

PRESS RELEASE

Plumas County Fire Safe Council Meeting 4/9/03

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, April 9, 2003 at the Quincy Fire Department, upstairs meeting room, from 9:00 to 12:00 AM.

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.

At the April meeting, the Council will be discussing: progress on their grants to provide county residents with wildfire education, fire planning and hazardous fuel reduction.

Fire Safe Council members encourage residents to begin 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. It is not a question of if, but of when, a wildland fire will threaten lives and property 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.

As residents begin their annual defensible space clean up, many will be burning their resulting green waste. The Council would like to remind residents who burn that while burn permits are not required until May 1, they are still responsible for any fire that escapes their control. For safe burning residents should: 1) burn in a safe location with tools and water on site, 2) avoid burning on days of strong winds, 3) burn only on a permissive burn day; 4) burn only dry materials and piles, 5) don't burn tires, processed wood, painted wood or other garbage, and 6) extinguish all piles before leaving the area. Unfortunately every year, some residents don't follow these simple rules and their fires escape threatening others, or they create smoke conditions that are a nuisance to others. For more information on burning, permits, or regulations, you can contact your local US Forest Service, CDF, fire department office and Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District.

For more information on the Fire Safe Council, visit our website at www.plumasfiresafe.org