

PRESS RELEASE

**Fire Safe Council Encourages Smart Burning
& Announces Meeting 11/8/12**

With last weeks storm and the ending of fire season, Cal Fire has lifted the ban on Open Burning. Consequently many Plumas County residents are beginning their annual ritual of open burning. Residents are burn piles that were created over the summer from establishing or maintaining their defensible space. Unlike other counties, open burning is still permitted in most of the County. Fire Safe Council members want to encourage Plumas County residents that when burning, in these beautiful fall days, to do so safely and help reduce smoke impacts in your community. One of the best ways to create less smoke is to burn only dry cured fuels. It is best to have covered cover your piles, that have cured all summer, with a waterproof material so that the material burns hotter and more quickly. Any plastic covering material should be removed before igniting the pile. Covering a pile insures the piles are dry and consequently will burn faster, hotter and consume more of the material, as wet wood takes longer to burn, requires additional chunking and produces more smoke. If your pile is wet, it needs to dry before igniting it. If it is soaked from the recent storms it may be best to cover it and burn it in the spring. Burning during periods of wet weather will also lessen the risk of an escape and the distance smoke travels. The worst thing residents can do is try to burn wet uncovered piles, or worse rake up wet needles and leaves and try to burn them in a pile that will smolder for hours or days.

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council is also announcing its regularly scheduled monthly meeting to be held on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at the Plumas County Planning & Building Services office, located at 555 Main Street in Quincy, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

At the November meeting the Council will be discussing, progress towards current wildfire mitigation projects and implementation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

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. The mission of the Fire Safe Council is: ***“To reduce the loss of natural and manmade resources caused by wildfire through Firewise Community programs and pre-fire activities.”***

For more information on our Council, Plumas County’s Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and other fire safe or weather information, visit our website at www.plumasfiresafe.org.