

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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August 20, 2009

**To:** Sly Park Hills Property Owner

**Re:** Wildfire Danger and Becoming Part of the Solution

As a former and current El Dorado County Supervisor, I have been very supportive of our community based Fire Safe Councils. The Sly Park Hills Area Fire Safe Council is working very hard to educate their property owners about fire danger. Also, they want to implement an action plan to create defensible space around their homes and to reduce the opportunity of having out-of-control wild land fires. I've been requested by the Sly Park Hills Area Fire Safe Council to contact you as part of their action plan. Please visit the Council's website [www.slyparkfiresafe.org](http://www.slyparkfiresafe.org) for a more complete understanding of their mission and action plans.

As you know there have been many bad years of catastrophic wildfires in California. Fire has destroyed thousands of homes and properties every year. As a result of successfully putting out fires for the last 150 years in the Sly Park area, vegetation has been able to grow to a point that when a fire does occur it becomes a devastating crown fire. That is a fire that throws 150 foot flames and they are almost impossible to put out. A strategy to reduce the fuel loads must be implemented to deal with the situation. (see my presentation on the rapidity of a wild fire on the EL dorado County Board of Supervisors web site [www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/bos/bosvideos](http://www.co.el-dorado.ca.us/bos/bosvideos) ) You are being contacted because as a property owner in Sly Park Hills area you can help by being part of the solution.

I have been working with natural resources for over 40 years and I can say with certainty the situation in the forested timber lands of California is dangerously out of control! And there are two ways to deal with the problem. The first is to do nothing and wait for a fire. That would be a mistake because a wildfire under the current extreme high fuel loads condition will destroy everything in its path. The loss and misery is compounded since many homeowners are having their insurance policies canceled because of the fire danger and their inability to meet the California requirements for fire safe clearance 100' around structures. Some of the land owners cannot meet the 100' requirements because of the dense vegetation in the vacant properties next to them. If a wildfire occurs and all your vegetation burns, then you have lost a lot more than the aesthetic value of your property. You may also, if you do not effectively maintain your land and vegetation, be responsible for contributing to the severity of the wildfire damages to the neighborhood.

The second way is to intervene by having an action plan for fire prevention and implementing the plan. Your community needs your help and support. When the property owners get together and work together to develop a plan, it allows the possibility for financial help from various government agencies and grant programs. Please contact the Sly Park Hills Area Fire Safe Council via the website or contact me directly for more information and to get involved. Your property improvements and value and the security of your neighbors are at stake!

Sincerely,

Ray Nutting  
El Dorado County District II Supervisor