

**Report Title: Wildfires – Partners in Prevention**

**Report Date: June 23, 2003**

**Response by: Robert L. “Mike” Stone Title: Fire Chief**

**FINDINGS**

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: 2,3,7
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: 1,4  
(Attach a statement specifying any portions of the findings that are disputed; include an explanation of the reasons therefor.)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Recommendations numbered 1,2,4,7 have been implemented.  
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.  
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ require further analysis.  
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered \_\_\_\_\_ will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.  
(Attach an explanation.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of pages attached \_\_\_\_\_

1) As a successor to both the Alto-Richardson Bay and the Tamalpais Fire Protection Districts, the Southern Marin Fire Protection District has been aggressively enforcing defensible space codes since the 1970's. Each year, our firefighters spend countless hours walking and driving through neighborhoods, identifying vegetation hazards. Once identified, our employees make every attempt to contact property owners in person to explain the problem and the abatement procedure. If personal contact is not possible, a written notice explaining the problem and its mitigation is sent via certified mail to the appropriate property owner.

2) I believe our current public education program (s) adequately address this recommendation. We provide a plethora of information and assistance regarding wildland fire issues to Homeowners organizations, schools, business owners and absentee property owners. We also provide structured education to the public about disaster preparedness.

3) I believe this recommendation could enhance our current system in the County. However, facilities to house the "off-duty" inmates may be problematic.

4) This recommendation is in fact, carefully reviewed on a yearly basis, usually in the late winter months, in order to prepare for the upcoming season. It should be noted that fuel, weather and topography are carefully monitored on every burn. Temperature, cloud cover, wind, fuel type, fuel moisture and topography are all documented before, during and after each prescribed burn.

7) I believe this is already being done. Organizations such as the:

Marin County Fire Chiefs  
Marin County Operations Section Chiefs  
Marin County Fire Prevention Officers  
Marin/Sonoma Fire Training Officers  
Fire Safe Marin

All meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis to discuss and implement universal model codes, practices, programs, etc.