



BURNING ISSUES

WWW.ZEPHYRFIRESAFE.ORG

SPRING 2010

As we rapidly approach the 2010 fuels management season, we would like to look back at the achievements of the 2009 field season and introduce our plans for 2010 (see insert).

2009 was the first season of funding from the Fire Safe Community Fund, which was created by the voter approved tax passed in November of 2008. We were able to leverage these funds to implement over 268 acres of fuels reduction projects. These projects included: the Kingsbury II project - 56 acres, the China Gardens Project - 41 acres, the Douglas County Schools/Zephyr Cove Park project - 102 Acres, Zephyr Creek/Zephyr Heights - 49 acres, and several other smaller projects throughout the Fire District.

In addition to fuels reduction work, we performed 208 defensible space evaluations, issued 213 tree removal permits, performed curbside chipping services for 60 parcels, and expanded the "season" for the Compost Your Combustibles program. This breadth of work, which is crucial to protecting our community from the threat of catastrophic wildfire, would not have been possible without your support and the Fire Safe Community Fund.

During the past year, we have also been working to make information about our fuels management program and information on how to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire more accessible to the community. To this end, we now have a stand-alone website for our fuels management program. This site can be found at www.zephyrfiresafe.org. Our goal is to provide an easy to navigate portal to find information on subjects ranging from defensible space to the Zephyr Crew.

Even with the success of our program, we are constantly looking for ways to improve our fuels management program. During 2010 we plan to implement several new programs. One program we are working on is neighborhood specific pre-incident operational plans. In the event of a wildfire threatening a neighborhood, these plans will give responding units specific information on the unique characteristics of each neighborhood. This information will allow more rapid ordering and deployment of resources and will allow mutual aid resources to quickly understand the fire suppression challenges of each neighborhood.

Another program we will be implementing is door to door defensible space evaluations. These evaluations will be focused on educating homeowners on the threat of catastrophic wildfire and providing site-specific advice on how to improve their defensible space.

Finally, we have developed plans for 2010 to complete fuels reduction projects on over 200 acres of land within the Fire District. The majority of these projects will be in the Upper Kingsbury area and the Kingsbury Corridor.

As always, feel free to call if you have any questions about any of our activities or services (775) 588-3591.

2010 Important Dates

Compost Your Combustibles:

When: May 29 through July 11, 9:00am to 5:00 pm

Where: Heavenly Mountain Resort Boulder Lodge Parking

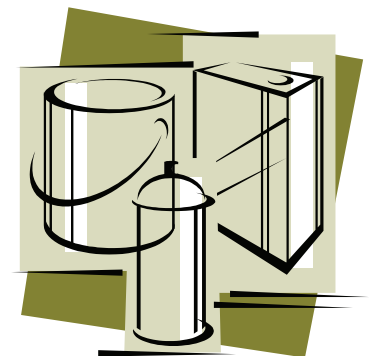
Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off:

When: June 12 and August 7, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Where: Tahoe Douglas Fire Station #3, 193 Elks Point Rd, Round Hill

For More Information:

(775) 588-3591 or www.tahoe-fire.com



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And please support the South Tahoe Refuse "Blue Bag" recycling program**

Public Services Spotlight

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE DISTRICT



The Fire District is proud to offer the following services to you:

Defensible Space Inspections

A specially trained employee of the Fire District will evaluate your home and property using the guidelines contained in the Living With Fire program. We will look at all aspects of your home; the house itself, landscaping, and anything that may impede firefighting access or make you more vulnerable to the effects of wildfire. You will be given a copy of the evaluation and a Tree Removal Permit will be issued if necessary.

Tree Removal Permit

The Fire District, through a Memorandum of Understanding with the TRPA, can issue a Tree Removal Permit for defensible space. There is no charge for the permit. A permit is only needed to remove trees that are fourteen inches and larger in diameter at chest height (54 inches above the ground). Trees smaller than fourteen inches in diameter can be removed for defensible space without a permit. Special requirements may apply in the backshore or in a stream environment zone.

Defensible Space Rebates

The Nevada Fire Safe Council (NVFSC) has authorized an additional round of defensible space rebates for homeowners that hire licensed contractors to do fuels reduction on their property. After a Defensible Space Inspection is completed, the homeowner contacts the NVFSC at 1-877-586-8372 to receive a Rebate Voucher Number. Then the homeowner hires a licensed contractor to do the recommended work. When all of the work is completed and paid for, the homeowner schedules a re-inspection with the NVFSC. Upon a successful re-inspection, the NVFSC will rebate the homeowner one half of the cost, up to a maximum \$1000.00. This program has returned over \$160,000.00 to Fire District residents in the last two years.

Curbside Chipping Program

The Fire District offers a free curbside chipping service to all residents of the district. Members of the Zephyr Crew will chip your tree limbs and brush at no charge. More information and a Chipping Request Form may be obtained at the Round Hill Fire Station or online at www.zephyrfiresafe.org.

