



## NEWS RELEASE

### MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

---

**Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Fire Prevention Officials, Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz, Hillside Homeowners unveil wildfire prevention awareness campaign for the hillsides and canyons of the Mulholland Corridor for National Fire Prevention Week.**

*After five years of record drought conditions and with fuel moisture levels abysmally low, the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is urging residents to work together to prevent a local disaster.*

LOS ANGELES (October 14, 2016)--As part of National Fire Prevention Week, Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz, Los Angeles Fire Department, and hillside homeowners association leaders joined the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Wildland Firefighting Division at the Stone Canyon Overlook on Mulholland Drive to announce a new public awareness campaign aimed at helping residents of the hillside and canyon areas of the Mulholland Corridor in Los Angeles prevent catastrophic wildfires. Red flag conditions are expected to return to the area next Wednesday or Thursday.

“After five years of devastating drought,” said Ken Nelson, Chief of the Fire Division of the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, a local public agency that provides ranger and fire patrol of the Mulholland corridor and its parklands, “the Santa Monica Mountains are abysmally dry and pose a dangerous and volatile fire risk. We need all residents to be alert to suspicious activities, particularly in the Mulholland Scenic Overlooks and open space areas. If you see activity that causes concern, call the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Ranger Services at 310 456-7049.”

Chief Nelson noted that in an emergency, residents should always first call 911.

With a backdrop of an unusually parched landscape, Councilmember Koretz helped the MRCA to unveil one of the 50 new bright red high fire alert signs that will be installed today at all of the scenic overlooks and at open space parklands throughout the hillsides and canyons of the Mulholland Corridor from Griffith Park west to the City boundary with Calabasas.

(-More-)

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority works year-round to minimize the risk of fire in the more than 72,000 acres of open space it manages in the greater Los Angeles region. The MRCA employs more than 50 full time, paid call, cadet and volunteer fire fighters—including its park rangers—who are wildland firefighters certified to the same standards as the U.S. Forest Service and CalFire.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority Fire Division maintains its own firefighting equipment to assist local fire departments in fighting wildfires and to provide fire patrol under high fire alert conditions. Ranger patrol trucks are fitted with slip-ons, and provide flexibility in patrolling the narrow, twisty canyons that characterize the hillsides of the Mulholland corridor. Rangers will be patrolling seven days a week during the high risk periods.

National Fire prevention week is October 9-16, 2016. In 1920, President Woodrow Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation, and since 1922, Fire Prevention Week has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which October 9 falls. According to the National Archives and Records Administration's Library Information Center, Fire Prevention Week is the longest running public health and safety observance on record. The President of the United States has signed a proclamation proclaiming a national observance during that week every year since 1925.

The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is a local public park agency dedicated to the preservation and management of open space, urban parkland, watershed lands, trails, and wildlife habitat. The MRCA manages more than 72,000 acres of public parkland and provides natural resources and scientific expertise, critical regional planning services, operations, fire prevention and ranger services, as well as education and leadership programs for thousands of youth each year. It is one of the lead agencies revitalizing the Los Angeles River and its tributaries.

Contact:

Dash Stolarz  
323-221-9944 x198  
Dash.stolarz@mrca.ca.gov

# # #