



News Advisory

WOODSIDE AND PORTOLA VALLEY SUDDEN OAK DEATH BLITZ

Date: May 17, 2010

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WOODSIDE—A Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Blitz is planned for the towns of Woodside and Portola Valley the weekend of May 22, 2010. Funded by the USDA Forest Service, and sponsored by the towns, in cooperation with Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, UC Berkeley; the California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF); and the San Mateo Department of Agriculture, the Blitz is intended to help these communities identify locations where SOD is present as well as increase local awareness of the issue.

When: Training and Organizational Meeting
Saturday, May 22, 2010
10:00 a.m.

Where: Woodside Town Hall
2955 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA

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When: Sampling Days
Saturday, May 22, 2010
Sunday, May 23, 2010

Where: To be Determined at Organizational Meeting

Cost: FREE
Registrants should bring GPS Units if they have them

SOD Blitz participants will be trained to identify disease symptoms, correctly sample symptomatic plants, and document sample locations. Samples will be collected, and then taken to the UC Berkeley Garbelotto lab where they will be analyzed to determine the presence or absence of *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen that causes SOD. Laboratory results will be

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used to build upon the SOD Blitz map generated from findings in 2008 and 2009, and then given to the community for their use.

SOD is a serious exotic disease that is killing tanoak and several oak species in California. Currently it is found in the wildlands of 14 coastal California counties, from Monterey to Humboldt. Researchers have discovered that *P. ramorum* spreads most often on infected California bay laurel leaves. Symptomatic bay leaves generally precede oak and tanoak infections, and are often the first sign that the pathogen is in a location. Some management options are available (sanitation, chemical preventative treatments, selective bay removal); however, they are most effective when implemented before oaks and tanoaks are infected. Therefore, timely detection of the disease on bay laurel leaves is crucial.

For more information, contact Denise Enea, Woodside Fire Protection District, at (650) 851-6206 or denea@woodsidefire.org; Kevin Bryant, Town of Woodside, at (650) 851-6790 or kbryant@woodsidetown.org; or Leslie Lambert, Town of Portola Valley, at (650) 851-1700 x212 or llambert@portolavalley.net. For more information on Sudden Oak Death, contact Katie Palmieri at (510) 847-5482 or kpalmieri@berkeley.edu.

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