



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hills Emergency Forum Annual Meeting

The Hills Emergency Forum (HEF) invites the public to its 12th annual meeting on Friday October 15, 2004 from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at the California Room, Double Tree Hotel Conference Center, 200 Marina Boulevard in the Berkeley Marina. The annual meeting updates the public and local media on progress made in managing risks associated with wildland fires in the Oakland - Berkeley Hills.

This year the HEF has focused on expanding fuel mitigation projects throughout the East Bay Hills. Next year, HEF members plans to expand these efforts with grant funds from Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service matched with local funds and work.

“Local agencies and private citizens have been making visible progress in the battle against wildland fire in our region,” said Lawrence Berkeley Lab Emergency Preparedness Manager Valerie Quigley, 2004 Chair of the HEF Staff Liaison Group. " We’ve expanded our system of strategic fuel reduction zones using goats, hand crews, and machinery trucked in from Oregon, as well as old-fashioned horse logging techniques. It’s exciting to see our years of effort begin to take shape.”

Established after the 1991 Oakland Hills firestorm, the Hills Emergency Forum consists of eight local agencies with responsibility for vegetation management, fire suppression and public-safety education in the Oakland-Berkeley Hills. The forum members (cities of Berkeley, El Cerrito and Oakland, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, the East Bay Regional Park District, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the University of California at Berkeley) have continued to meet on a monthly basis to enhance interagency cooperation on fire response and coordinate annual fire safety work plans.

" For more information, please call Cheryl Miller at (510) 893-9888 or Valerie Quigley at (510) 486-7032.

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