

PC FSC press release for the Feather Publishing – May 2, 2018

Fire Safe Council Supports New Firewise Communities

The City of Portola is one of five of the newest groups to apply to the Firewise Communities USA program from Plumas County. This development has been initiated and organized by City Council Member Phil Oels with the support of the Portola City Council and Portola residents and volunteers.

After initial outreach, Firewise applications are centered around a Community Wildfire Risk Assessment. Led by Mr. Oels, the Portola risk assessment meeting and tour was conducted on April 11th with a team of 12 participants from the Portola community, CAL FIRE, the USFS Beckwourth Ranger District, Portola Volunteer Fire Department, Plumas County Office of Emergency Services, Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District, and other existing Plumas Firewise Communities. The group reviewed home defensible space, community infrastructure, improvements to benefit fire safety, existing forest conditions within City limits, and several sites for potential fuel reduction projects.

This new Firewise group's efforts were aided by an existing City of Portola Community Wildfire Protection Plan that was previously developed by the City with the help of Jerry Hurley, former Fire Safe Council Coordinator, and Don Fregulia, US Forest Service Beckwourth District Fire Management Officer. The Firewise Assessment under development will include some of the recommendations made in that report.

Firewise USA is the national community fire prevention and safety organization founded by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). It exists to help community members nation-wide to work together and reduce the risk and effects of wildfire. Participating communities discover how to help themselves and also how to get help from State and Federal agencies. Plumas currently has nine existing Firewise Communities groups. Besides Portola the four others currently in development are: Lake Almanor Pines, Feather River College, Galeppi Ranch, and Chester.

Plumas Fire Safe 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 agencies that share a common interest in preventing loss of life and minimizing loss of property from wildland fires. The PC FSC will meet this month at 9:00 to 11:00 am on May 10 in Quincy in the Planning and Building Services Conference room, 555 Main Street Quincy. You are invited.

Learn more about the Firewise program in Plumas and our nine local Firewise communities at: plumasfiresafe.org/firewise-usa. If you would like to get your community involved talk to your neighbors and call Hannah at 283-3739.