablo/Camino Encinas
Moraga Way/Altamount Dr.
Tc - Property Damage
Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way
Vehicle Theft
10 Block Risa Ct.
Other criminal activity
Identity Theft
10 Block Risa Ct.
Petty Theft
10 Block Altarinda Cir.
Moraga Way
500 Block Moraga Way
Possession Of Stolen Prop
Moraga Way
Residential Burglary
100 Block Ardith Dr.
30 Block Martha Rd.
500 Block The Glade
Shoplift
Orinda Way
10 Bloc Kmoraga Way
Moraga Way
Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
60 Block Brookwood Rd.
10 Block Charles Hill Rd.
Loud Noise
90 Block El Gavilan Rd.
Public Nuisance
Theatre Square
10 Block Nelson Ln.
10 Block Albo Ct.
Kellie Ann Ct./Meadow View Rd.
90 Block Rheem Blvd.
200 Block Courtney Ln.
10 Block Orchard Rd.
Other
Failure To Obey
Camino Pablo
Fireworks
700 Block Moraga Way
Warrant Arrest
Camino Pablo