



For More Information:  
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December 10, 2010

## Update on Escondido House Burn Operation and Cleanup

The house at 1954 Via Scott was completely destroyed in the fire yesterday. Hotspots continue to smolder today.

The Sheriff's Bomb/Arson Unit is back at 1954 Via Scott today to sift through the ash and debris. Bomb Technicians will check to ensure explosive materials were destroyed during yesterday's fire. Based on their findings, County HAZMAT will work today and through the weekend to clear the burn area of any household toxics that may have survived the fire. Team members will also survey soil at the site.

State contractors will begin arriving with their equipment Sunday for the debris removal. On Monday (12/13/2010) California's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the county Department of Environmental Health (DEH) will oversee the removal of ash and debris from the property. Waste will be kept wet to keep the dust within the burn area. Steps will be taken to prevent runoff.

The cleanup operation is expected to take five days (12/13 to 12/17). Two homes on Via Scott remain evacuated. They could be back home by December 18<sup>th</sup>. People living in a home on North Nutmeg Street would be allowed to return today once the Sheriff's Bomb/Arson Unit has completed its work at the burn site.

Via Alexandra remains open to residents only. No access is allowed on Via Scott. Media may continue to park at the intersection of Nutmeg Street and Via Alexandra. Reporters will occasionally be escorted closer to Via Scott for better pictures. This is necessary to keep Via Alexandra clear for equipment involved in the cleanup operation.

Sheriff's Department Public Affairs Director Jan Caldwell is in Escondido today to address media questions. Once the Sheriff's Bomb/Arson Unit has completed its work at the burn site, DEH will be addressing further media inquiries about cleanup operations.

Mark McPherson (Chief of Land and Water Quality Division) is available for interviews this afternoon (12/10/2010) at 5201 Ruffin Road, San Diego, CA, 92123. Mr. McPherson's office number is (858) 495-5572. His cell phone is (619) 843-4094. To schedule and coordinate interviews with DEH please contact Michael Drake at (858) 495-5736 or Gig Conaughton at (858) 692-7214. You can also email them at [Michael.Drake@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Drake@sdcounty.ca.gov) and [Gig.Conaughton@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Gig.Conaughton@sdcounty.ca.gov).

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