

MARIPOSA COUNTY

CHIPPING PROGRAM

SNC# 070235

MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE

SAFE COUNCIL

-GRANT CLOSURE REPORT-

Sierra Nevada Conservancy-Progress Report

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2008 (Proposition 84)**

Grantee Name: Mariposa County Fire Safe Council

Project title: Mariposa County Chipping Program

SNC Reference Number: SNC # 070235

Submittal Date: 03-01-2012

Report Preparer: M. Atkinson

Phone #: 209-966-7700

___ **Check one:**

___ **6-Month Progress Report**

X **Final Report**

<p>6-Month Progress Reports should reflect the previous six months. Final Reports should reflect the entire grant period.</p>

A. Progress Report Summary:

During this reporting period the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council wrapped up the “Mariposa County Chipping Program”, which was originally awarded in 2008. In addition to wrapping up the on the ground work, the Fire Safe Council took the opportunity to follow up with Mariposa County residents that participated in the chipping program, gathering feedback, tracking tons per acre of hazardous fuels that were removed, and working on completing the necessary reporting as required.

B. Deliverables or Outcomes completed during this Reporting Period or Milestones Achieved:

The Chipping Program was promoted and discussed at the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council Board of Directors meetings, the Jerseydale Mariposa Pines Fire Safe Committee and the Midpines Advisory meetings that are held monthly. This gave the Council the opportunity to update the community on the status of the program, receive suggestions/input for the next phase of chipping (if awarded) and display pictures of the work that has been completed on this project. The Council was involved in the Mariposa County Fair where it was a complete success and team effort. The Council collaborated with CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, PG&E and the Mariposa County Fair Association in promoting the importance of fire safety and education, forest health, and prevention. The Council released press releases promoting the program and the services available. The Council also had the opportunity to do a small presentation to the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors in late 2011, where the current and future projects of the Council were outlined, including the Chipping Program and the deliverables that were achieved and was described as one of the most successful projects of the past year!

C. Challenges or Opportunities Encountered:

The Council did not experience any challenges during this reporting period.

D. Unanticipated Successes Achieved:

The Council was able to chip over 224 tons of hazardous fuels, which is a significant amount over what was originally anticipated. More and more residents “jumped” on board with the program, and cut and piled their Defensible Space hazardous fuels. For some it took some time and a number of months to complete their Defensible Space clearance and routes of ingress/egress, but they did it! Many of the residents were very thankful for the opportunity to participate in the program, as many of them are elderly and afraid to burn their piles of hazardous fuels.

The Council also did not anticipate other organizations to see what a great program this is, and go after starting one of their own. But, organizations such as Habitat for Humanity and the Yosemite Sequoia RCD (YSRCD) did just that. The YSRCD, received assistance from the Council in starting their own chipping program. The Council dedicated many hours to assist the YSRCD with the chipping program development, and are happy to report that with that team effort, the YSRCD has their own fully operating chipping program!

E. Compare Actual Costs to Budgeted Costs:

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	Budgeted SNC Dollars	Actual Dollars
Crew Payroll	55,534	9,570
Emergency Room Taxes	0	0
Workmens Compensation Insurance	11,748	2,233
Truck Rental (to haul chipper)	17,000	1,276
Equipment and Fuel	9,250	1,595
Mileage	6,575	856.57
Chipper Fuel	2,800	479.
Liability Insurance (project)	3,108	0
Liability Insurance (chipper)	350	0
MCFSC	9,422	1,309.69
GRAND TOTAL	115,787	17,319.26

Explanation:

TOTAL SPENT \$104,050.25

The Council will be returning funds in the amount of \$158.05 to the SNC.

F. Do you have information to report on the project-specific Performance Measures for your project?

The feedback received from the community members, both those who have participated in the program and those who simply heard or witnessed the program on the ground, has been overwhelming. The response from the community is how great of a program it is and how appreciative they are that the Council is helping those residents who want to help themselves, but do not have the capabilities to do so.... The chipping survey responses say a lot about the chipping program, as well as the letters of support, indicate that this program is well needed and a beyond positive asset to the County of Mariposa.

G. Were there any other relevant materials produced under the terms of this Agreement that are not a part of the budgeted deliverables? If so, please attach copies.

The Fire Safe Council maintained accurate records of the tons per acre of hazardous fuels removed, and residents who participated in the program. Photo monitoring of the project was key to accurately demonstrate the overall impact of the program. Large copies of the photos obtained through the program were developed and displayed at local meetings, educational events, such as the Mariposa County Fair and Safe at Home. The Council also created flyers promoting the chipping program, where the importance of fire safety and prevention, forest health, preparing and preventing the spread of wildland fire were all emphasized. (Please see the attached)

H. Next Steps:

The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council will be working on developing a **PowerPoint presentation** showing in depth details of the Defensible Space and fuels reduction work that has been completed in the last five years, where the chipping program will be one of the highlighted hazardous fuels reduction projects.

The Council will continue to **follow up with many of the residents** who participated in this program and promote the importance of sustaining the hazardous fuels reduction work that the Council assisted them with. Education is going to be a continued focus of the Council.

The Council will also be completing the **invoicing** required by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and will be submitting it by the end of March 2012.

Please Complete this Section for FINAL Report ONLY

Capacity-Building Results and Collaboration and Cooperation with Stakeholders:

In 2008, when the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council first brought this program to life, we had the fire agencies (CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, Mariposa County Fire, Bureau of Land Management) on board and we were all very excited for this new hazardous fuels reduction project to hit the ground. The local senior center was aware of the program and agreed to promote the program to the best of their ability. Approximately six months into the program, the Fire Safe Council had not only the fire agencies and senior center on board, but the Mariposa County Sheriff's Department, Habitat for Humanity, local fire stations, Mariposa County Road Department, Mariposa County Social Services, Adult Protective Services, In Home Supportive Services had partnered with us in promoting the program and assisting where needed. They all agreed to refer "at-risk" (elderly, disabled, deployed residents) to the Council immediately after recognizing the need for help with Defensible Space clearance or hazardous fuels reduction along routes of ingress/egress. This program allowed for incredible partnerships to be formed and demonstrated to the people of Mariposa, what working as a team is all about! With the collaborative partnerships in place, this program was non-stop in assisting "at-risk" residents (when funding allowed), with their hazardous fuels reduction.

The Fire Safe Council received phone calls, messages, e-mails, and on line apps, from residents in need of assistance and half the time they stated that they were referred to the Council by one of the aforementioned agencies or organizations. This was a "pat on the back" for the Council and mostly for the chipping/brushing crew that worked so hard on removing the fuels and educating the residents on fire safety and prevention. One of the main responsibilities of the chipping/brushing crew was to educate residents to the best of their ability and emphasize the importance and dire need for them to sustain their defensible space and routes of ingress/egress. The crew explained to the residents that it was great that we were able to help them out with the removal of hazardous fuels this year, but that overall it is their responsibility to keep their Defensible Space cleared to prevent the spread of wildland fire and promote forest health.

