

# PRESS RELEASE

**Congressman Gary G. Miller**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> District, California**



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## **Rep. Miller Announces Fire Safety Grants for Orange County**

Washington, DC – Following devastating wildfires last year, Congressman Gary Miller today announced a pair of grants worth a total of \$282,575 for the Inter-Canyon League Fire Safe Council. The purpose of the grants is to help the communities of Orange County prepare for and prevent disastrous wildfires in the future.

Congressman Miller said, “I would first of all like to extend my gratitude and thanks to all the firefighters and law enforcement officers who battled the Santiago Fire. It is because of their heroic efforts that no life was lost and the fire was eventually extinguished. Now that the smoke has cleared, our challenge is to take the lessons from this most recent round of fires and use them to improve our response to future natural disasters. The grants awarded to the Inter-Canyon League Fire Safe Council this afternoon will go a long way toward doing exactly that.”

Immediately following the fires, Congress acted swiftly by approving \$500 million in emergency funds for wildfire preparedness and suppression. The grants provided today to the Inter-Canyon League Fire Safe Council will be drawn from that emergency funding and, with the assistance of the Orange County Fire Authority, will go toward:

- **Removing Hazardous Vegetation and Fuels from Private Property:** The Fire Safe Council will work with private property owners to make risk assessments of their property and remove fire dangers.
- **Public Education and Outreach:** The Fire Safe Council will educate residents of Orange County’s canyons in how to reduce hazards to their property and personal safety both before and after a fire has occurred.

These measures are designed to prevent a repeat of the Santiago Fire, the most devastating wildfire experienced by Orange County in more than three decades. The fire was started on October 21, 2007 near Santiago Canyon Road and Silverado Canyon Road. Before it was declared fully under control on November 9, 2007, it burned a total of 28,517 acres, destroyed 42 structures including 14 homes, and caused an estimated \$27.5 million in damage.

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