

FIRE SAFE COUNCILS

www.firesafecouncil.org.

Battalion 1

There are two active Fire Safe Councils: The Janesville Fire Safe Council and the Lassen County Fire Safe Council. Both of these councils are working on fuel reduction projects, education and outreach to the community. In 1997, the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD), Janesville Fire Protection District and Cal Fire applied for a Forest Stewardship Grant for the development of a fire hazard reduction and forest health project in and around the community of Janesville, California. The grant was approved and shortly thereafter, an advisory group made up of the HLVRCD, Janesville FPD, Cal Fire, Lassen County Sheriffs Office, Lassen National Forest, Plumas National Forest, and homeowners from the community formed a Fire Safe Council for this project.

The Council has taken the initiative to identify many potential projects for the Janesville area. These projects fit in to the Lassen County Fire Safe Council's project plan.

The Lassen County Fire Safe Council was formally developed during 2001-2002. The council assisted Lassen County and their consultant in the development of the Lassen County Fire Safe Plan. This plan is being funded by a grant from the National Fire Plan Grant and was completed in January 2004.

This fire plan identifies treatment areas in close proximity to twenty-two of the communities within Lassen County. The plan further identifies defensible measures that could improve the survivability of one's home or business in the various fuel types located within the Lassen Modoc Plumas Unit.

<http://www.lassenfiresafecouncil.org/>

Battalion 2

There is three active Fire Safe Councils: The Lassen County Fire Safe Council that was discussed above, the Almanor Fire Safe Council and the Plumas County Fire Safe Council. In November of 2000, the Almanor Basin Fire Safe Council was formed to deal with wildfire prevention and loss mitigation issues in the western portion of Battalion 2. This unincorporated group is actually an adjunct to the formal Plumas County Fire Safe Council, and focuses on approximately 600 square miles of public and private lands in northern Plumas County, western Lassen County and very small segments of Tehama and Shasta Counties. Principal stakeholders participating in the group include Cal Fire, USFS, National Park Service, local fire protection districts, timber industry and the general public.

<http://plumasfiresafe.org/>

Battalion 3

There are three Fire Safe Councils in the operating area of Battalion 3 the Modoc County Fire Safe Council, the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, and the Day Lassen Bench Fire Safe Council. Cal Fire personnel attend these council meetings and are active in assisting with the decision processes. Projects are being developed to create "fire safe" communities within this Battalion.

The Day Lassen Bench Fire Safe Council was formed in the summer of 2001. Cal Fire, The Bureau of Land Management and the Lassen National Forest developed this Council in conjunction with the grant application to the National Fire Plan. This council's area consists of Day Bench and Day Road area. The Day Road Community extends through Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, and Siskiyou Counties.

Day Road is administered by two Cal Fire administrative Units, The Shasta-Trinity Unit (SHU) and the Lassen-Modoc Unit (LMU). The east side of Day Road is in battalion 3 of LMU while the west side is Battalion 1 of SHU. The Day road area is within the Northwest Lassen Fire Protection District (LMU) as well as the McArthur Fire Protection District (SHU). This plan was developed to streamline any suppression effort in the Day Road area no matter the location of the incident origin.

CAL FIRE has primary suppression responsibility and authority for all State Responsibility Area lands (SRA) located in the Day Road area as well as all other state and federal lands within Cal Fire's Direct Protection Area (DPA) in that area. Local fire districts have statutory authority for all non-wild fire incidents and structure protection within their jurisdictions.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Fire fighter and public safety.
2. Orderly civilian evacuations or sheltering in place until the threat is mitigated.
3. A coordinated response utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS) establishing Unified Command when appropriate and establishing one central ordering point for all resources ordered for an incident.
4. For fires originating west of Day Road in SHU, keep the fire from crossing Day Road.
5. Keep the fire from spreading east to Widow Mountain and Big Valley Mountain.
6. Keep the fire south and west of the Whitehorse Mountains.
7. Keep the fire south of Modoc County Road 94.
8. Keep the fire north of State Highway 299.
9. Keep the fire east of the McArthur valley.
10. Protect structures located in the fire impact zone.
11. Establish perimeter control lines utilizing existing roadways and natural barriers where feasible and prudent.
12. Take aggressive action to stop fire spread utilizing engines, dozers, hand crews and fixed/rotary wing aircraft.

STAGING AREAS:

1. Oiler Staging: Located approximately 1 mile west of Day Road at the bottom of the Lassen Bench grade. Two turnout lanes are located off Highway 299. Oiler staging should be used by all resources arriving from the west.
2. Old Highway Staging: Located at the intersection of State Highway 299 and Old Highway Road approximately 1 mile east of Day Road. A large turnout is adjacent to Old Highway Road. Old Highway Staging should be used by all resources arriving from the east.

Every attempt will be made to provide a qualified Staging Area Manager at both staging areas in a timely manner. It is incumbent on all resources to contact the Incident Commander ***AS THEY APPROACH EITHER STAGING AREA*** to determine if they should stage or continue to the incident. Resources assigned to a staging area are on a 3-minute response timetable.

CONTACTS:

1. CHP – road closure
2. Lassen County Sheriff - evacuation
3. Modoc County Sheriff - evacuation
4. Cal Trans – traffic control and advisory signs
5. USFS Agency Representative – possible unified command
6. BLM Resource Adviser – sensitive cultural and resource values
7. PG&E
8. Surprise Valley Electrification Corporation
9. Mayers Hospital

Battalion 4

There is one Fire Safe Council within the Battalion 4 operating area. The Modoc Fire Safe Council (MFSC) was formed in October, 2000, in response to an identified need by residents who live in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) to be informed of the risk of potentially serious wildfires with tragic results including loss of lives and property.

The MFSC is a voluntary organization formed to enhance the effectiveness of fire prevention and protection. The cooperative nature and educational and outreach efforts of this group are critical components for wildland pre-fire planning and mitigation.

The MFSC adopted the Charter and Bylaws in July, 2001 setting forth the mission and guiding principles of the Council, establishing a grass roots problem-solving body committed to the needs of the region. In 2007, the MFSC acquired its 501(c) (3) non-profit organization status. The geographic area of the Council covers Modoc County. In addition, it covers adjacent areas extending into Shasta, Siskiyou, and Lassen Counties. Included are areas within the Joint Fire Protection Districts of Adin, Tulelake, Cedarville and Eagleville.

The Modoc Fire Safe Council consists of representatives from the town of Alturas and rural communities of Modoc County, as well as non-voting representatives from County, State and Federal agencies. The Council works closely with the County Board of Supervisors in meetings and planning sessions as well as obtaining grant funding.

The MISSION of the Modoc Fire Safe Council is to bring together the resources of private and public sector elements and organizations in the interests of wildfire prevention and loss mitigation.

In 2005, the first Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was completed, and was approved by the Modoc County Board of Supervisors in 2006. The CWPP was the result of the collaborative efforts of the MFSC, BLM, USFS, North Cal-Neva R.C. & D, OES and CDF representatives, who organized a series of information gathering meetings for the residents, agency representatives and the general public. A series of meetings in a period of two months were held at four locations in the county: Surprise Valley, Alturas, Adin, and Lookout. The purpose of the meetings was to identify Values at Risk and Natural Resources and adjust Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) boundaries based on local knowledge. Comments were documented and maps showing the modified WUI areas were developed. In the spring of 2008, major revisions to the CWPP were completed and presented to the Modoc County Board of Supervisors for approval.