The Council continued to assist the residents in every aspect needed. The Council hired new office staff to assist in the scheduling of the chipping/brushing crew and assist the residents with any questions or concerns that they had. This proved helpful and it was apparent that the people of the community appreciated the staffing of the office and the availability of someone to answer the ever important questions of the program and wildland fire prevention in general. The Council will continue to seek funding to keep the office staffed regularly. The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council Board of Directors has added a new group of volunteers from a wide range of areas, from bank manager to a retired fire captain, to an Assistant Fire Chief. The knowledge of members on the Board has always been ones to be proud of, and they continue to step up and support the Council at all times!

Please see below for detailed information on the final project outcome:

- Total Tons Per Acre Chipped = 224+
- Total Acres Treated = 134
- Total Number of Resident Assisted through this grant = 500+
- Total Number of Homes Protected 480+
- Total Amount of In Kind Contributions, including landowner assistance and Title III funding = \$120,600.00
- Collaborative Partners involved in the implementation of this project: Please See Below:
 - Mariposa County Road Department
 - Mariposa County Habitat for Humanity
 - Mariposa County Board of Directors
 - Mariposa County Sheriff's Dept.
 - Mariposa County Human Services Department
 - Mariposa County Adult Protective Services and In Home Supportive Services
 - CAL FIRE
 - US Forest Service
 - Mariposa County Fire
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Mariposa County Fair Association

Deliverables:

The timelines had to be amended due to the “state budget freeze” that delayed much of the funding and timelines originally outlined. All of the deliverables were completed for this project, and most have been described in detail in this report. One deliverable not addressed elsewhere in this report is “Conduct Project Tour for Interested Stakeholders” The county size and distances between communities serviced were too great for a grand tour. The tour portion was done by community area. This allowed more involvement by stakeholders and participants thus generating more publicity and participation by residents. Tours were conducted in the following communities as each are was completed:

- Bootjack
- Lush Meadows
- Coulterville-Greeley
- Ponderosa Basin
- Jersey Dale
- Mormon Bar
- East Westfall
- Midpines

The Board of Directors did many more site visits to the project locations, where much of the photo monitoring occurred. This was not anticipated as one of the deliverables.

Progress reports were all turned in and remain on file in the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council office along with all correspondence involving this project.

Description of Project Accomplishments:

1. Most Significant Accomplishment

The most significant accomplishment achieved through this grant has to be the amount of “at-risk” residents that were assisted, totaling over 250. The fact that the Council was able to assist those Mariposa County residents who wanted to help themselves, but didn’t have the ability to do so, is a major accomplishment. The 224 tons per acre of hazardous fuels that were removed, better protecting the residents of Mariposa County from wildland fire is definitely an accomplishment that the Council is proud of.

2. WOW Factor

As aforementioned in section 1, the amount of hazardous fuels removed through chipping was beyond impressive, and was over the amount that was originally anticipated. The Council hired an amazing crew that not only went out and chipped the fuels, but took extreme pride in doing so, and truly cared for the residents and the community. The feedback from the community in response to the chipping/brushing crew was 99% positive. The people in the community were very thankful for the time that the brushing/chipping crew took to answer their much needed questions and concerns! The Council knew that the crew was great, but the response from the community was a WOW factor for sure!

3. Design and Implementation

When it comes to lessons learned, the Council had a few.... The scheduling of the residents in need of chipping started off kind of scattered, with the crew going from one community to another community 15 miles away in the same day. So, we soon caught on that the mileage costs were getting to be too high. Therefore, we started scheduling residents by community, and set up community chipping days. This made life so much easier on the office staff, the chipping/brushing crew, and the residents. It also gave the community members the opportunity to get together and work as a team.

4. Indirect Impact

Other organizations in collaboration with the Fire Safe Council began working on getting their own Hazardous Fuels Reduction programs in place. For example, the Habitat for Humanity is continuing efforts to develop a program similar to the

chipping program. The Yosemite Sequoia RCD (YSRCD) had contacted the Fire Safe Council in regards to starting their own Chipping Program. The Executive Director of the Fire Safe Council committed many hours in assisting the YSRCD in developing their chipping program and writing the grant to get it started. In 2010, the YSRCD received their first grant to start up the chipping program, where it is now a fully functioning successful program! The aforementioned details are indirect impacts that the Fire Safe Council never anticipated. Please see below for resources leveraged as a result of this project:

- Over \$200,000 has been awarded to the Yosemite Sequoia RCD, to implement their Defensible Space Chipping Program.
- Habitat for Humanity is actively seeking funding to implement a project similar to the “Mariposa County Defensible Space Assistance/Hazardous Fuels Chipping Program Phase I – Cut and Pile” Project.
- Community Fire Safe Council’s are actively involved in “community chipping days”, where the community comes together to reduce fuel loading in and around the community in which they live.
- The idea of the Community Fire Safe Council’s pursuing grants for Defensible Space Programs has been brought to the table a number of times, and in 2013-2014, the Council will make themselves available as fiscal sponsor in the event that the individual Fire Safe Committees seek grant funding for such programs.

5. Collaboration and Conflict Resolution

The Fire Safe Council had arrangements in place with the Sheriff’s Department, Senior Center, and Social Services that when there was ever a potential need for assistance with educating community members or assisting with hazardous fuels reduction, that they would call us and inform us that they had referred a resident to us for service, so when the call came in we would be better prepared to answer the questions or schedule them accordingly. This collaboration was very helpful to us and demonstrated a team effort that the Council is proud of. See below for detailed information on collaborative partnerships leveraged to complete this project:

- Mariposa County Board of Directors: supported the efforts of the MCFSC and the programs aimed towards assisting “at-risk” residents
- Mariposa County Sheriff’s Dept: Promoted the program and passed out the information on services available to local residents.
- Mariposa County Road Department: Assisted chipping crew with equipment needed where crews work may interfere with road access.(signs, trucks, personnel)
- Mariposa County Human Services Department: Promoted project, referred residents to the MCFSC.
- Mariposa County Adult Protective Services and In Home Supportive Services: Same as above.
- Mariposa County Habitat for Humanity: Promoted importance of project, and referrals for participants.

