

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - MEDIA OPPORTUNITY

Date: Thurs 6/20/19

### Media Contacts:

Vince Crudele, Supervising Inspector Oakland Fire Department, 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:** Wednesday, June 26, 2019

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

**Where:** Inspiration Point, East Bay Regional Park District, Wildcat Canyon Road & East Park Drive, Berkeley

**What:** Presentations. Fire agency representatives available for interviews. Fire apparatus and equipment. Locations of working fuel mitigation sites for additional photos.

**Why:** **Hills Fire Agencies Prepare for 2019 Wildfire Threats – Plan, Know and Act.**

After devastating wildfires in 2017 and 2018, the Hills Emergency Forum is asking homeowners to be ready for 2019 wildfire threats. Local wildfire response, such as the 2017 Grizzly Fire, showcases success 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. However, damaging wildfires throughout California also highlight need for coordination improvements as fire agencies recognize the year-round threat of wildfire. California wildfires have changed, together we must adapt.

As wildfires increase in number and severity, key to success is what homeowners do to prepare for wildfires around their own homes. Homeowners need to plan for wildfires, know how to respond, and act now to create defensible space and harden their homes to wind-driven embers to reduce damage.

On Wednesday, May 26, 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, Member 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 wildfire ignition is not enough.

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

###