

Alpine Fire Safe Council

Volume 7, Issue 1

Fall/Winter 2014

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Alpine County Fall/Winter 2014 Community Burn Pile at Turtle Rock Park

The Burn Pile [formerly Biomass pile] is open for Alpine County residents free of charge. It is intended as a RESIDENTIAL Defensible Space Cleanup greens waste deposit. To this end it is highly recommended that greens waste for deposit to the Burn Pile are hand cut and loaded. Dirt and rock in the greens deposit associated with equipment collection causes additional cost for removal. This event is provided by Alpine County Community Development in cooperation with Eastern Alpine Fire/Rescue and Alpine Fire Safe Council to assist residents with Defensible Space Cleanup and reduce onsite property burning.

Drop off will be on Wed., Sat., & Sun.
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
SEPT. 20, 2014 through OCT. 26, 2014
Weather Permitting

Accepted Materials:

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

Not Accepted:

Rocks, dirt, stumps, treated wood, wood with nails, non-vegetation items, tires, trash, garbage, household waste, 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.

For more information, contact Alpine County Community Development at 530-694-2140.



Fall/Winter 2013 Biomass Pile



Spring 2014 Biomass Pile

The above pictures illustrate the excellent job performed by Alpine County residents in Defensible Space Cleanup. **THANK YOU for your diligent efforts.**

Alpine County Fire Codes

To view the Alpine County Fire Codes visit:
<http://codepublishingcom/CA/alpine county/>

We 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!**

Defensible Space Curbside Chipping Program

The AFSC has a continuing Curbside Chipping Program through Title III. The current program Summer/Fall 2014 will end at the first snow or Nov. 1, 2014. We subcontract this work to Lake Valley Fire Department's chipping crew. County residents were mailed an orange flyer with the chipping instructions and contact phone #. We apologize for the incorrect phone # in the flyer. **The correct phone number is: 530-577-2447.**

This is a message line. Please leave your name phone number and address. The Crew will come to your home on Thursday's only!

AFSC and the Eastern Alpine Fire & Rescue are pleased to be able to continue this community asset, to assist you in Defensible Space Cleanup.



Lake Valley Fire District chipping crew at work in Summer 2014.

Winter Fire Prevention Tips

Home fires often occur during the winter due to dangerous heating equipment or unsafe practices. Heating fires account for 36% of residential home fires in rural areas every year. Often these fires are due to creosote build-up in chimneys and stovepipes or from improper ash disposal. Here are some fire safety tips to help keep your home safe and warm:

- Never use flammable liquids or excessive amounts of paper to start or accelerate a fire.

- Charcoal gives off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide. Do not burn it indoors.
- If possible use seasoned hardwood. Soft, moist wood accelerates creosote buildup. If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. NEVER break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher heat.
- Make sure all candles are extinguished before you leave the home or office, and before going to bed. The most common area of origin for candle fires is the bedroom, then living rooms, bathrooms and the kitchen.
- Ensure that propane tanks, valves, lines and regulators are in proper working order. Protect regulators from ice build-up, impacts from snow loads, falling branches, etc. Call your propane provider periodically to ensure these devices are in proper working order.
- Be sure every bedroom of your home is protected by a working smoke alarm/carbon monoxide detector. Be sure to check and clean it on a monthly basis. Change the batteries every six months!
- Plan and practice a home escape plan with your family. Check to make sure that exit windows and doors are clear of snow and ice.
- Keep flammables away from heat sources. For wood stoves refer to the manufacturer's requirements and the Alpine County Building Code. Wood stoves should be UL and EPA approved.
- Dispose of ashes in a metal container with a lid. Place the metal container containing the ashes outside, away from the building, on a fireproof surface (concrete, bare earth). Ashes can continue burning for up to seven days!
- Have a professional inspect and clean your chimney, stovepipe and/or furnace annually. Do not attempt repairs yourself.
- Keep a metal or glass screen in front of the fireplace opening. Make sure the damper is open before lighting.

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Winter Fire Prevention Tips

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- Never leave a fire unattended!
- Keep children away from heat sources.
- Don't stock fuel wood against your home, or next to a heat source, i.e. chimney fire box clean out.
- Never attempt to heat a structure with a device that was designed for outdoor use, such as a camp stove.
- The use of kerosene heaters inside the home is prohibited in California (Sec. 19881, Health and Safety Code).
- Check furnace control and emergency shut-offs to be sure they are working properly.
- Frozen water pipes? Never try to thaw them with a blow torch or other open flame.

One Less Spark One Less Wildfire

Your Fire Safe Council is an avid participant in the ongoing forest service public awareness campaign "One Less Spark One Less Wildfire."

We have literature at the Office of the County Clerk, County Library, and Chamber of Commerce. The goal is public awareness of how simple routine tasks can cause a spark, which can lead to a potential Wildland Fire.

Example Topic: **Homeowners**
Use String line trimmers, not gas mowers to cut tall dry grass. Have water & the proper extinguisher at hand to be prepared for fires.

Please contact the AFSC at 530-694-1879 or visit www.PreventWildfireCA.org to obtain literature.

Welcome Corner and Acknowledgements

We welcome Tracy Ikemire as our new AFSC Administrator. We look forward to the background assets Tracy brings to this position.

We would also like to thank Joanne Oehlerking for her years of dedication. We appreciate all of the hard work she has afforded the AFSC.

AFSC at Work

- Coordinated four Fire Safe Projects:
 1. Marklee Village fuels break
 2. Identification of Eastside stored water for firefighting
 3. Curbside Chipping
 4. Alpine Village fuels break
- Coordinated with CALfire for 70+ Defensible Space inspections north of Markleeville focusing on Alpine Village and Crystal Springs
- Updated/Redesigned our website & added community safety issues. Check us out at: alpinefiresafecouncil.org
- Participated in the USFS "One Less Spark One Less Wildfire" Campaign
- Supported "Choices for Children" Community CPR/AED Classes in conjunction with Eastern Alpine Fire/Rescue

Reflective Address Signs

If you have not already done so, order your reflective address sign today! During an emergency situation, **every second counts**. This is why a clearly marked streetside address sign that is visible both day and night is so important. Often house numbers are difficult to locate and cannot be seen at night or if the air is filled with smoke or blowing snow. Reflective address markers can easily be seen from the street and help emergency responders to help YOU in the event of an emergency.

Features:

- Highly visible day or night
- Reflective material
- 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 and all proceeds from the sales of the signs go to support Eastern Alpine Fire/Rescue.

Calendar of Events

AFSC Monthly Meetings

Sept. 29, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
Woodfords Fire Station

October 27, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
Markleeville Fire Station

November 24, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
Woodfords Fire Station

Alpine County Fall/Winter 2014
Community Burn Pile
at Turtle Rock Park

Weather Permitting

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8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 20th through OCTOBER 26th

Alpine Fire Safe Council

2014 Board of Directors

Kris Hartnett—Chair
Steve Yonker—Vice Chair
David Griffith
Shirley Taylor
Karrie Baker
Tom Sweeney
Nani Ellis

Kris Hartnett—Coordinator
Tracy Ikemire—Administrator



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