- CAL FIRE: Promoted Program; Supportive Staff
- US Forest Service: Promoted Program; Supportive Staff
- Mariposa County Fire: Promoted Program; Supportive Staff
- Bureau of Land Management: Promoted Program; Supportive Staff
- Mariposa County Fair Association: Assisted with the Mariposa County Fair events where the Defensible Space Programs were promoted and advertised.
- Mariposa Pines/Jerseydale Fire Safe Committee: Advertised Program; Neighbor to neighbor noticing of community chipping days.
- Mariposa County Fire Safe Council BOD

6. Capacity-Building

The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council first began operating in 1998, and 14 years later is still going strong with grant writing, grant management, project implementation and project management. The mission of the Fire Safe Council is to preserve Mariposa's natural and manmade resources by mobilizing all Mariposan's to make their homes, neighborhoods, and communities fire safe. The Council strives to educate the public on fire safety and prevention, maintaining forest health, and preventing the spread of wildland fire, through educational events, such as Team Teaching, Safe at Home, and the Mariposa County Fair.

The Fire Safe Council is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 7:45AM to 12PM, and many other hours by appointment. The office staff and members of the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council Board of Directors are always available through e-mail and phone messaging. Much of the correspondence between the Council and the community is done through the website (mariposafiresafe.org). All e-mails and phone messages are returned within 24 hours of initial correspondence.

The Board of Directors is actively involved in every aspect of the Council. In 2011, the founder of the Fire Safe Council, Jan Hamilton resigned as Chairperson due to medical reasons. Jan left big shoes to fill. Bob Bartholemew, a gentleman that Jan had been urging to join the Board of Directors for many years stepped up as chairperson and has been doing a tremendous job with leading the Fire Safe Council into great endeavors and new opportunities.

7. Challenges

In regards to external challenges, the funding was a big one. The "freezing" of funding early on in the grant, was frustrating to deal with, especially with so many residents signed up and ready for assistance. But, the Council dealt with it as best possible and made it through.

As far as internal challenges, the invoicing proved difficult at first, but with the assistance of our grant manager and SNC staff we worked through it and are completely on track with all invoicing and payment reporting.

8. Photographs

The Fire Safe Council focused on photo monitoring of the program and the process of the program as well. Photo monitoring included different hazardous fuels reduction projects and locations. Educational events that although not directly related to this project, occurred during project time period and shows the dedication of the MCFSC in educating residents on the importance of fire safety and prevention and forest health, while also completing on the ground work. Please see the attached photos for further details.

9. Post Grant Plans

The Fire Safe Council looks forward to continuing the education aspect, where the mission of the Fire Safe Council will be the main focus. The Council will implement the importance of sustainability and landowner responsibility when it comes to Defensible Space maintenance and fire safety measures.

The Fire Safe Council will continue to seek funding to assist “at-risk” residents with hazardous fuels reduction, promote forest and water health, and implement fire prevention activities as it relates to the mission of the Fire Safe Council.

The Fire Safe Council has received request from Mariposa County Fire and Cal Fire to try and continue the program as the wind and rain disaster of December 2010 and the extraordinary heavy snow in February of 2011 created a mass of downed fuel that have yet to be cleared.

10. Post Grant Contact

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council
Phone: 209-966-7700
Physical Address: 5075 Hwy 140 Suite C
Mailing Address: PO Box 1182
Mariposa, California 95338

Chairperson: Bob Bartholemew
E-mail: jab@sti.net

Additional Information:

The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council considers the “Mariposa County Chipping Program” to be one of the most successful programs in Mariposa County and the surrounding Counties as well. The in-kind contributions put forth by the residents time and material to cut and pile their hazardous fuels was significant and valued at an estimated \$90,000. Title III provided a significant amount of in kind as well, in

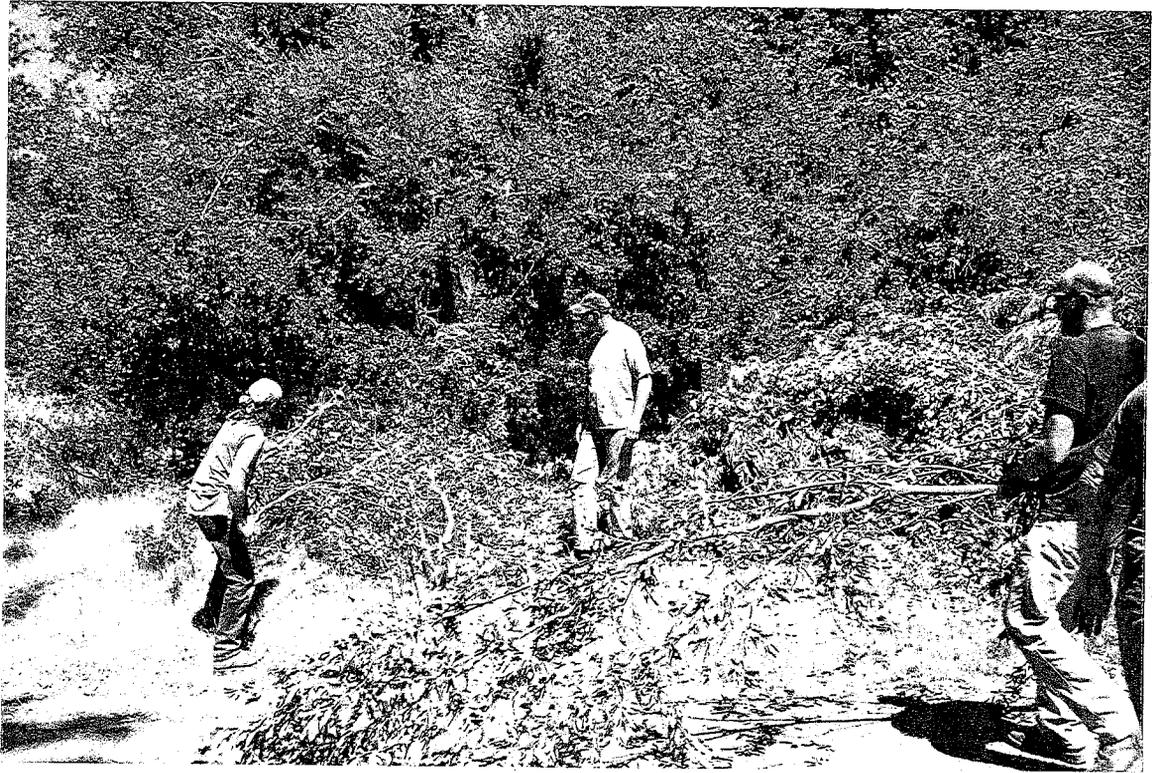
support of administrative support and education/outreach work that was completed through this grant.

Please see the attached chipping/brushing surveys for feedback on this program, the Council and the crew hired to complete the hazardous fuels reduction projects.

Note: Attached are details and photographs of education and outreach events, that although not directly related to this project, shows the dedication of the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council in educating the public and the youth of Mariposa County and surrounding areas, on the importance of fire safety/prevention and forest health, as previously mentioned.

Thank you to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for your continued support and dedication to the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council and the County of Mariposa!









