



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Saturday, May 24, 2008, 10:45 a.m.

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County of Santa Clara
Declares Local State of Emergency

New Shelter Opens at Live Oak High School in Morgan Hill

San Jose, CA – County Executive Peter Kutas, Jr., has directed that a local State of Emergency be declared at 10:25 a.m. The County of Santa Clara formally declared the State of Emergency this morning due to dramatic conditions developing due to the Summit fire crossing back into Santa Clara County.

“The Summit wildfire has made a dramatic shift back north and is moving into the south end of the Santa Clara County,” said Luke Leung, Deputy County Executive and on-site Director of Emergency Services. “Our main concern is the safety of residents and the protection of their property and to help in any way we can.”

“Declaring a local State of Emergency enables the County of Santa Clara to obtain additional resources to assist local affected families and fight the Summit fire,” Leung said. “The proclamation also helps the County secure federal and state funds, loans for residents who have experienced damage through the fire, and some property tax relief.”

Mandatory evacuation of Croy Road and the McPhee area north of the fire was issued by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

The American Red Cross Santa Clara Valley Chapter has opened a shelter for evacuees at Live Oak High School, 1505 East Main Ave. in Morgan Hill. Food, water, shelter and mental health services are available at that location. The public may call the American Red Cross at 408-577-1000 for shelter information. Approximately 50 residents have been evacuated and will be transported to Live Oak High School.

At this time, residents with respiratory problems, young children, and older adults, are urged to limit their exposure to smoky air by staying indoors as much as possible.

Windows and doors should be kept closed to prevent indoor air from becoming dirty.

The County of Santa Clara Emergency Operations Center was activated at 7:05 a.m. by County Executive Peter Kutas, Jr. and will continue to provide information as it is available.

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Attachment: Evacuation Protocol: Before, During, After a Wildfire