



Outreach helps kids prepare for wildfire

Q&A: With one of our wildfire educators



Anna Stephens has been a Paradise resident

for the past 18 years. She and Mary Cottrell developed and have coordinated the Butte County Fire Safe Council's sixth grade "Wildfire in the Foothills" for the past seven years. Prior to working with the program, Anna spent her career as an elementary school teacher for 37 years, 30 of which were spent teaching in Dublin (East Bay area).



ABOVE: Interactive reading and illustration of the story, "Once Upon A Wildfire" with six grade students in Paradise and Magalia classrooms. Shown (above) are volunteer Denise Quinn and the book's illustrator, Jim Burch (left).



What motivated you to get involved in wildfire education?

When I lived in Dublin, California, there was a huge wildfire in the Coast Range in which there were firefighter fatalities. One of our neighbors' sons had been working on the fire. Luckily he was not hurt; however, I was inspired to teach my students about fire prevention and forest ecology.

Why did you become involved in the sixth grade "Wildfire in the Foothills" program?

I was and still am very concerned about children's safety, because many

parents are working and children may be alone when a wildfire occurs. They need to know what to do to be prepared and how to respond during an emergency.

Why did you feel the sixth grade age level needed education?

At that age they are capable of having family responsibilities. They are able to take part in the family disaster plan.

What have you learned about wildfire while living in Paradise?

It's not a matter of "if" but "when" a wildfire will occur. If we don't prepare we'll have a lot to lose. There may come

a day when your belongings and goods will be lost to wildfire. You might get the call to evacuate when you're getting ready for bed, tired and not prepared to grab the important 5 P's: PEOPLE, PETS, PRESCRIPTIONS, PAPERS and PHOTOS. It's like planning for having a baby: you pack a bag of things to take to the hospital. Every member of the family needs to know what to do before, during and after a wildfire.

To request an evacuation plan or "In Case of Emergency" packet call the Fire Safe Council at 530- 877-0984.

What's new? It's not your "normal" rake!



John and Sandy Hamilton, Magalia volunteers, have a new tool to help the Residents Assistance Program. An RPM Rake was recently donated to help them in their volunteer efforts by the local Paradise inventor and builder of the rake, Warren Bowden.

Here's what John has to say about the rake. "You will not find a better tool for raking, piling and loading heavy deposits of pine needles. It works very well for large, heavy or wet piles of leaves. The RPM Rake is made from high quality materials and you will NEVER wear it out, regardless of how much you use it.

"I use a large utility trailer for the Residents Assistance Program to haul large loads of leaves and needles. The RPM Rake cut the unloading time in half, as compared to shoveling it out with a pitchfork, John continues. "I am completely satisfied with my RPM Rake and highly recommend it to anyone who does serious cleanup projects."

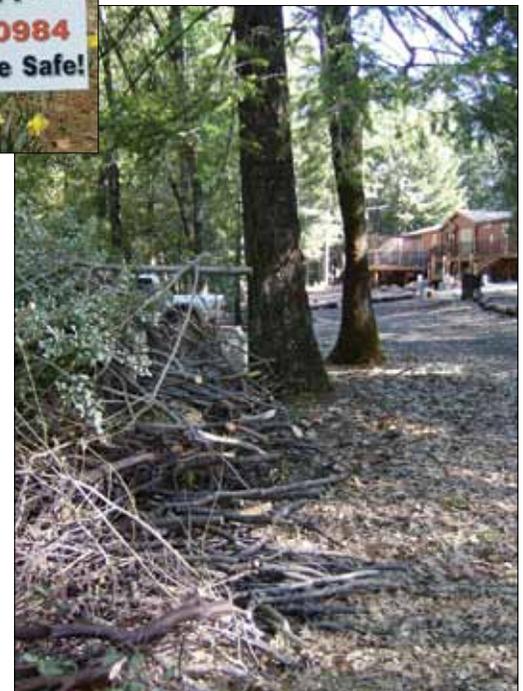
For more information contact: Warren@RPMhandrake.com or call 530-877-5020.

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Forbestown Store for using a SHARES card
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To sponsor the next newsletter, call 877-0984.

Paradise Fire Safe Council:
Congratulations on the six "neighborhood
evacuation meetings" held in Paradise.



Lower Pentz Road Fire Safe Council: Thank you for
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Fire Safe Activities Around Butte County

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and Butte County
Public Works:** Thank
you for making
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Yankee Hill Fire Safe Council: Great job
providing Concow students with "Once
Upon a Wildfire" children's storybooks.



**Forest Ranch Fire Safe Council and
Cal-Fire Butte County:** Excellent work to make Highway
32 and Crown Point Road safe for evacuation.





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Wildfire Safety News: What you need to know about wildfire