**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

MADERA-MARIPOSA-MERCED UNIT

5366 Highway 49 North
Mariposa, California 95338
(209) 966-3622
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



January 16, 2012

California Fire Safety Council
502 West Route 66 Suite 17
Glendora, California 91740

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter lends support to and states the need for a continuing Fire Safe Council Vegetation Chipping Program for Mariposa County.

Mariposa County is extremely rural and located in the foothill environment of the central Sierra Nevada mountain range. Excluding federal lands that encompass the high country of Yosemite National Park and two adjoining national forests, the County vegetation models range from rolling grasslands to oak woodland to mixed conifer forests. Over the past century or more these three growth zones have experienced unusually heavy fuel loading due to land management practices of the era.

Through available grant funding, the Mariposa Fire Safe Council has maintained an active and effective fuel reduction program through use of a dedicated crew and a mechanical chipper. This program provides the only environmentally sensitive fuel reduction program available to private property owners who are physically impaired or financially disadvantaged.

Compound dangerous fuel loading with extensive dead and down fuels inflicted by severe winter storms in November and December 2010 and March and December 2011, it becomes obvious that the hazards are dramatically increasing rather than declining. It is imperative that the County maintains and possibly even increase its efforts in private property hazard fuel reduction. This chipping program fills a unique and vital niche that greatly benefits its target clientele as well as the County as a whole.

I wholeheartedly endorse and support continued funding of the Mariposa Fire Safe Council Vegetation Chipping Program.

Thank you,

NANCY B. KOERPERICH
Unit Chief
Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit

CONSERVATION IS WISE-KEEP CALIFORNIA GREEN AND GOLDEN

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONSERVE ENERGY. FOR TIPS AND INFORMATION, VISIT "FLEX YOUR POWER" AT WWW.CA.GOV.

MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jim Wilson
Fire Chief

P. O. Box 162
Mariposa, CA 95338
PHONE 209-966-4330 FAX 209-966-0252

Jim Middleton
Deputy Fire Chief

Everyone Goes Home

January 19, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mariposa County Fire Department supports the proposed efforts of the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council's projects of the Buckingham mountain environmental fuel break and the environmental report of the Midpines 312 acre preserve site.

The council has a proven track record of project management and timely completions of these type of projects. We feel that the projects would benefit the communities that they are located in from preventing a catastrophic wildland fire spread.



Jim Middleton
Deputy Fire Chief
Mariposa County Fire Department.



Habitat
for Humanity
of Mariposa County

5320 Hwy 49 No. Unit 7 • P.O. Box 1420
Mariposa, CA 95338 • (209) 966-7444

July 14, 2011

Mariposa Fire Safe Council
PO Box 1182
Mariposa CA 95338

Attn: Megan

Habitat for Humanity of Mariposa County (HFH) recently initiated a new program (A Brush with Kindness) to assist low income families with home maintenance problems which effect appearance, energy usage and safety. We have received numerous requests from home owners asking for assistance to meet the minimum Cal Fire regulations for clearing grass and brush around buildings. HFH currently does not have the resources to assist these families. After checking with other agencies, I discovered that The Mariposa Fire Safe Council was the only local organization offering these services.

I encourage you to continue your efforts to provide these services to the elderly and low income families. It should be noted that helping these families meet the Cal Fire requirements is also a benefit to all Mariposa for preventing or mitigating the possibility of "run away" fire storms. Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Don Giedt
Chairman, ABWK Project
Habitat for Humanity of Mariposa County

2009-2011 LE-100 WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT SURVEYS

(An event sponsored by the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council in conjunction with Mariposa County Fire, US Forest Service, CAL FIRE, and the Grizzlies Fire Department (ROP at Mariposa County High School)

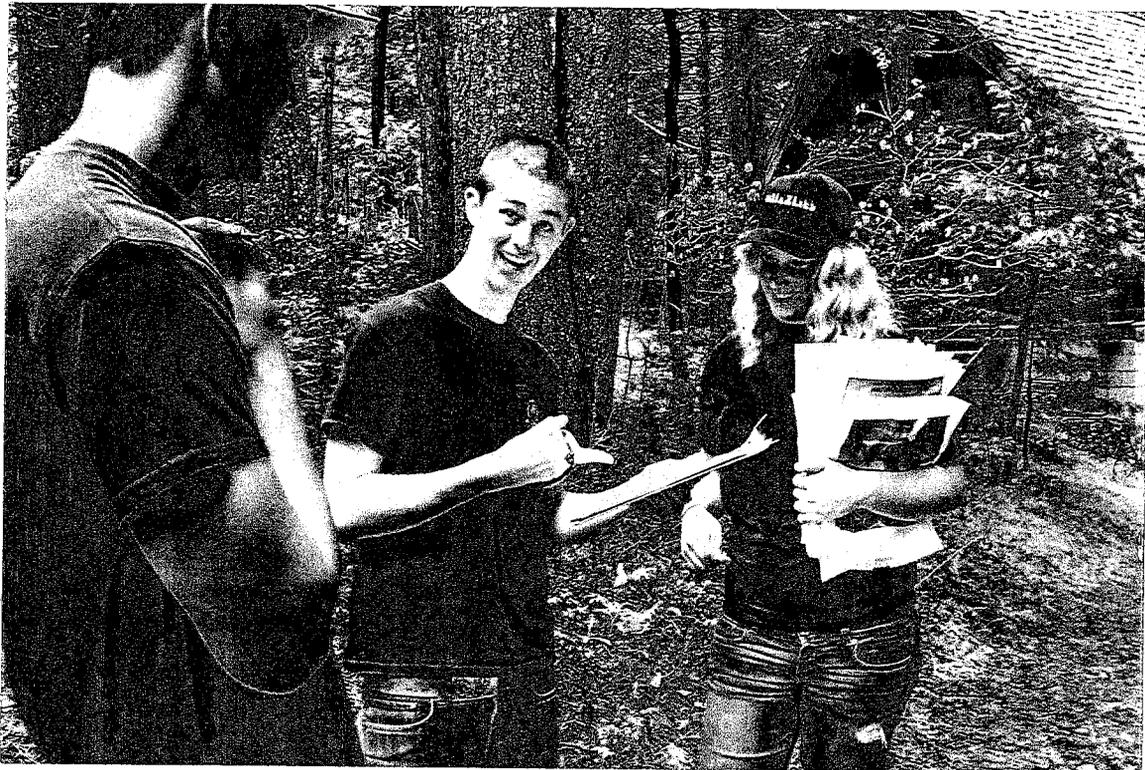
With this event, the highschool students enrolled in the GFD ROP program have the responsibility of completing LE-100 and Red Zone Inspections in assistance to the local fire agencies!



