



**HILLS
EMERGENCY
FORUM**

RELEASE AFTER 3/26/03

**Contact Information
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(510) 893-9888**

Fighting Wildland Fires and Weeds

Field classes to train front line workers in the battle against exotic weeds and wildland fire are being held in the next two months. With a generous grant from the Alameda-Contra Costa Resource Management District and the local Weed Management Area, hands on training will teach participants to identify noxious weeds, develop effective strategies for their control and assess the effectiveness of previous treatments.

Field classes are by invitation only to targeted agencies. Participants currently include City of Albany, Oakland Fire Prevention Bureau, State Farm Insurance and the Town of Moraga. For more information, call Cheryl Miller, Hills Emergency Forum (510) 893-9888.

This training is based on the Vegetation Management Almanac for the East Bay Hills, and will be presented by two of its five authors: Charli Danielsen, a long time advocate of local native plants and Ed Leong, a supervisor at the East Bay Regional Park District

The Vegetation Management Almanac was published in 2001 by the Hills Emergency Forum, a consortium of eight local jurisdictions formed after the 1991 East Bay Hills fire, to help East Bay residents and workers identify native plants and habitats while creating fire-resistant landscapes. It is available for sale at the Tilden Nature Area Environmental Education Center in Berkeley. For information about its purchase, call 510-525-2233. Copies are being placed in libraries in the East Bay hills prior to the start of 2003 fire season.

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