

According to USGS: Fire Science Tells Us

- 1** Large catastrophic wildfires in Southern California are NORMAL not unusual.



- 2** The normal fire return interval is 30-130 years.



- 3** Current fire frequency is 20-30 years. Chaparral, the predominant vegetation in So Cal cannot survive with that frequency. It is being replaced by non-native highly flammable weeds.



- 4** Prescribed burns, used successfully in pine forests in northern California, does not work in chaparral in Southern California.



- 5** Fuel breaks are designed to stop fire from spreading and provide access to the fire. They only work when weather conditions are mild and when firefighters are present. Otherwise embers jump right over them in a wind driven fire.



- 6** Big fires are due to hot dry weather not an overabundance of vegetation.



- 7** Excessive landscape level brush clearance creates new problems. It allows for highly flammable weeds to take over and destroys native habitat.



- 8** The key factor in whether a home burns or not is the tree canopy overlap over the roof and the litter beneath.



- 9** Pine trees and eucalyptus trees are the worst trees in terms of producing embers that spread fire.



- 10** If you live in a fire prone area, take personal responsibility for making your house safer and start from the house out: with a broom, then a rake, use pruning shears, loppers, and a chain saw if necessary.



- 11** Wildfires, like earthquakes, can't be prevented, but their impacts can be reduced.



Commemorating the 10 Year Anniversary of the November 2008 Freeway Complex Fire.

