

## California Fire Safe Council

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# Fire Line

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## Carbon Canyon: Fire SAFE and WISE!

Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council was recognized this year as a FIREWISE Community. Since the Council's formation in 2001, membership has doubled! Council members work together identifying hazards in the communities of Chino Hills and Brea.

The Council partners with city, state and federal agencies on education and fuels projects, recently working to remove 25 acres of the area's most aggressive invasive species, Arundo



Donex, a bamboo relative threatening the watershed and creating a fire hazard.

Carbon Canyon Fire Safe Council

expects their recognition as a FIREWISE Community will bolster their existing partnerships and foster even more positive working relationships in the future.

Congratulations Carbon Canyon!

## Disaster Prep—What's Next?

Bring your Fire Safe Council members and interested homeowners to our latest FREE workshop series, "Disaster Prep—What's Next?" The four workshop series is sponsored by Farmers Insurance Group.

A multi-hazard panel will feature speakers from California Emergency Management Agency and California Earthquake Authority during the morning session. Roll up your sleeves during the afternoon session and discuss local emergency preparedness issues and network with the other area council members in attendance.

Register at [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org) for one of the following dates:

- Redding—Wednesday, July 7, 2010 Keynote Speaker: Pat Durland, Wildland Fire and Community Assistance Consultant
- Ventura—Wednesday, August 4, 2010 Keynote Speaker: Pat Durland
- South Lake Tahoe—Wednesday, September 1, 2010 Keynote speaker: Darcie Carpenter, PhD, Chair of Emergency Management Community Council for South Lake Tahoe
- Ontario—Wednesday, September 15, 2010 Keynote Speaker: TBA



## From the Desk of Bruce Turbeville

Every year it seems, we hear that this will be a terrible fire season. Some years there is drought and fuels moistures are down, creating a fire threat. Some years there is plenty of rain and flashy fuels have built up, creating a fire threat. This year we are facing the latter, and we will have our hands full taking care of the light, flashy fuels.

For those of you who have created defensible space and other fuels treatment projects that may now have a build-up of grasses and annual plants, I encourage you to maintain your work in such a way that you are reducing fire risk to yourselves, to property, and to firefighters. Statistically speaking, fast-moving fires in light, flashy fuels are the most deadly to firefighters. Let's watch out for their safety and take responsibility for our own.

Stay Fire Safe!

*Bruce*

### Are You in the e-Loop?

Get regular updates on Fire Safe Council news and events by signing up for our e-newsletter! Recent postings:

- Our annual report
- The 2010 California Fire Plan
- Invitations to local and regional Fire Safe events
- Job postings

To get the most current FSC news, go to: [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org) and **subscribe** in the lower right corner of the home page.

## 2011 Grants Clearinghouse Decisions Announced

Thank you for participating in the 2011 Grants Clearinghouse cycle. We received 316 grant proposals requesting a total of \$40 million. The preliminary decisions have targeted 72 projects totaling \$7.2 million for potential funding. For a full list of funded projects and grant amounts, please visit [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org).

You may request feedback from the California Fire Safe Council. Please call the grant manager that covers your project area. For a list of grant manager contact information, please visit [www.grants.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.grants.firesafecouncil.org) and click on the Resource Center. Open the link titled "How to Contact a Grant Manager."

Thank you for submitting grant proposals! We are looking forward to working with you to make California more fire safe. If you have any questions, please contact the Clearinghouse at (800) FS CALIF (372-2543) or [grants@firesafecouncil.org](mailto:grants@firesafecouncil.org).

*Correction from March 2010 story regarding Fire! Fire! Education: Pine Summit Christian Camp is in San Bernardino County, not Los Angeles County.*

## CFSC Board Welcomes New Members

This year, the CFSC board has benefitted from the addition of three new members. Hailing from Nevada County, retired State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan and former US Forest Service Fire Scientist and Forest Ecologist Jo Ann Fites-Kaufman, PhD have both joined our team, as has Butte County-based Pacific Gas and Electric employee Niel Fischer. Ms. Dargan is currently a fire education and prevention instructor through the UC Cooperative Extension system. Dr. Fites-Kaufman serves as both a fire science and forest ecology consultant and a high school teacher. Mr. Fischer is a Registered Professional Forester and previously practiced law in California.

We regretfully accepted resignations from Tracy Katelman, Ken Blonski, and Cheryl Miller who have all been very active, highly respected long-tenured board members. We wish them luck in the new opportunities they will be taking on, and are grateful they are all willing to stay active with CFSC. We will still benefit from their enthusiastic technical support, as the three will be founding members of our new Advisory Council along with Council chair Bruce Turbeville and another new addition to CFSC, Carol Rice. Ms. Rice is a fire management consultant.

The next meeting of this new board line-up is Tuesday, August 31 in South Lake Tahoe. Details will be posted soon at [www.firesafecouncil.org](http://www.firesafecouncil.org).

## Councils in the News: Mt. Shasta Area

In January, the Mt. Shasta area was pummeled by what is being referred to as “the storm of the century.” The recession is hitting that area hard, and residents were reeling from the financial impacts of cleaning up the worst storm damage trees in Mt. Shasta City had suffered. Yet the people of Mt. Shasta are a hardy folk, and they faced their situation with aplomb.

Mt. Shasta Area Fire Safe Council member Dale Nova convinced Mt. Shasta City to open an emergency greenwaste processing facility *at no charge* to residents, turning tons of storm damage debris into electric power at Roseburg Forest Products’ power plant. But getting the greenwaste to the facility was no small feat. It required the partnership of both the Mt. Shasta Area and Siskiyou County Fire Safe Councils with city and county authorities and CAL FIRE. It was a long, tough job.

Mt. Shasta Fire Department’s volunteers and Explorer firefighters-in-training spent hours—both day and night—wielding chainsaws to perform rescues and open evacuation routes. Mt. Shasta High School’s varsity and junior varsity football teams stepped in, assisting with the smooth operations of the facility and helping residents unload their material.

What started as a declared federal disaster has morphed into a boon for the community, creating employment and bringing neighbors together to perform a job very well done. All because Fire Safe Council members had ideas how to make lemonade from some very heavy lemons!



*Reprinted with permission from Skye Kinkade*

Area resident Bob Ferraris unloads limbs at the green waste processing facility.



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## Fire Safe Project is a SNAP in Gilroy



While many chipping programs require homeowners to clear the brush around their properties themselves, Santa Clara County FSC's Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP) provides brush clearing and chipping around homes of seniors or disabled residents who cannot afford to have the clearing done themselves. With collaboration from the Loma Preita Resource Conservation District, SCFSC met three residents who needed help to clear vegetation in and alongside an overgrown seasonal creek in Gilroy. During the dry season, the overgrown trees and grass posed a wildfire safety threat to several nearby homes.

To meet environmental compliance requirements for this kind of specialized work, SCFSC applied for a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game. Once approved, the contractor cleared and chipped the approved hazardous fuel surrounding the creek. "Our SNAP Program provides much needed assistance to those who need the most help clearing Defensible Space," says SCFSC President Jerry Serpa. Visit SCFSC's website: [www.sccfiresafe.org](http://www.sccfiresafe.org) to learn more.