2009-2011 LE-100 WILDFIRE RISK ASSESSMENT SURVEYS

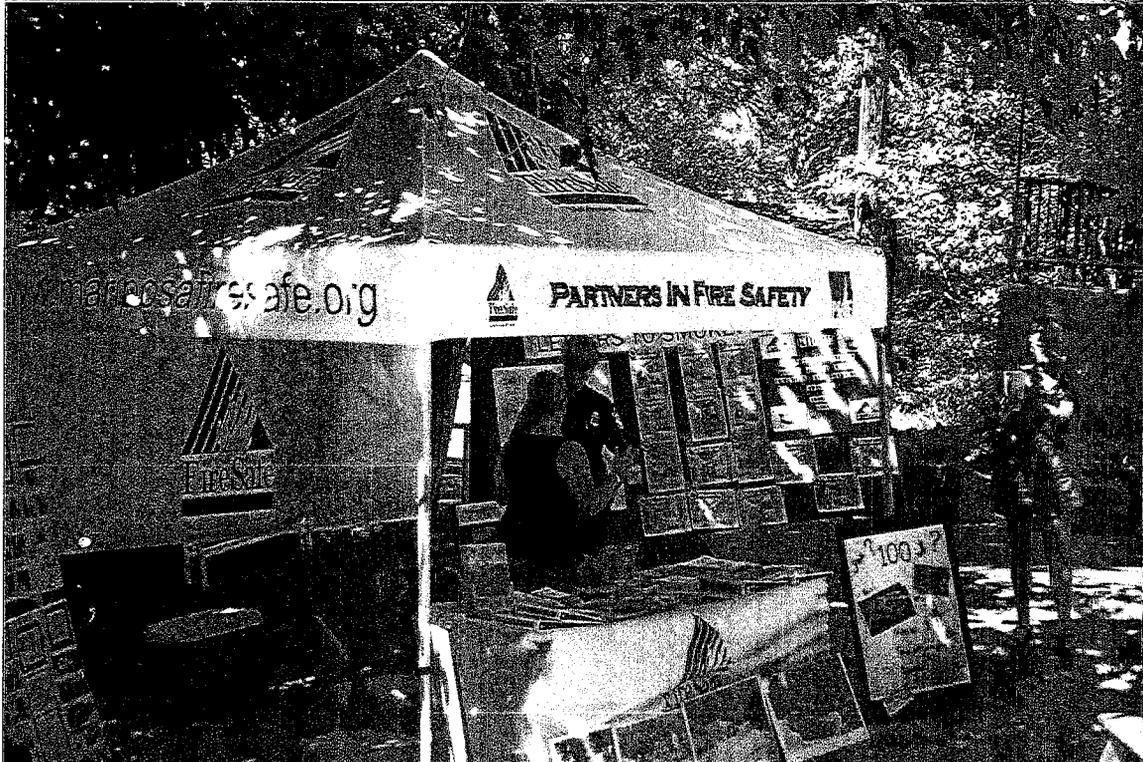
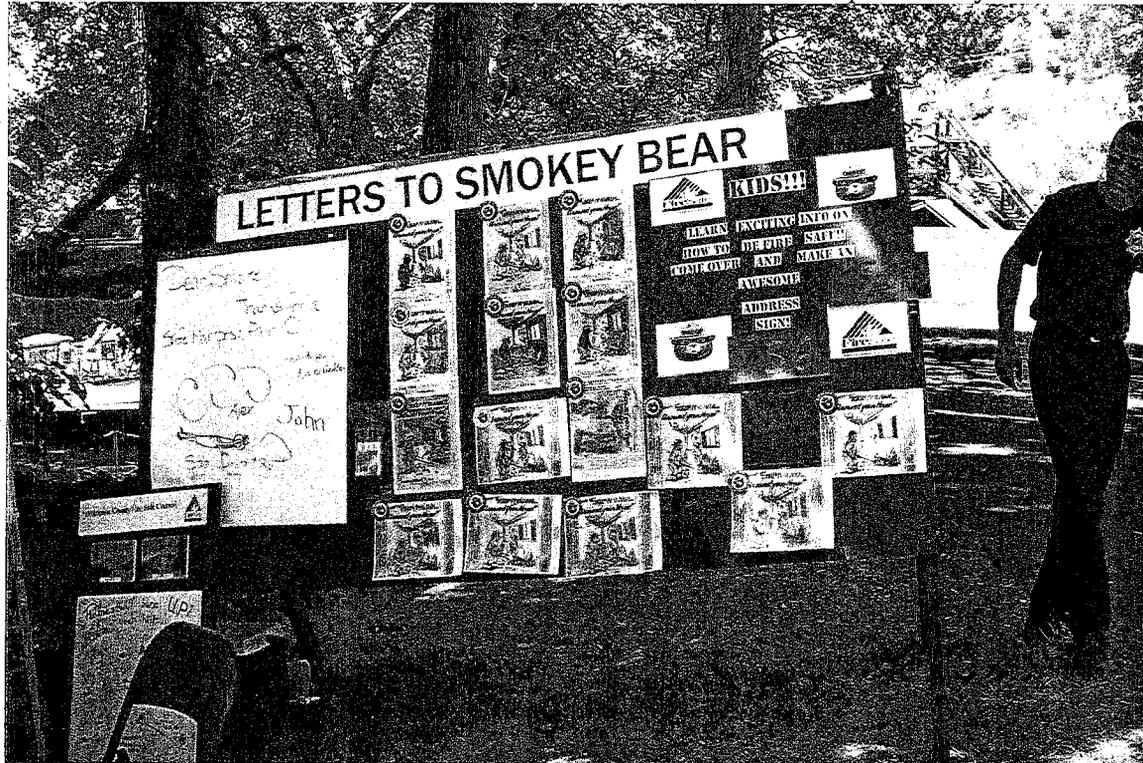
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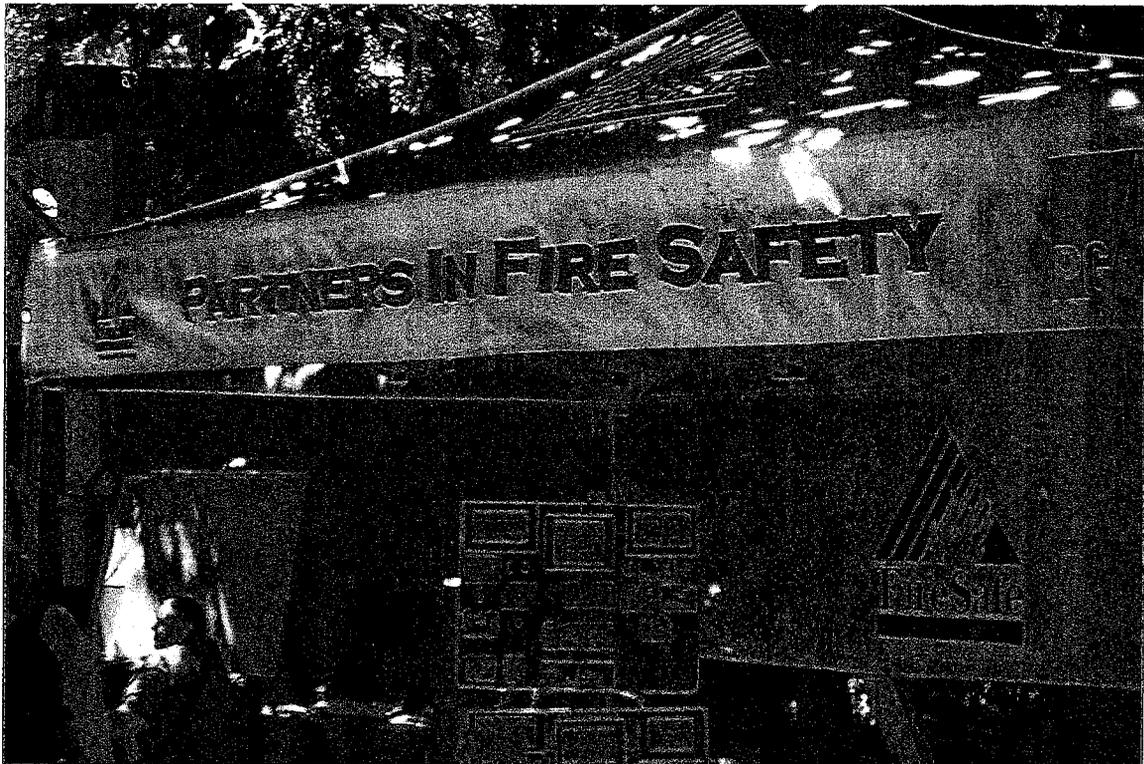
MARIPOSA COUNTY FAIR!

