

PRESS RELEASE

Fire Safe Council announces monthly meeting and encourages Smart Burning

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council's regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on **Thursday, April 9, 2015** at the Plumas County Planning & Building Services office, located at 555 Main Street in Quincy, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. The Council will be discussing their numerous wildfire mitigation and hazardous fuel reduction projects. They welcome everybody to attend including community members and individuals interested forest restoration and in making Plumas County less vulnerable to wildfire.

The Fire Safe Council would like to encourage residents to work to maintain and improve the 'Defensible Space' around homes and properties. When burning on these beautiful spring days it is important to do so safely and in a way that reduces smoke in your community.

Residents should follow these basic rules:

1. ONLY green waste originated onsite can be burned on your property (you cannot transport green waste from somewhere else and burn it on your property).
2. Anything other than residential burning (defensible space for a one or two family dwelling) requires an Air Pollution Permit. Questions about obtaining this permit can be directed to Julie Ruiz at the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Portola office at 832-0102.
3. Choose a safe location; take time to rake away flammable materials in a 20 foot ring around the burn area.
4. Be sure to have appropriate hand tools and water available. Lay out hoses before you begin the burning process and make sure that you have a few extra sections of hose connected in the event of an escaped burn.
5. Burn only on permissive burn days; call your local air quality hotline before you burn. Residents can hear recorded phone message information on permissive burn days from the Northern Sierra AQMD in Chester (258-2588), Greenville (284-6520), Portola (832-4528), Quincy (283-3602); in Sierra County (994-3561).
6. Burn only cured (not green) materials; dry materials and piles will burn hotter and produce less smoke.
7. Do not burn tires, pressure treated wood, ply-wood, painted wood, plastics or garbage.
8. Completely extinguish your pile when you have finished burning, this means that there are no more "hot spots" in the burn area. Apply water and stir the burned area until the fire is dead out and the entire burn area is cool to the touch.
9. In the event of an escaped burn pile, do not hesitate to call 911 to request assistance. The quicker you act, the better.

"Unfortunately, every spring in our County we have early season wildfires caused by un-extinguished piles that are fanned by strong winds." says Mike De Lasaux, Chairperson of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council.

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council is a coalition of citizens, businesses, local residents, and representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies. They share a common interest in preventing loss of life and minimizing the loss of property from wildland fires. The mission of the Fire Safe Council is: ***“To reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise Community programs and pre-fire activities.”*** The Fire Safe Council is available to assist your community in a number of ways with the goal of increasing the counties resiliency to wildfires.

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