Compost Your Combustibles

This popular program began with a grant from the State of Nevada, and is now funded through a partnership between the Fire District, South Tahoe Refuse, Heavenly Mountain Resort, Tahoe Village Homeowners Association, and Kingsbury General Improvement District. From May 29th to July 11th, residents may bring tree branches, brush, pine cones and pine needles to Heavenly's Boulder Lodge on South Benjamin for disposal. These materials are then used for erosion control at Heavenly or converted to compost in the Carson Valley.

Wood Shake Roof Replacement Incentive

In another program that began with State funds, but now continued through the Fire Safe Community Fund, residents of the Fire District who replace old, wood shake roofs with new fire resistant materials are eligible for free defensible space work. A three person fuels reduction squad from the Zephyr Crew will work for up to eight hours on your property, improving your defensible space. Services include: thinning and removing brush, trimming trees, and chipping.

More information on any of these services can be found at www.zephyrfiresafe.org.

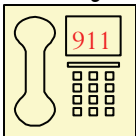
Or, by calling (775)-588-3591.

2010 Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness Week

July 3rd through July 11th has been designated as Lake Tahoe Wildfire Awareness Week. Local Fire Agencies, in conjunction with the Nevada Fire Safe Council and the University of Nevada and University of California Cooperative Extensions will be hosting various activities to raise awareness of increased fire danger. Activities will include Fire Station tours, Fire Agency meetings with homeowner associations, block parties and a Wildfire Awareness Summit. A special attempt will be made to connect with seasonal homeowners who miss much of the local education on wildfire prevention and preparedness. For more information, visit www.livingwithfire.info/tahoe/ .

The 9-1-1 System

Did you know? The British were the first to implement a three digit emergency number “9-9-9” in 1937. Twenty years later, in 1957, the National Association of Fire Chiefs publicly recommended the same for the United States. But it wasn’t until February 16, 1968 that the first 9-1-1 number was inaugurated in Haleyville, Alabama. Today, officials estimate that over 270,000 calls are made to 9-1-1 **every day**. Lets take a look at some “do’s and don’ts” of calling 9-1-1.



Do call 9-1-1 for a medical emergency; heart attack, serious bleeding, seizure, stroke, unconscious or difficulty breathing.

Do call for other life-threatening situations such as fires, assaults or persons with weapons.

Do briefly describe the emergency; fire, medical or criminal action.

Do be patient with the dispatcher, they are often dispatching units to you as they talk.

Do stay on the line until the dispatcher hangs up. They often have emergency instructions, such as medical advice, to give you while waiting for help to arrive.

Don’t call 9-1-1 for routine, nonemergency information such as weather and road conditions.

Don’t program 9-1-1 into your speed dial. You won’t forget the number and it leads to numerous false calls every year.

Don’t hang up if you call 9-1-1 by mistake. Stay on the line and explain, or you will likely get a visit from law enforcement checking to see if you are alright.

Don’t hang up if you get a recording that all operators are busy. Calls are answered in order and calling again will only add to the delay. Many times dispatchers are inundated by a single incident with many callers.

Reverse 9-1-1 is a system used by emergency officials to place calls to geographically targeted phone numbers. The system may be used to warn residents of impending disasters or to order evacuations. Up to 3,000 messages per hour can be delivered.

However, up to 25% of households may only have cell phones. If that is your situation, you may register up to three cell phone numbers with the county for an individual address. This service may also be used to notify family members if an elderly or disabled person is ordered to evacuate.

You can register your cell phone or additional contact numbers online at <https://douglascounty.onthealert.com/> or call us at 588-3591.

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www.zephyrfiresafe.org



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DISTRICT
P.O. Box 919
Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
Phone: 775-588-3591

DEFENSIBLE SPACE MYTH VS. FACT

MYTH:

My local Fire District will be able to save my home in the event of a wildfire.

FACT:

Firefighters do all they can to stop wildfires and protect lives and property. However, there are often more homes and neighborhoods involved in a large wildfire than there are fire engines available. Your home and its landscaping should be designed to survive a wildfire even if there are no emergency responders available to defend it. Additionally, firefighters are trained to look for the homes with the most defensible space, giving them the best chance of success.

MYTH:

The TRPA won't let me remove any trees or rake my pine needles.

FACT:

Both the Fire District and TRPA support raking pine needles annually, usually in the late spring. Then you can allow them to accumulate during the summer to help prevent erosion. You can also remove trees smaller than 14" diameter at breast height to create defensible space without a permit. The Fire District can issue a permit for trees larger than 14" diameter. It all starts with a Defensible Space Inspection, so call (775) 588-3591.

MYTH:

I can't afford defensible space for my property.

FACT:

Many things that you can do to make your home safe are not expensive. Raking pine needles and removing them from your roof is one. You can also remove dead wood and low hanging branches from your trees while removing brush and other ladder fuels. Grant money may be available to help with tree removal and more expensive work, call us for more information.

MYTH:

Nothing really helps anyways, wildfires burn everything in their path.

FACT:

Creating defensible space does matter. It increases your house's chances of survival and gives firefighters room from which to defend your home.

MYTH:

Creating defensible space will make my property ugly.

FACT:

There are many beautiful native plants with low fire potential and minimal water requirements. Call us, we have helpful ideas and free literature available.