(A local and annual event that allows the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council to promote the importance of fire safety and prevention, forest health, and emergency procedures in the event of a Wildland Fire. The Council works in partners with CAL FIRE-MMU, US Forest Service, PG&E, and the Mariposa County Fair Association.



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2009 - 2011 TEAM TEACHING

(A collaborative event between CAL FIRE - MMU, US Forest Service, Mariposa County Fire, and the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council, where the importance of fire safety prevention and education is taught in a classroom setting to all Mariposa County Elementary School students between grades pre-school and fourth grade.



2011 Exploration Week

(A collaborative week long event that allowed the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council to work in conjunction with Mariposa County Fire, CAL FIRE -MMU, US Forest Service and the Mariposa County School District. Between the organizations and agencies that took part in this event, the middle school aged kids received in depth training on fire prevention, fire safety, reducing the threat of Wildland Fire, fire apparatus and emergency procedures.





Chipping Program Survey

Thank you for your participation in our chipping program. You can help us improve this community service by answering a few questions and mailing this survey back in the attached remittance envelope.

What was your overall experience with the chipping program?
 Excellent Okay Lacking (please include comment)

How would you rate the chipping crew?
 Excellent Okay Lacking (please include comment)

Was the program easy for you to use?
 Yes No

How did you hear about the chipping program?
 Newspaper Website Friend Other: _____

Did the Chipping Program help motivate you to clear your defensible space?
 Yes No

Do you feel that after assistance from the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council that you are better prepared for fire season?
 Yes No

Additional Comments:

CREW WAS AWESOME.
They explained what they were going to do.
would love to have them again.

Name: Connie Dice

Address: 5837 Hwy. 140

City: MARIPOSA

Zip: 95338

Phone: 966-7685

peitodice@stn.net Email:

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council
Address: P.O. Box 1182, Mariposa, CA 95338
Located at Hwy 140 & 8th Street
Phone: 209-966-7700
Fax: 209-966-7767

www.mariposafiresafe.org

Chipper made possible by:





Chipping Program Survey

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Was the program easy for you to use?
 Yes No

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 Newspaper Website Friend Other: _____

Did the Chipping Program help motivate you to clear your defensible space?
 Yes No

Do you feel that after assistance from the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council that you are better prepared for fire season?
 Yes No

Additional Comments:

Absolutely wonderful job these young men do. They are very professional and work very hard. All work was very nice!

Name: _____
Address: **Lee Trevor** _____
City: **6047 Old Mill Rd.** _____ Zip: _____
Phone: **Mariposa, CA 95338-9678** _____ Email: **(209) 966-7223**
justlee@adl.com

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council
Address: P.O. Box 1182, Mariposa, CA 95338
Located at Hwy 140 & 8th Street
Phone: 209-966-7700
Fax: 209-966-7767



Chipping Program Survey

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What was your overall experience with the chipping program?

- Excellent Okay Lacking (please include comment)

How would you rate the chipping crew?

- Excellent Okay Lacking (please include comment)

THE CREW: SEAN RANKIN, RICK MESQUIRS & DEVON RANKIN
Was the program easy for you to use? WERE REALLY TOPNOTCH!!

- Yes No (THANK YOU FOR EMPLOYING SUCH TRUST-WORTHY, EXEMPLARY YOUNG MEN).

How did you hear about the chipping program?

- Newspaper Website Friend Other: _____

Did the Chipping Program help motivate you to clear your defensible space?

- Yes No I APPRECIATED HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS BY CREW, WHEN I ASKED - ALSO, THEIR COURTESY, PUNCTUALITY, & EXPERTISE WERE IMPRESSIVE.

Do you feel that after assistance from the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council that you are better prepared for fire season?

- Yes No

Additional Comments:

THIS BENEFICIAL PROGRAM IS GREATLY NEEDED IN OUR COMMUNITY. PLEASE CONTINUE FUNDING IT, & EMPLOYING WORTHY CREWS.

Name: SHIRLEY WINGO

Address: 5720 SILVA Rd - P.O. Box 1096

City: MARIPOSA, CA. Zip: 95338

Phone: (209) 966-4526 Email: _____

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council
Address: P.O. Box 1182, Mariposa, CA 95338
Located at Hwy 140 & 8th Street
Phone: 209-966-7700
Fax: 209-966-7767

www.mariposafiresafe.org

Chipper made possible by:





Chipping Program Survey

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 Excellent Okay Lacking (please include comment)

How would you rate the chipping crew?
 Excellent Okay Lacking (please include comment)

Was the program easy for you to use?
 Yes No

How did you hear about the chipping program?
 Newspaper Website Friend Other: CALLED THE COUNTY

Did the Chipping Program help motivate you to clear your defensible space?
 Yes No

Do you feel that after assistance from the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council that you are better prepared for fire season?
 Yes No

Additional Comments:

HOPEFULLY THE COUNTY WILL CONTINUE FUNDING THE OUTSTANDING PROGRAM.

