



California Homes Saved From Wildfires

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A group of residents on Palomar Mountain will breathe a little easier with Barricade on hand. County Supervisors have approved a grant for the Volunteer Fire Department to purchase the Barricade for the neighborhood. Residents have been actively working to reduce the fuel load in the area, and Barricade will offer an added level of protection in case of a wildfire threat.

Thanks to the efforts of Chief George E. Lucia Sr., volunteer block captains will be trained to use Barricade and be responsible for helping their neighbors by applying it to homes that may be threatened. Community Emergency Response Team caches will be located throughout the mountain neighborhood. With structure protection the responsibility of the community residents, firefighters will be able to get to the fire lines more quickly, and orderly evacuation measures will be more efficient.

San Diego County firefighters had proof of Barricade's effectiveness in 2003, when they used it to save more than 50 homes during the Paradise Fire.

The plan on Palomar Mountain is a model worthy of consideration by neighborhood associations in other areas. Fire departments welcome the active participation of residents who are able to take responsibility for protecting their property as much as possible. Response time is of utmost importance when a wildfire strikes. With such cooperation from homeowners, fire department resources can be mobilized to the front lines of the fire, and authorities can manage safe evacuations.



Vic MacKenzie, a firefighter with the DeLuz Fire Department in San Diego County reported that he and his fellow firefighters saved 11 homes in November, 2003 with Barricade Gel. "We didn't lose a home the whole time we were there" MacKenzie said. "I think this product will become like having fire sprinklers in your home," he added.

He described how they gelled a propane tank with Barricade and "the flames were wrapping themselves all around the tank when the firestorm blew over." He termed it "a very impressive save".

Similar sentiments were expressed by Battalion Chief Eric Petersen, of the Canyon Volunteer Fire Department. "It's an excellent product. Once you put it on a structure, it will not burn if you apply it correctly," Petersen said. "You can put it on hours before a fire and leave it. This is really helpful for us. It's environmentally friendly and can be washed off with water."

Greg Seaton, an ecstatic private homeowner in Simi Valley described "the flame heights of more than fifty feet" that raged through his property. He went on to explain that "using his own hose, he had coated his home with Barricade Gel, and it came through unscathed."