

## FOR 4/5/17 PUBLICATION

### Plumas County Fire Safe Council Meeting 4/13/17

With the return of spring weather, residents of Plumas County are again outside with rakes and pruners. This time of year provides an opportunity to create “defensible space” around homes before fire season arrives. Often this process focuses on the removal of combustible materials. But a fire resilient landscape is influenced by which plants are included, as well as removed.

As you’re tackling annual yard maintenance, consider this advice from CAL FIRE’s website:

A fire-safe landscape isn’t necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. A fire-safe landscape uses fire-resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home. Fire resistant plants are great in California because they are often drought tolerant, too.

The good news is, you don’t need a lot of money to make your landscape fire safe. And you will find that a fire-safe landscape can increase your property value and conserve water while beautifying your home.

#### Choose Fire-Resistant Plants and Materials

- Create fire-safe zones with stone walls, patios, decks and roadways.
- Use rock, mulch, flower beds and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks.
- There are no “fire-proof” plants. Select high-moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content.
- Choose fire-retardant plant species that resist ignition.
- Plant hardwood, maple, poplar and cherry trees that are less flammable than pine, fir and other conifers.

Check your local nursery, landscape contractor or county’s UC Cooperative Extension service for advice on fire-resistant plants that are suited for your area.

While landowners work to reduce the wildfire hazard around their homes, the Plumas County Fire Safe Council works toward its county-wide mission to “reduce the loss of natural and human made resources caused by wildfire through Firewise community programs and pre-fire activities.” At the Fire Safe Council’s upcoming meeting learn about the projects of the Council, as well as the Mt. Hough Ranger District’s proposed Franks Valley project, on Thursday, April 13th, 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 Fire Safe Council or the upcoming meeting, visit [plumasfiresafe.org](http://plumasfiresafe.org) or contact Hannah at 283-3739.