

FOR 10/4/17 PUBLICATION

Plumas County Fire Safe Council Meeting 10/12/17

Data has overwhelmingly shown that the presence of defensible space plays a key role in determining whether or not a structure will survive the passing of a wildfire. The Plumas County Fire Safe Council's Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance program has just concluded its 13th year of assisting residents who may otherwise lack the economic or physical ability to maintain defensible space. The program provides 100 feet of clearance around homes by thinning small trees to reduce crown continuity, pruning branches and thinning brush to reduce ladder fuels, mowing grass and weeds, and removing leaves and other fine fuels from the roof and around the home to reduce hazard during an ember attack.

During the 2017 season, the program treated 75 residences at no cost to the landowner. CAL FIRE grant funds covered the majority of the cost for a local contractor to perform the work, while CAL FIRE fuels crews themselves treated 17 homes. The program provides a Coordinator who conducts site walk-throughs with residents and provides education about defensible space. The program is scheduled to resume again in spring 2018, contingent upon grant funding.

Individuals interested in the Senior/Disabled Defensible Space Assistance program and other fire-safe initiatives can learn more at the next meeting of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council on Thursday, October 12th, 2017 from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the Plumas County Planning & Building Services office, 555 Main Street in Quincy. Council meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month and are attended by citizens, business owners, and representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies, who share a common interest in preventing loss of life and minimizing loss of property from wildland fires.

For more information about the Plumas County Fire Safe Council or the upcoming meeting, visit plumasfiresafe.org or contact Hannah at 283-3739