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National Fire Prevention Week Tips from PC FSC

Plumas County Fire Safe Council members want to remind County residents that the week of October 10-14 is National Fire Prevention Week. Jim Graham, Council Chair, says that, "This is a good week to think about all aspects of fire prevention, both outside and inside the home." Council members want to encourage residents to take this week and think about home fire safety by: having chimneys cleaned and inspected; fire extinguishers checked; smoke alarms tested and batteries replaced; insure electrical circuits are not overloaded and all cords are in good condition; heaters and stoves are in good operating condition; flammable liquids are stored away from heat sources; and ash buckets are stored away from the house and not on decks or porches. Unfortunately, every year in Plumas County fires destroy homes because some of the above measures were not taken. Families with children should also remind them of STOP, DROP & ROLL, discuss evacuation routes and establish a meeting place, in the event of a house fire.

Fire Safe Council members want to also remind residents that while it is beginning to feel like fall, our County has a history of large fires which have occurred late in the season, and fire season is not yet over. For areas where open burning is permitted, now is good time to make preparations for safe burning and lessened smoke impacts when burning is again allowed. Safe and considerate burning includes: 1) obtaining the necessary permits, 2) choosing a safe location with water available, 3) placing only cured, not green material into piles, 4) covering piles so they are dry to burn faster, hotter, and produce less smoke, and 5) don't put tires, processed wood, painted wood or other garbage in piles. Unfortunately every year, some residents don't follow these simple rules and their fires escape threatening others, or create smoke conditions that are a nuisance. According to John Gay, Deputy Chief of the Plumas NF, "Escaped debris burns are the number one cause of person-caused fires on private land under fire protection of the Plumas National Forest." Dooryard burning is usually allowed after October 31st. For more information on burning, permits, or regulations, you can contact your local US Forest Service, CDF, or fire department office.

For more information on how to make your home fire safe, visit our website at www.plumasfiresafe.org and click on Homeowner Tips.