

Wildfire Safe Neighbors NEWS



A successful season of preparing for wildfire

Q&A: Interview with Ray Torres of USFS



Ray Torres is District Fuels Office for the US Forest Service. Ray has worked for the USFS for the 17 years. In his position he has success-

fully helped manage hundreds of acres of national forest lands in and around Butte County to improve forest health with a variety of fuels reduction methods such as prescribed fire, mastication and pile burning. He has been part of the USFS management team during wildfires such as last year's Chips Fire in the Feather River Canyon. He has also helped improve the communities' preparedness for wildfire by being a member of the Forbestown Ridge Fire Safe Council and serving as a board member for the Butte County Fire Safe Council for the past three years.

How does the Chipper Program complement the work of the US Forest Service?

There is a lot of land in Butte County in the wildland urban interface areas where homes meet the wildland. We work to improve the health of the national forest lands in those areas and the chipper program gives private landowners in those areas a tool to reduce their wildfire risks.

What areas has Plumas National Forest

been active in forest health projects in the past year?

We have been working in the wildland urban interface communities of Paradise, Magalia, Feather Falls, Forbestown, Challenge and Berry Creek.

How does the US Forest Service work to help the community be more prepared?

Preparedness doesn't happen overnight, it takes a lot of partnerships, coordination and work behind the scenes to get forest health and wildfire safety projects on the ground. Many agencies such as Butte County Roads Department, CALFIRE, Bureau of Land Management and others have been working on plans

and implementing preparedness projects for a number of years. When residents do their part, such as participate in the Chipper Program, together we create a safer community for everyone.

As fire risks increase through summer months how can residents help protect the forest?

Each person can do their part in helping firefighters protect property by having 100 feet of defensible space. The Chipper Program is an important tool to help landowners in that effort. Every little bit of defensible space and preparedness work actually counts and really helps out.

Are you a member?

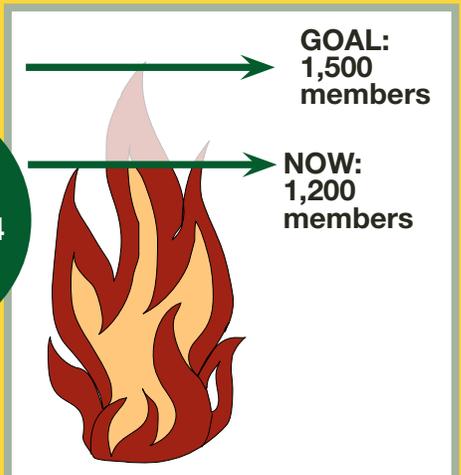
Join and you'll help keep our communities safer. Ask about exclusive membership benefits.

Three ways to join!

Go online
thenet411.net

Call us
530/877-0984

Visit us
5619 Black
Olive Drive
Paradise



A look at how our community is becoming fire safe

Supporting youth wildfire education

“Thank you” to the Sierra Pacific Foundation (\$250 donation) and to Pacific Gas & Electric Company (\$1,000 donation).

Wildfire Ready Raccoon’s new rap music video at www.thenet.411.net

Our thanks to Phil John as well as Paradise High School seniors Ryan Marran and Brian Larson.

Creating matching value for future wildfire safety grant funding

Thanks to 63 residents for filling out the “Landowner Match” form—creating over \$40,00 in matching funds.

Safety scanner & chatroom during fire season: www.thenet411.net

We have volunteers around the clock to keep current wildfire information available. “Thank you” to Thomas Miller, Thomas Walker Margaret Taylor and Kelly Tipton.

SHARES card shopping supports wildfire safety

Through the SHARES card program, residents shopping at SaveMart and FoodMax are giving back to the community at no extra cost to themselves. Thanks for using your SHARES card—and thanks to the SHARES program!



How the Residents Assistance Program works:

Step 1 Residents in communities at risk of wildfire who need help with defensible space clearance can apply for the program through Butte County Fire Safe Council. The program is available to residents who are elderly, low income or disabled.

Step 2 Volunteers and or staff of the Butte County Fire Safe Council schedule a home visit to share wildfire safety information and discuss and verify the concerns of the residents. Volunteers are needed in the Oroville Area, please call if you can help: 877-0984.

Step 3 The Butte County Sheriff Office works to create defensible space by trimming trees, thinning brush and removing ember hazards such as pine needles and leaves. The crew has helped over 24 residents in communities at risk of wildfire since last November.

Step 4 If tree limbs and brush need chipping or leaves need to be hauled away, a contractor is scheduled through Butte County Fire Safe Council to do the work.

Step 5 Thank You! Residents around the county have been saying “thank you” to the Butte County Sheriff crew for assisting them with their defensible space.



Left: Creating defensible space. Below: Program volunteers survey a home project.



My driveway was so overgrown—the crew did an amazing job thinning the brush. Now I can safely get to my house. They did a great job.

— Oroville Resident

The crew should be commended for the super job they did working around my home. They were very polite as well.

— Magalia Resident

I was impressed with the work the crew did; the ‘little things’ got special attention. I am very happy with the work.

— Paradise Resident

The crew was very good, the crew leader was a great example for his crew and they did a great job. They went the extra mile.

— Paradise Resident



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*Wildfire Ready
 Raccoon kicks up
 his heels in a new
 music video.
 See inside!*

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Printed using soy- and vegetable-based inks on paper using post-consumer waste recycled materials.

2012/13 Chipper Season

<i>Community</i>	<i>Participants</i>
Paradise	96
Magalia	90
Kelly Ridge/Oroville/Palermo/Thermalito	59
Forest Ranch	54
Concow/Yankee Hill	39
Berry Creek	32
Butte Creek Canyon	30
Cohasset	30
Chico/Durham	20
Butte Valley/Cherokee	13
Forbestown	6
Bangor	4
Feather Falls	4
Gridley	3

**Chipper Program
 helps our
 communities be
 more fire safe.**



Design and printing: www.FireSafeHelp.com