



RELEASE AFTER 5/5/04

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Local Media Trained in Fire Safety

East Bay Fire Agencies kick off Wildfire Awareness Week on **Wednesday, May 12** by sponsoring **Media Safety Day 2004**. In a 5-hour training session, local media will be given the opportunity for one-on-one training in wildland fire safety, personal protective equipment, working with incident command staff, and hands-on field demonstrations of fire line practices and equipment. **Media Safety Day** also provides the chance for fire agencies to learn from the media how to best keep the public informed. Guest speaker Geoffrey Mohan Los Angeles Times will speak about his experiences covering the 2003 Southern California Fires.

Media Safety Day 2004 will be held at the **East Bay Regional Park District Trudeau Training Center, 11500 Skyline Boulevard, Oakland**. The public is invited to join the field demonstrations and hands-on training from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Media interested in this special training should immediately call Dory Ehrlich, Berkeley Fire Department, 510-981-5506, to register.

This training is co-sponsored by the Hills Emergency Forum (a consortium of eight local jurisdictions formed after the 1991 East Bay Hills fire), Alameda County Fire Chief's Association, Contra Costa County Fire Chief's Association and the Diablo Fire Safe Council.

Homeowners are reminded to establish a defensible space around their home. The space you create now by cutting back excessive or overgrown vegetation could be the only thing that gives firefighters a chance to save your home during a wildfire. It's a clear choice!

For more fire safety information contact your local fire department or www.diablofiresafe.org

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Directions to the Trudeau Training Center:

From Highway 13 in Oakland take the Joaquin Miller (east) exit. Travel up the hill approximately 2 miles. Joaquin Miller becomes Skyline Boulevard at the Traffic signal. Continue straight, the Training Center is located on the left-hand side. Additional parking is available along Skyline Boulevard. (If you reach the traffic signal on Redwood Road you have come too far.)