

South Skyline Community Preparedness Day 2023

BY JOHN DELONG

On May 21, the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization (SSEPO) and the South Skyline FireSafe Council co-sponsored the second annual South Skyline Community Preparedness Day, 2023. It was a beautiful Spring day at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve.

More than 30 agencies and organizations participated this year, including four different fire departments (South Skyline Volunteer Fire & Rescue, engine 29; CalFire; Santa Clara County Fire; and La Honda Fire Brigade) that showed off a variety of their different types of fire engines. San Mateo County Sheriff sent three vehicles including their CAL OES Emergency Communications Truck and their Cliff Rescue Truck. SSEPO showed off their emergency medical trailer and triage tent. San Mateo Large Animal Evacuation Group showed off one of their trailers and were joined by the Santa Cruz Equine Evacuation Group. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District showed a ranger pick-up truck outfitted with firefighting hoses and pumps and were joined by a ranger from Palo Alto Parks. In addition, we had many other exhibitors including the American Red Cross, California Department of Insurance, South Coast ARES, Community Emergency Response Team, South Bay Fire Wise Partners, United Policy Holders, State Farm Insurance Company, The San Mateo Resource Conservation District, The South Skyline Association and others.

This year, for the first time, we also had private companies who could provide help with making your properties safer: Brush Hog Tree Care, Irish Excavation and Dempsey Engineering (all three providing mastication and brush removal), California Sisters (native plant landscaping), Hardie Company (fireproof walls) and Simply Solar. Also exhibiting was author of a children's book on wildfire, Marjorie Kline and members from the Ramaytush Ohlone Tribe, upon whose ancestral land we held this event

Almost 100 local residents attended. Most of the exhibitors stated that the level of interest and excellent questions asked made this a valuable event. It was also an excellent networking event allowing the various agencies and fire departments to meet each other as well as interact with the visitors and residents. Plan to join us when we do this again next year!



