



CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE

News Advisory

SUDDEN OAK DEATH PREVENTION AND TREATMENT STRATEGIES INFORMATIONAL COMMUNITY MEETING

Date: October 13, 2008

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SONOMA—A Sudden Oak Death (SOD) prevention and treatment strategies informational community meeting will be held October 22, 2008 in Sonoma. This free two-hour meeting is intended for interested homeowners, landowners, and other members of the community that are interested in Sudden Oak Death issues and management options. The workshop will cover basic disease information, preventative treatment options, proper disposal of infested material, and risk-reduction strategies for hazardous conditions resulting from SOD, especially fire danger. There will also time for open discussion during which community members can ask questions, express their concerns, and brainstorm options for proactive community activities and management strategies.

**When: Wednesday, October 22, 2008
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

**Where: Sonoma Community Center
276 East Napa St
Sonoma, CA**

“Our greatest defense against this aggressive invasive plant disease is to take proactive measures. By doing so, we can optimize our chances of containing it where it is found and protecting those areas that have not yet been exposed to it. Without a cure, treatment and prevention strategies are our best defense,” said Mark Stanley, chairman of the California Oak Mortality Task Force.

Sponsored by the Sonoma County Dept. of Emergency Services; Sonoma and Marin County UC Cooperative Extension offices; USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection; USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station; and the California Oak Mortality Task Force.

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Caused by the plant pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, Sudden Oak Death is severely impacting woodlands throughout central California. Since the 1990s, *P. ramorum* has killed more than a million oak and tanoak trees in California.

For more information on the meeting or for more information on Sudden Oak Death and *P. ramorum*, contact Lisa Bell at (707) 565-2050.

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