Name: RICHARD FORREST
Address: 6843 DUBOIS RANCH RD.
City: GREENE HILL Zip: 95311
Phone: (209) 878-3326 Email:

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council
Address: P.O. Box 1182, Mariposa, CA 95338
Located at Hwy 140 & 8th Street
Phone: 209-966-7700
Fax: 209-966-7767

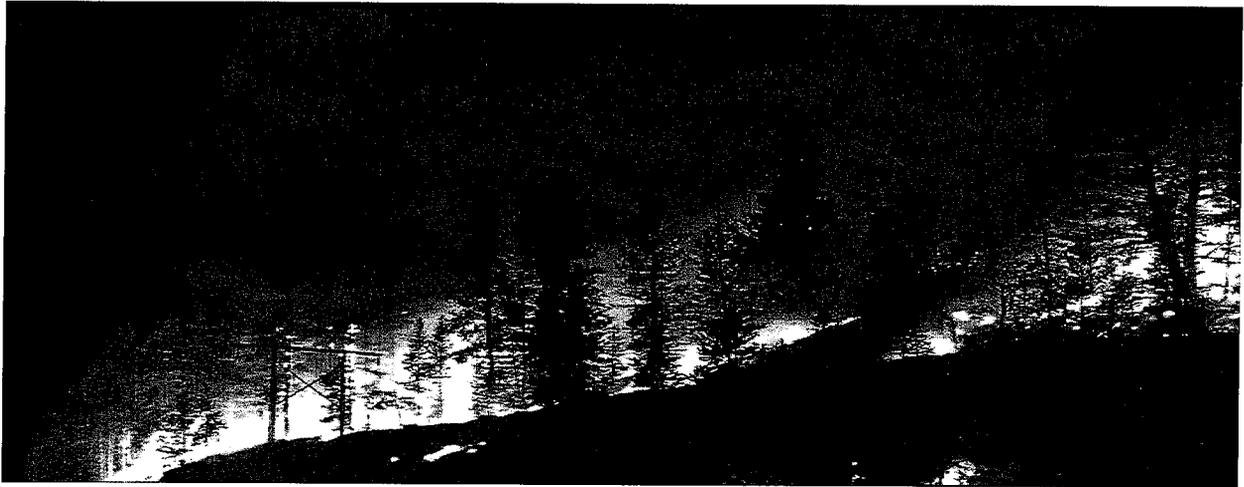
www.mariposafiresafe.org

Chipper made possible by: 

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Fire Season is here....

The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council can help you....



We can help you clear your Defensible Space (DS) of 100 ft.

Free brushing for those who qualify and all chipping of DS material is

FREE!



Call the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council

209-966-7700 or 209-966-7767

Contact via e-mail: meganr@sti.net

Funding provided by:



Mariposa County * Sierra Nevada Conservancy * USDA Forest Service * CA Fire Safe Council

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council is a non-profit organization and your tax deductible contribution is greatly appreciated!

Risk assessment completed



On Thursday May 19, the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council along with CAL FIRE, US Forest Service, Grizzly Fire Department and Mariposa County Fire completed the annual Wildfire Risk Assessment Survey in the community of Mariposa Pines. Each year, CAL FIRE completes hundreds, if not thousands of LE-100 inspections, but this one in particular is a collaborative effort between the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council, the fire agencies and the Grizzly Fire Department. Ninety-five percent of the homes in the Mariposa Pines area were inspected for compliance with PRC 4291.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL | CONTRIBUTED

First Person

Let's talk fire

CONTRIBUTED BY MEGAN ATKINSON, MARIPOSA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

(Q) We recently heard about a Strategic Fuel Treatment that the Council completed in the Ponderosa Basin area. We know that it is related to wildland fire, but what exactly is a Strategic Fuel Treatment/Break?

(A) A Strategic Fuel Treatment is a defensible location where the fuels have been modified, increasing the probability of success for fire suppression efforts. These treatments provide more fire protection and improves forest health. The treatments include opening the canopy, by hand clearing and tree thinning. The ground fuels are reduced by mechanical mastication. The masticator does not cut down to the soil, it leaves approximately six inches of ground fuels to prevent erosion and compaction of the soil, as opposed to tractor piling which is another method of fuel treatment. The treatments are most commonly found along ridgelines where fire control and suppression efforts are focused and placed in other strategic areas where in the event of a wildland fire, suppression efforts are increased.

The Mariposa County Fire Safe Council (MCSFC) received a grant in 2008 from the US Forest Service to complete a Strategic Fuel Break in the Ponderosa Basin area. The fuel break was completed in July 2009, and ties into an existing fuel break which was completed by CAL FIRE.

The MCFSC would like to help answer any questions that you may have in regards to fire prevention.

Let's talk fire

CONTRIBUTED BY MEGAN ATKINSON,
MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Wildland Fire. What comes to mind when you hear these two words? Some may think back to the Telegraph Fire of 2008, where over 30 residences were destroyed or the Timberlodge Fire of 1962, where four firefighters were killed, and two critically injured battling the blaze. Some of us may have seen the devastation first hand, watched it on television, listened to it on the radio or even sat with anticipation waiting to hear whether or not our home survived. Whatever your personal experience, it is clear that few things are as terrifying as a wildland fire. In the year 1999, in an effort to reduce the catastrophic loss caused by these fires, a collaborative partnership was developed, called SWIFT.

The southwest facing brush-covered slopes that interface with communities at the upper elevations, gave the Southwest Interface Project it's name. From the project name came what is now a common identifier for the collaborative partnership working on wildfire protection in the area. The SouthWest InterFace Team or SWIFT.

SWIFT was formed in March of 1999, and has been working with agencies, fire safe councils, and others, that include local residents, for over a decade in southern Tuolumne and northern Mariposa Counties. The effort is aimed at fire prevention, being prepared, and coordinating with all partners in working to mitigate the wildfire problems within a 132,000 acre project area. The area includes residents in Groveland, Big Oak Flat, Buck Meadows, Greeley Hill, Coulterville, Moccasin, Pine Mountain Lake, Smith Station Road, Second Garrotte, Hells Hollow, Yosemite Vista, Big Creek Shaft, Yosemite Acres, and other residential areas.

Over 15,500 acres of direct fuel treatment within what is called the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) has been completed. The project objective: "Cooperatively planning and implementing a strategic fire defense system designed to reduce the loss of life, property, and natural resources in southern Tuolumne and northern Mariposa County wildland urban interface".

The project has received both state and national attention. The Tuolumne and Mariposa County Board of Supervisors have adopted resolutions supporting the project. The two Fire Safe Councils (Mariposa County FSC and the Yosemite Foothills FSC) have done commendable work within the project area supporting hazard reduction treatments. They are key players on the team. All efforts have been based on a great deal of cooperation and coordination, to insure the best return for the dollars spent. Five specific wildfire incidents have been beneficially altered based on fire defense systems implemented by SWIFT. These success cases prove the field effort can have a favorable outcome.

