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Springtime Priorities Include Fire Safety

Winter fades and springtime finally arrives. Suddenly there is so much to do. Among the many outdoor activities, fire safety chores can very easily become a low priority. The summer 'fire season' seems 'down the road'.

In the past few years we have learned from sad experience that wildfire now has no 'season'. Without our efforts the stressed forests and excessive vegetation arounds our homes and communities create potential for the next ignition. Our local Plumas Fire Protection districts have a very high success rate in extinguishing these ignitions. Of the few that do escape to become big wildfires, most burn with extreme intensity.

Once these intense fires take hold, fire suppression resources are spread thin and there may not be enough available to save our homes and community resources. Which brings us back to our springtime priorities. A little time now creating defensible space around your home can pay huge dividends, even under extreme wildfire conditions. It is not as hard to do, or as time consuming, as we often assume. We can't get it done in one day. But any start close to the home, even just the first five feet, is critical. Then week by week and year by year we can continue outward from there.

What to do? How to start? Ask for advice from your local fire protection district. Or if you're fortunate and live in or near a Firewise Community, contact them. Current Firewise communities include: Chester, Lake Almanor Country Club, Lake Almanor West, Lake Almanor Pines, Greenhorn, Galeppi Ranch, Sloat-Cromberg-Camp Layman, Plumas Eureka, the Graeagle Fire Protection District, Smith Creek Ranch, Mohawk Vista, Gold Mountain, the City of Portola and Grizzly Ranch. Several other communities are starting Firewise groups now. These local Community Firewise groups want to help.

If you are interested in learning more about this and other Plumas wildfire prevention efforts, we invite you to come and participate in the upcoming Plumas County Fire Safe Council meeting on Thursday, May 9 from 9:00 to 11:00 am at the Plumas County Planning & Building Services office, 555 Main Street in Quincy. For questions or comments regarding activities of the Plumas County Fire Safe Council, or for information about the next meeting, contact Hannah at 530-927-5281.

Written by Mike Callaghan