

Fire Safe Council features fire safe landscaping videos on their website

The Plumas County Fire Safe Council is featuring two brief videos on their website: www.plumasfiresafe.org. The videos discuss elements of making your home fire safe and illustrate the importance of planning and maintaining home landscape to increase the potential that your home will survive a wildfire.

The PC FSC monthly meeting will be July 9. The Council meets the second Thursday of each month at the Plumas County Planning and Building Conference room (555 Main Street, Quincy) at 9 AM. Please consider attending the meeting to get a better sense of what the PC FSC is doing throughout Plumas County in order to fulfil their mission: ***“To reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise Community programs and pre-fire activities.”***

To improve the fire resistance of their property owners should begin with their house and work their way outward. Having a nonflammable roof adds an enormous safety measure. Keeping roofs and gutters clear of leaves or needles is critical to minimizing ignition from embers. Flammable decks and fences are very vulnerable to ignition and can carry fire to the main structure. Residents should work to keep flat surfaces such as decks and patios clear of flammable debris; they should also work to clear leaves, needles or other flammable materials that could burn from under decks or porches.

The most important thing residents can do around their homes is to remove flammable materials such as dry grass, dead woody materials and piles of lumber. The perimeter of the home and attachments such as decks and fences are very vulnerable to ignition during a wildfire. Plant based mulch; woody shrubs and resinous plants such as juniper, cedar and other conifers can ignite and thus allow flames to touch the house.

If you have any limbs or branches overhanging the roof, or any branches close to or touching the house, trim them back to at least 10 feet from the house. Keep fine fuels such as grass mowed low as they are the first to ignite.

Take a look around your home and imagine that a wildfire is burning nearby, ask yourself “What is most likely to catch on fire and threaten my home or outbuildings?”, then address those items first. Remember that cleaning up around structures should happen before the wildfire is threatening your property. Performing yard maintenance before the fire may make the difference between losing your home and having your home survive the next wildfire.