

Indian Valley Residents Community Meeting on Firewise Consultations

On Thursday April 10, the Indian Valley Fire Department and Plumas County Fire Safe Council will hold a community meeting to discuss a Firewise homeowner consultation project scheduled to occur this spring. The meeting will take place at the Greenville Town Hall at 7 PM. Indian Valley Fire Department in cooperation with the Plumas County Fire Safe Council is offering a free homeowner Firewise consultation to residents in the urban/rural interface. A Firewise consultation determines the risk of a home's loss or damage from a wildland fire. This project is possible with a grant from the Bureau of Land Management, as part of the National Fire Plan.

Most residents in the urban/rural interface areas of Indian Valley will receive a letter from the Council, inviting them to participate in this project. If residents choose to have a Firewise consultation, a trained fire department member will visit your home to assess the vulnerability of structures to a wildland fire. The assessment considers residence access, roofing material, siding, windows, openings to attics and decks, adjacent hazards, and vegetation flammability both adjacent and up to 300 feet away from the home. Resident's will have an opportunity to discuss and better understand factors that contribute to a home's loss or damage from a wildfire. This consultation takes about one-half hour, and can be scheduled at your convenience. The information will not be shared with insurance companies or others. It is only intended to educate community residents.

As a special incentive to Indian Valley residents, the Indian Valley Fire Department is offering house address signs at a reduced rate of \$10.00 per sign. These reflectorized address signs are critical to assisting emergency services in locating your residence during times of need. These signs usually cost \$20.00.

Chief Hamblin reminds residents that it isn't always the flames directly adjacent to the structures that cause the home to be lost. It is often the ember blizzard, with tens of thousands of sparks, frequently traveling up to ¼ mile away when trees and brush explode in flame. It is these embers that land in receptive fuelbeds such as shake roofs; pine needles or through openings into an attic, or under a deck; that cause many homes to burn. Many homes that burn in a wildfire are lost from just a spark not the "wall of flames", and many homes burn before or after the main fire passes. According to Chief Hamblin, "We have been fortunate in the past, but we need to understand why homes burn and take appropriate actions to prevent catastrophic losses in the future. It is not a question of if, but of when a wildland fire threatens lives and property in Plumas County." According to research homes without shake roofs and at least 30 feet of defensible space have a survival rate of 75%.

For more information you can you can visit the Plumas County Fire Safe Council's web site at www.plumasfiresafe.org. Residents are also are invited to become members and attend the monthly County Fire Safe Council meetings, on the second Wednesday of each month at 9:00 am at the Quincy Fire Hall.