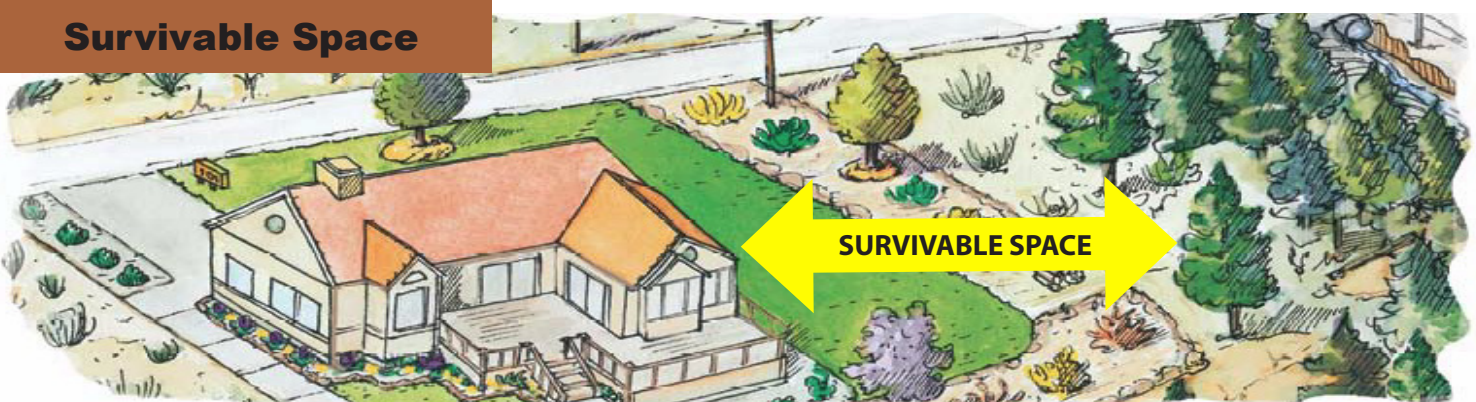


“Defensible space” is an area between a house and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been managed to reduce the wildfire threat and allow firefighters to safely defend the house.



“Survivable space” is similar in concept to defensible space, except it emphasizes the house surviving a wildfire without significant firefighter or homeowner assistance.

# Janesville Residents Opt for Forest Health and a Safer Community

# Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. Firewise Gazette

A publication of the  
Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.  
P.O. Box 816, Susanville, CA 96130

[www.lassenfiresafecouncil.org](http://www.lassenfiresafecouncil.org)

Last year many Janesville Residents participated in the Janesville Town Council/Lassen County Fire Safe Council Watershed Restoration and Fuel Treatment Project. Almost 700 acres were treated through forest thinning and brush mastication. And 200 homeowners received Risk Assessment in the Home Ignition Zone consultations that gave residents important information about what they could do to greatly reduce structural ignitability in the event of a wildfire within or near the community. This was the second partnered project between the Janesville Town Council and the Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC). The majority of the project was funded with US Forest Service dollars made available from grants through the California Fire Safe Council. Additional funding partners included the Lassen County Board of Supervisors, Lassen County Resource Advisory Committee and LCFSC. A



of over-stocked pine stands that exhibited all the classic

symptoms of a forest in distress: “dog hair pine” thickets, suppressed trees and pines that were dead or dying as a result of insect attacks. With the current phase of treatments completed, and the good moisture that has followed, residents

will see the forest bounce back and they will enjoy a community that is more fire resistant. But there is still a lot of work to do in Janesville; more residents signed up for treatments than funds could support. So what’s next?

Lassen County Resource Advisory Committee has allocated \$100,000 for treatments in 2012! With these new funds as leverage the Town Council, with assistance from LCFSC, intends to apply for additional funds to make a 2012 project even grander. Janesville residents that have already signed up can expect to be contacted early next year. If additional funds are acquired another sign-up will occur. In the mean time, if Janesville property owners have questions they can contact LCFSC by calling 530-251-5560 or they can email [mcdirden@hotmail.com](mailto:mcdirden@hotmail.com) .

**FREE TRAINING & BBQ!**  
- See details on page 4 -

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total of \$356,500 in cash and additional in-kind contributions were acquired to implement the project.

