

## PRESS RELEASE

### Plumas County Fire Safe Council Meeting 6/9/04

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council cordially invites interested citizens to participate in their regularly scheduled monthly meeting. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2004 at the Quincy Fire Department, upstairs meeting room, from 9:00 to 12:00 AM.

At the June meeting, the Council will be discussing: progress on their grants to provide county residents with wildfire education, fire planning and hazardous fuel reduction. Presentations will be made by Wildland Rx, the contractor who is working on the Countywide Fuel Strategy and Assessment. There will also be discussion on the progress of the County Wildfire Mitigation Plan. Following the regular business meeting, members will meet to be making recommendations for the Wildfire Mitigation Plan.

Fire Safe Council members encourage residents to work on their defensible space cleanup and make their homes Fire Safe. By doing this you will also give your fire department a safer environment and fighting chance. This is especially important in rural counties like Plumas where the firefighters who respond are volunteers and often your neighbors and friends. Mike De Lasaux, Council Chair, reminds residents that, "It only takes a spark, to cause the loss of a home. But homes can and do survive the intrusion of wildfires. To survive, they must have a non-combustible roof and defensible space. It is not a question of if, but of when; wildland fire will again threaten homes in Plumas County. We have been fortunate in the past, but we must continue to take appropriate actions to prevent catastrophic losses in the future".

The video "*Wildfire Preventing Home Ignitions*" is still available at video stores and libraries throughout the County for residents to check out on free loaner basis. This free 20 minute video shows why and how homes burn in a wildfire. Understanding this provides residents with the knowledge to take preventative actions. The Video is a product of Jack Cohen's wildland fire behavior research at the US Forest Service Fire Sciences Laboratory. In the video, Jack Cohen discusses why it's the little things that cause homes to burn. The film features excellent footage of a number of wildfires, including cameras setup inside a research crown fire while it is burning.

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council is a coalition of citizens, businesses and representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies, which share a common interest in preventing loss of life and minimizing loss of property from wildland fires. Plumas County's Council is becoming one of the more active councils in California. 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.

For more information on the Fire Safe Council, visit our website at [www.plumasfiresafe.org](http://www.plumasfiresafe.org)