

State Funds for Plumas/LACC & Keys to Planning Lot Clean-ups



Your Firewise Committee is busy planning for the coming LACC fire-season. We have increased our interaction with the Plumas County Firesafe Council (Plumas Council) in Quincy to find funding opportunities for LACC. Each member, with an inhabitable building, pays an annual Fire Prevention Fee to the state for fire prevention in the State's Responsibility Area (SRA), which includes LACC. Whether or not you agree with the fee, your Firewise Committee wants LACC to get some return of the funds for our fire prevention activities.

Last year we were offered a crew of Cal Fire firefighters for several weeks to thin and remove overgrown brush and small trees from the roadway easements on selected LACC roadways. Cal Fire was paid using SRA funds. LACC Maintenance crews coordinated their progress and hauled their cuttings to the maintenance yard. That generated quite a pile of cuttings that remain in the yard.

This coming year, we are planning to have LACC participate in an SRA funded Community Chipping Program coordinated by Plumas Council. The Council will contract for wood chippers and laborers to visit residential communities like ours for a set number of days this fire season. The LACC Firewise Committee intends to use our allotted days to chip and transport the pile of materials from the maintenance yard. We will also ask Cal Fire to perform additional thinning and roadway overgrowth removal in the LACC roadways that did not benefit last year.

The number of chipping and hauling days and availability of Cal Fire personnel for our roadways is not clear but we are hopeful for a good turnout. Additionally, the requirement to process only "clean" chipping materials by contractors is very strict and limited. By concentrating on the existing yard materials, we feel we can achieve the most progress and learn how a chipping program can best fit LACC needs. We understand the County is working on another Green Waste disposal program for residents this year. However, in case that becomes unreliable, LACC might consider creating its own chipping and removal program to benefit annual member cleanup.

As usual, your Firewise Committee will be at the LACC Memorial Day breakfast. This year we will be available there to help members take advantage of another Plumas Council grant funding opportunity. This program is the Defensible Space Assistance Program for County residents over 65 years of age or disabled. It provides qualified applicants a free property inspection and direct help with coordinating a contractor to do specific fire prevention clean-ups. The contractor will be paid on a cost sharing basis depending on a member's income, with upper annual income limits to \$46,453 (single) and \$53,089 (couples).

Barbara MacArthur, Firewise Chairperson (v. FireNews17_4)

As residents start thinking about property cleanups, please remember to track your time and expenses on the LACC Property Owners Time and Expense Sheet which can be found on the Resources tab on the website.

Also here is a reminder of key areas of fire prevention for lot cleanups:

A. Control (decrease) tree and plant density and eliminate unnecessary young trees (e.g. saplings) before they become costly to remove.



B. Make changes to landscaping to eliminate "ladder fuel" situations and gasoline type plantings, and to increase vegetation spacing.



C. Manage sizes of combustibles or eliminate combustibles under trees in conjunction with pruning trees up from the ground.



D. Reduce or eliminate combustibles next to structures or under decks.

E. Regularly remove dead trees and shrubs, dead branches, and diseased portions of trees.



F. Restrict your use of fire in compliance with local guidelines and make sure your equipment won't start fires.