A great deal of work has been done, but much more still needs to be done. The fuel treatment investments during the initial years of effort need maintenance. It's an on-going process that takes dollars and commitment; all residents meeting the requirements of the "defensible space" regulations around their own homes is a critical part of the overall wildfire protection objective.

If you would like more information on fire prevention, please contact the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council at 966-7700 or visit mariposa-firesafe.org.

MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

A California Non-Profit
Public Benefit Corporation

Founded January 1998

**THE MISSION OF THE MARIPOSA
COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL IS TO
PRESERVE MARIPOSA COUNTY'S
NATURAL AND MANMADE RESOURCES
BY MOBILIZING ALL MARIPOSANS TO
MAKE THEIR HOMES, NEIGHBORHOODS
AND COMMUNITIES FIRE SAFE.**



**We may not be able to stop wildland fires
from occurring,** but we can make a difference
in whether or not our homes will survive a wild-
fire.

**It is unreasonable to expect others to
risk their lives** trying to protect our property if
we have done nothing to make it safer for them
to do so.

**Preparation must begin long before smoke
appears on the horizon.**

Visit www.mariposafiresafe.org for more
information, and the location of a
Fire Safe Council near you.

*Become a partner in
your local Fire Safe Council.*

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL partners include:

- ▲ Bureau of Land Management
- ▲ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection,
Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit
- ▲ U.S.D.A. Forest Service,
Sierra and Stanislaus National Forests
- ▲ California Fire Safe Council
- ▲ Grizzlies Fire Department - ROP* Fire Technology
Class of Mariposa County High School
- ▲ Mariposa County Fire Department
- ▲ Mariposa County Resource
Conservation District
- ▲ Mariposa Public Utility District
Fire Department
- ▲ National Park Service,
Yosemite National Park
- ▲ Sierra Foothills Conservancy
- ▲ Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- ▲ Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
- ▲ South West InterFace Team (SWIFT)
- ▲ Eastern Madera Fire Safe Council
- ▲ U.S.D.A. Natural Resources
Conservation Service
- ▲ Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation
and Development Area
* Regional Occupation Program



Mariposa County

*Working
Together
to Reduce
the Threat
of Wildfires*

Serving all of Mariposa County

P.O. Box 1182

Mariposa, CA 95338
(209) 966-7700

www.mariposafiresafe.org

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Fire is a fact of life in California.

Wildland ecosystems are fire dependent, and need fire to survive.

However, homes and communities in the wildland-urban interface may be surrounded by woods, dense brush and combustible vegetation that fuels wildfires. This increases the risk of serious loss of human life, homes and assets, and natural resources.

During a wildfire, protecting human life and property takes priority over saving valuable forests, watersheds, and wildlife habitats. Homes may be saved, but the beautiful environment surrounding them is often lost.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

You, Me, All of Us

Large fires threaten thousands of homes all across the West every summer. Wildfires can quickly overwhelm firefighters' ability to protect individual homes, so the burden must fall elsewhere.

There are not enough fire engines available to put one beside every home that is at risk during a wildfire.

We must make sure our homes and communities can survive! We must participate in the solution.

WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Create and Maintain a Defensible Space of 100 feet around your home. Remove all flammable vegetation within 30 feet immediately surrounding your home; then create a reduced fuel zone in the remaining 70 feet. By reducing ladder fuels and removal of dead fuels (branches, leaves).

WHO CAN HELP?

You and I, together with...

FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

Fire Safe Councils are made up of community members who work together to reduce vulnerability to the threat of wildfire through activities such as:

- ▲ Increasing awareness on the importance of **DEFENSIBLE SPACE** clearance, fuel reduction on routes of ingress/egress, and proper maintenance of your **DEFENSIBLE SPACE**.
- ▲ Identifying community-wide fire safety needs- such as education and outreach for the youth of Mariposa County.
- ▲ Obtaining grant funding to carry out large projects such as: strategic fuel treatment projects. Neighborhood chipping programs to reduce the amount of flammable vegetation around homes and neighborhoods, and senior and low income assistance programs to create **DEFENSIBLE SPACE** for those unable to do it for themselves.

WHAT'S THE PAYOFF?

- ▲ Smaller, less damaging wildfires
 - ▲ Fewer homes destroyed
 - ▲ Reduced fire suppression and post-fire rehabilitation costs (large fires cost millions of dollars and impact local, state and federal budgets, and are ultimately paid for with your tax dollars)
 - ▲ Fewer insurance claims (increased chances that homes in the community will continue to be insurable, and at affordable rates)
 - ▲ Decreased environmental damage
 - ▲ Cleaner Air (less smoke)
 - ▲ Cleaner water (less soil erosion into rivers, lakes and reservoirs)
 - ▲ Less wildlife habitat destruction
 - ▲ Peace of mind
- THE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL GOAL IS SIMPLE:**
- REDUCE THE FUEL**
- The less there is to burn around homes and communities, the quicker a wildfire can be stopped.

ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMERCE, TRADE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION
RANKING MEMBER

COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY,
AND THE INTERNET

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0519
(202) 225-4540
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<http://www.radanovich.house.gov>



U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0519

GEORGE RADANOVICH

19TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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FRESNO, CA 93720
(559) 449-2490
FAX: (559) 449-2499

3509 COFFEE ROAD, SUITE D3
MODESTO, CA 95355
(209) 579-5458
FAX: (209) 579-5028

COMMENT LINE
(202) 478-5389

April 16, 2009

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council
Post Office Box 1182
Mariposa, CA 95338

Dear Mariposa County Fire Safe Council:

It is my sincere pleasure to congratulate you upon being recognized at the Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce's 7th Annual Clubs and Organization Dinner.

This great honor is a tribute both to your past accomplishments and to the potential identified in you for even greater things in the future. I applaud you for your achievements and I am confident that you will continue to be a source of inspiration to members of our community.

Congratulations again. Please accept my best wishes for every continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Radanovich".

George Radanovich
Member of Congress

ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMERCE, TRADE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION

ENVIRONMENT AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
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COMMENT LINE
(202) 478-5389

October 25, 2008

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council

It is with tremendous pleasure that I extend my warmest and most sincere congratulations to you for Outstanding Public Service to the Community of Mariposa County throughout the year and for Commendable Services performed related to the Telegraph Fire, during the summer of 2008.

Through your hard work and dedication, you have achieved greatly. The community of Mariposa has good reason to express their appreciation of you and for your accomplishments, and you have good reason to take pride as well.

Congratulations again and please accept my best wishes for every continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Radanovich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "R".

George Radanovich
Member of Congress