

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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RELEASE
DATE: July 26, 2004

MEDIA ADVISORY **EMERGENCY STATE RULE ALLOWS FOR THINNING FORESTS** **TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES**

Soper-Wheeler Company First to Remove Hazardous **Trees Under Emergency Rule – Media Invited to View Operation**

Given the increased risk for wildfire this year in California, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection recently enacted an emergency rule to allow landowners near communities to quickly remove trees and brush to minimize potential fire threats to those communities. The regulation gives communities at risk and landowners in the wildland-urban interface a more efficient way to reduce the risk of damage and loss associated with catastrophic fire and direct threats to homes. Prior to the rule, time-consuming timber harvest plans were required.

The Soper-Wheeler Company, a 100-year-old forestry company in Northern California, is the first major landowner to use the emergency regulation to clear trees and brush from an overgrown area near Marysville, located northeast of Marysville.

WHAT: Opportunity for media to see the first major thinning effort under the state emergency rule.
WHO: Representatives of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection; Soper-Wheeler Company; Yuba FireSafeCouncil; community members.
WHEN: 11 A.M., WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 2004
WHERE: The Soper-Wheeler Company, 19855 Barton Hill Road, Strawberry Valley, CA (near Marysville)
VISUALS: Equipment to harvest trees for lumber, and to remove smaller trees and brush for biomass energy; registered professional foresters involved in the effort; community members discussing thinning project.

DIRECTIONS: From the south/Sacramento: Take Hwy 70 to Marysville, then Hwy 20 towards Grass Valley. Left onto County Rd E21 (at Browns Valley sign). Travel about 30 miles; the Soper-Wheeler office is on the left. From the north or west: Take Hwy 70 to Oro-Dam Blvd in Oroville; drive through town 1-2 miles. Right on Hwy 162 (Olive Hwy). Right on Forbestown Rd; continue 20 miles. Left on County Rd E21/Marysville Road (at Browns Valley sign) and follow above directions.

