
PRESS RELEASE



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FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY PRESENTS THE SMOKE POINT MOBILE APP

San Mateo County - Fire Safe San Mateo County is pleased to introduce a new tool, Smoke Point (<http://smokepoint.app/>), developed by local firefighters, to assist in locating new fire starts. Smoke Point is a free mobile app that helps firefighters send the right resources to the right place on new wildland fires more quickly. It combines information collected by the public and information collected by responding fire units to triangulate the positions of smoke columns or new fires.

Early on in a new fire incident, before firefighters have located and accessed a new fire, the most accurate and actionable information comes from the citizens who spotted it and notified 911 dispatchers of the emergency. Much essential information is lost, including where the fire was seen, what it looks like, and how to make access, when communicated over the phone or the radio.

Smoke Point uses the sensors present in smartphones combined with modern cloud technology to transmit pictures and location information directly from citizens to responding fire units. The App works in concert with Alert Wildfire cameras - a network of fixed wildfire cameras across the western United States - to enable quick triangulation of the location of these new fires. Combining information shared by citizens through the app with wildfire camera feeds gives responding fire units improved situational awareness and saves valuable time: fire units can reach the source of small fires more quickly, or make unused resources available for other emergencies earlier.

Firefighters and emergency response personnel in San Mateo County and Santa Cruz County are trained in the use of Smoke Point, and are on the lookout for public engagement through the app.

"Smoke Point gives firefighters the ability to see exactly what the public sees when they report seeing smoke. This feature is game-changing for the fire service," said San Bruno Fire Chief Ari Delay.

Smoke Point was created by a team of San Mateo County firefighters in collaboration with scientists from Stanford Linear Accelerator (SLAC).

The app is available in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store for both iPhone and Android devices. More information, as well as links to training Webinars, are available at <http://smokepoint.app/>. Any questions or feedback can be directed to info@smokepoint.app.

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