

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 2009

Welcome to the first fire prevention newsletter sponsored by the Alpine Fire Safe Council!

Our mission is: to reduce the risk to life and property in Alpine County from catastrophic wildfires.

To that end, we will be sending you a newsletter twice a year to assist you in preventing and preparing for wildfires. A Spring Newsletter will bring reminders and information for use in the summer months. A Fall Newsletter will offer tips and reminders for use during the winter months. Look for the newsletters to include: community events related to fire prevention, announcements of fuels reduction programs, website information for online resources, Alpine Fire Safe Council calendars, and information from our cooperating agencies that provide wildfire suppression in Alpine County.

For more information on the Alpine Fire Safe Council you can check our website at: www.alpinefiresafe.org or contact Jeff Brees, Coordinator at 530-694-2791.

For submissions to the newsletter please contact Kerry Radelfinger at: admin1@alpinefiresafe.org

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Alpine County Spring 2009 Community Burn Pile at Turtle Rock Park

The Burn Pile is held for Alpine County residents free of charge. This event is provided by Alpine County Department of Public Works in cooperation with Markleeville Volunteer Fire Department, Woodfords Volunteer Fire Department, and Alpine Fire Safe Council.

Drop off will be on Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning Saturday, APRIL 4 through Sunday, MAY 24, weather permitting.

Accepted Materials:

Natural vegetation, shrubs, pine needles, grass, leaves, branches and limbs.



Not Accepted:

Stumps, treated wood, wood with nails, non-vegetation items, tires, trash, garbage, household waste, rocks, dirt, cement, construction debris and construction site clearing debris, furniture, recyclable items, metals, appliances, plastics, batteries, oil, vehicles, paint, solvents, anti-freeze, paint thinners, cleaning fluids, aerosol cans, pesticides and insecticides.

**Call Alpine County
Department of Public Works at
530-694-2140 for more information.**

**MAKE YOUR HOME FIRE
SAFE!**

Reflective Address Signs

If you have not already done so, order your reflective address sign today. Many of your houses have house numbers but they probably **COULD NOT** be seen from the street at night or if the air was full of smoke or blowing snow. There are some house numbers that cannot be seen from the street while others have no numbers at all. Reflective address signs are easily seen from the street and help our emergency responders find you in the event of any emergency.

Features:

- Highly visible day or night
- Green Reflective material with 4 inch white numbers
- Fade resistant, last for years
- Pre-drilled holes

Save lives and protect your property.

If you would like to order a reflective address sign or would like additional information, **please call Shirley Taylor at (530) 694-2681**. The address markers are \$20.00.



Burn Permits

Burn permits are available through the local USFS office (next to the Sheriff's office) Monday through Friday from 8:00-4:30. The burn permits are free of charge and will be good through May 3rd. Burning can be done between the hours of 6am-3pm, but you must have a permit to burn. Detailed instructions will be given when you pick up your permit. You can call the USFS at **694-2142** for more information.

Defensible Space Inspections

CalFire will be conducting Public Resources Code 4291 Defensible Space Inspections to help property owners make their homes safe this fire season. Proper clearance of defensible space to 100 feet dramatically increases the chance of your house surviving a wildfire and also provides for firefighter safety when protecting homes

during a wildland fire. You can review the Cal Fire form "Notice of Fire Hazard Inspection" attached with this newsletter to find out what Cal Fire will be looking for when they inspect your property.

Wildfire Actions

Before, During and After a Wildfire

What to do BEFORE a wildfire:

- Create defensible space to separate your home from flammable vegetation and materials (minimum 100ft PRC 4291.)
- Adhere to all local fire and building codes and weed abatement ordinances.
- Keep all trees and shrub limbs trimmed so they do not come into contact with electrical wires or overhang your chimney. (Do not trim around live power lines yourself, call a professional).
- Prune all lower branches 8 feet from the ground.
- Keep trees adjacent to buildings free of dead or dying branches.
- Stack firewood away from your home and other buildings. (Keep clearance around your piles).
- Keep roof surfaces clear of pine needles, leaves and debris at all times.
- Install spark arresters for each chimney (PRC 4291.)
- Clean chimneys and check and maintain spark arresters twice a year.
- Keep rain gutters clear of debris at all times.
- Use approved fire resistant materials when building, renovating or retrofitting structures.
- Install electrical lines underground if possible.
- Be sure your house numbers show clearly from the street, both day and night.

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- Store combustible or flammable materials in approved containers.
- Store all important papers in a fireproof container or keep copies at another location.
- Make evacuation plans with family members. Include several options with an outside meeting place and contact person. Practice regularly.
- Keep battery operated radios and flashlights with additional fresh batteries on hand.

What to do DURING a wildfire:

- Turn on a battery operated radio to get latest emergency information.
- If you have a ladder, prop it against the house so you and firefighters have access to roof.
- If hoses and adequate water are available set them up. Fill buckets with water.
- Remove combustible materials from the area surrounding your house. (lawnchairs, tables, etc.)
- Turn a light on in each room for visibility in case of smoke.
- Close all doors and windows, but do not lock them.
- Open or take down flammable drape and curtains.
- Close all venetian blinds and non-flammable window coverings.
- Move upholstered furniture away from windows and sliding glass doors.
- Be ready to evacuate all family members and pets when requested to do so.
- Turn off air conditioning/air circulation systems.
- Detach electrical garage doors. Back in your car and leave the keys in the ignition.
- Secure your pets if possible.

CONT...

What to do AFTER a wildfire:

- Check with fire officials before attempting to return to your home.
- Use caution when re-entering a burned area - flare-ups can occur.
- Check grounds for hot spots smoldering stumps and vegetation. Use your buckets of water.
- Check the roof and exterior areas for spark and embers.
- Check the attic and throughout the house for hidden burning sparks and embers.
- Continue to check for problem areas for several days.
- Contact 911 if any danger is perceived.
- If burning outside your home was extensive, watch for soil erosion.
- Consult local experts on the best way to restore and replant your land with fire safe landscaping.

Article courtesy of



Visit www.alpinefiresafe.org to view your local Evacuation Plan.

Defensible Space Curbside Chipping Program

The Alpine Fire Safe Council will be offering another free curbside chipping program in Markleeville, Woodfords, Woodfords Colony and Hope Valley in the **spring of 2009** to help you clear around your house and outbuildings. State law requires 100 feet of defensible space around your buildings to help protect firefighters and your property. This program is made possible by a National Fire Plan grant from the USDA Forest Service through the California Fire Safe Council. Look for more information coming soon to your mailbox with the dates and details.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALPINE COUNTY COMMUNITY BURN PILE

TURTLE ROCK PARK

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS

APRIL 4TH TO MAY 24TH

8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

AFSC MONTHLY MEETING

APRIL 27, 2009

WOODFORDS FIRE STATION

6:00 PM

AFSC MONTHLY MEETING

MAY 25, 2009

MARKLEEVILLE FIRE STATION

6:00 PM

AFSC MONTHLY MEETING

JUNE 29, 2009

WOODFORDS FIRE STATION

6:00 PM



FYI:

The new **Living with Fire DVD** is now available at the Library. This is a great resource on creating defensible space around your home.

We also have educational packets containing important information on defensible space requirements, county fire ordinances, fire safe landscaping and local resources available at the Administration Building, Community Development Office and the Library. Pick one up and **LIVE FIRE SAFE!**

www.alpinefiresafe.org

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