

PRESS RELEASE

Plumas County Fire Safe Council Meeting 11/9//06

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council cordially invites citizens to participate in their regularly scheduled monthly meeting to be held on Thursday, November 9, 2006 at the Plumas County Planning & Building Services office, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. The Planning & Building Services office is located at 555 Main Street in Quincy.

Unfortunately once again, California residents are reminded of the tragic loss of lives, homes, and natural resources which are lost to wildfires. Plumas County's Fire Safe Council's sincerest condolences go to the severely burned firefighter fighting for his life and to the families and friends of the lost firefighters who perished last week in southern California."

According to Jerry Hurley, Council Coordinator, "Homes don't have to burn in a wildfire. Homeowners play a critical role in determining their structures' survival. Research shows that buildings with non-combustible roofs and in compliance with California's 100 feet of defensible space law have a 95% chance of surviving a wildland fire. Defensible space also provides firefighters with a safer environment."

Ed Harrison, Chair of Plumas County Fire Safe Council, invites interested resident in the County to become a member of the Council and work towards preventing the loss of life and minimizing loss of property from wildland fires. The Plumas County Fire Safe Council is a coalition of citizens, businesses and representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies. The mission of the Fire Safe Council is: ***"To reduce the loss of natural and manmade resources caused by wildfire through pre-fire activities."*** Everyone in Plumas County is welcome to become a member of the Council.

At the November meeting, the Council will be discussing progress on wildfire mitigation grants that provide for wildfire education, fire planning, hazardous fuel reduction, and implementation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. There will also be a US Forest Service presentation of a proposed fuel hazard reduction project, which is critical to protecting public and private lands, on the slopes and ridges around Indian Valley.

On November 14, 2006, the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on amending County codes for "Fire Safe" driveways and shake roof replacement. Presently Plumas County interprets the requirement for a "Fire Safe" driveway differently than CDF. Revision of the ordinance will make future residences more accessible and safer for County emergency vehicles. The Board is also being asked to reduce the maximum surface area of a shake roof which can be replaced with in kind materials from 50% down to 20%. This should prevent perpetuation of shake roofs in Plumas County by preventing replacement of existing shake roofs in a 2 year period with a new shake roof.

These actions are a result of PC FSC, County Planning and Building services & the County's Fire Chiefs who petitioned the Board to adopt these ordinance changes earlier

this year. Adoption of these ordinance changes will make Plumas County more Fire Safe and were recommended action items in Plumas County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

For more information on the Fire Safe Council, Defensible Space, or Plumas County's Community Wildfire Protection Plan, visit our website at www.plumasfiresafe.org .