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## MOFD awarded wildfire preparedness grant

By Nick Marnell

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Marshall Jeff Isaacs announced another boost to his fire prevention efforts with the award of a \$15,000 grant from the California Fire Foundation. Isaacs plans to use the funds to develop an interactive fire prevention website, Prepared MOFD, which will feature educational material covering wildfire safety and community preparedness unique to the residents of the district.

"The end goal for all of our wildfire preparedness efforts is to prevent death and injuries," Isaacs said. "In concert with nearly a dozen active community risk reduction projects, the proposed website is intended to act as both a primary and secondary vehicle to deliver information targeted to all residents of the fire district, with emphasis placed on our higher risk populations."

Isaacs envisions the website as an interactive multimedia platform providing wildfire safety, community preparedness and fire prevention information via educational videos and interactive courses, plus serving as a hub for district forms and documents related to fire prevention, fuels mitigation and fire safety. Prepared MOFD will feature an FAQ section, dealing with questions like, What is a ladder fuel? (A fuel that allows fire to travel from the ground into the tree canopy.) Or, how do I remove leaf litter from my gutter? Also envisioned are links to photos of members of the fire prevention staff, providing the ability for the public to ask questions related to their specific prevention issues.

Isaacs said he will hire a website consultant to design and create the new site, but he and the fire prevention staff will develop the content. The fire marshal plans a strong marketing and educational campaign, featuring videos presented at community and neighborhood events and flyers distributed throughout the district.

The MOFD board voted unanimously Feb. 19 to accept the \$15,000 award.

The district continues to seek grant funding for its fire prevention efforts, such as through programs sponsored by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

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back

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