

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

Date: 5/16/18

**Media Contacts:**

Vince Crudele, Supervising Inspector Oakland Fire Department, Chair 2017-18, Hills Emergency Forum Staff Liaison Committee. Phone: (510) 755-5816. Email: [vcrudele@oaklandnet.com](mailto:vcrudele@oaklandnet.com)

Cheryl Miller, Hills Emergency Forum Staff. Phone: (510) 282-1265. Email: [Hillsemergencyforum@comcast.net](mailto:Hillsemergencyforum@comcast.net)

**Date:** Tuesday, May 22, 2018

**Time:** 11:00 to 12:00 Noon

**Where:** Grizzly Peak Boulevard. SP 16 turnout. North of South Park Drive - South of Centennial Drive. Site of the August 2, 2017 Grizzly Fire.

**What:** Presentations. Fire agency representatives available for interviews. Fire apparatus and equipment.

**Why: Hills Fire Agencies Prepare for 2018 Wildfire Threats**

The Hills Emergency Forum is using the “Grizzly Fire” to prepare for 2018 wildfire threats. The August 2, 2017, Grizzly Fire showcases successes that can come from working together to prevent wildfire. Approximately 200 fire fighters with 14 Alameda and Contra Costa County agencies contained the Grizzly Fire. There were many favorable conditions that resulted in successful firefighting that day: previous hazardous fuel management, fire agencies' response through the mutual aid system, rapid public notifications, closures and evacuations. However, the Grizzly Fire also highlights opportunities for coordination improvements as fire agencies recognize wildfire as a year-round threat.

On Tuesday, May 22, at 11:00 a.m., representatives from Alameda and Contra Costa Fire Agencies will be on hand to brief interested local media.

“We’re trying to do everything we can to reduce the risk of wildfire in the highly susceptible areas of our communities,” said Oakland Supervising Inspector Vince Crudele, 2017-18 Chair of the Hills Emergency Forum. “We need the community to get involved and work with us to help make these hillside neighborhoods more secure.

While our collective departments and agencies are working together to create fuel breaks to help protect neighborhoods, our goat grazing, roadside vegetation clearances, tree pruning and mowing that help to reduce fire ignition potentials, is not enough.

It’s the collective efforts of homeowners and neighbors that can have the greatest positive impact and results.”

###