Much of the land that was treated consisted



Spring 2011



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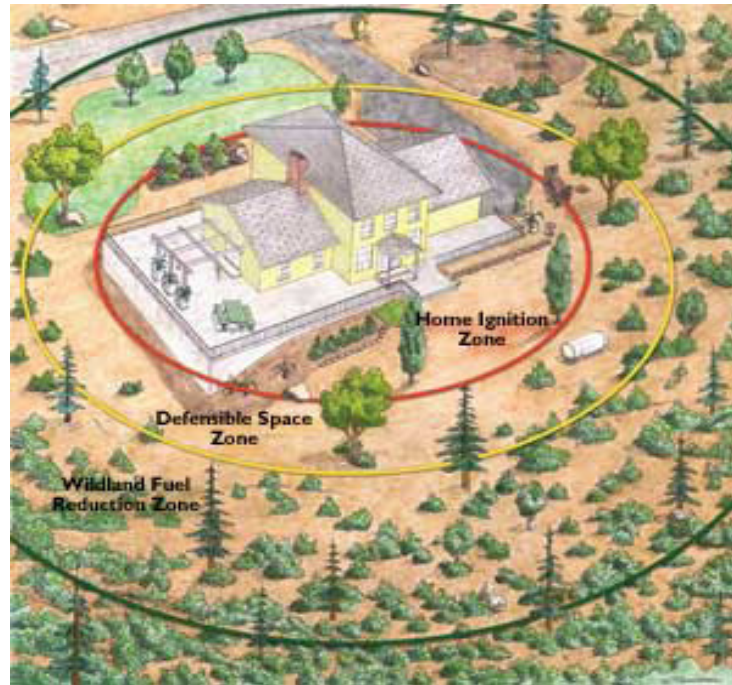


**Living With Fire**

## Susanville and Lake Forest Projects “Ramp Up” in 2011

Lassen County Fire Safe Council will be starting up their Susanville and Lake Forest Watershed Restoration and Fuel Treatment projects in late May with a scheduled completion of November 30, 2011. An initial sign-up was conducted in 2010 and interested participants can expect to be contacted soon to arrange for treatment and Risk Assessment in the Home Ignition Zone consultations. For the Susanville project targeted treatment areas run along the base of Diamond Mountain from Elysian Valley on the east to the end of Gold Run Road on the west. The Lake Forest project will encompass the entire subdivision.

If property owners have questions they can contact LCFSC by calling 530-251-5560 or they can email [mcdirden@hotmail.com](mailto:mcdirden@hotmail.com)



## Lassen County Fire Safe Council and Partners Undertake Update of the 2011 Community Wildfire Protection Plan/Work Plan

On February 1, 2011 the Lassen County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Working Group conducted its annual meeting to update their Annual Work Plan. Lassen County Supervisor Bob Pyle welcomed those in attendance and provided a brief presentation regarding what this process and document means to the Board of Supervisors and the people of Lassen County. In attendance were participants representing the Lassen, Plumas and Modoc National Forests, Bureau of Land Management Eagle Lake and Alturas Field Offices, CalFire, Lassen-Plumas-Modoc Unit, California Fire Safe Council, and representatives from private forest interests including Sierra Pacific Industries and private forester, Phil Nemir. The meeting is held to present planned projects relating to the reduction of hazardous fuel buildup, forest restoration, controlled burnings as well as landscape fuel treatments. Some projects are currently funded while others are seeking funding as well as other fuel reduction projects planned by private property owners. The group also updates the boundaries of the Lassen County Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and collects data for the Lassen County fuels Base Map.



This year the LCFSC Managing Director, Tom Esgate recommended the Firewise educational element of the LCFSC be added to the Work Plan. A presentation by the LCFSC Education Director, Dan Douglas was provided to those in attendance. A brochure describing the “Firewise in the Classroom” program was provided as well as a review of the “Lassen County and Northeastern California Firewise Landscape Plant Guide”. It was subsequently approved to add the LCFSC Firewise program to the Work Plan.



**“Firewise  
in the  
Classroom”**

**6th Grade  
Classroom  
Unit of Study**

The Lassen County Fire Safe Council has initiated a new wildfire educational program to help educate 6th grade students. The program builds awareness of what they can do to help their family succeed in putting together a family disaster/evacuation plan so they are better prepared should a wildland fire occur. In review of the current learning levels dedicated to teaching elementary age children about the dangers of wildland fires, we realized that there were no grade level classroom teaching programs available for these students. The Fire Safe Council studied a program which was developed by the Butte County Fire Safe Council and which was recommended by the Department of the Interior Inspector Generals Office. They realized that the program, with a few minor adjustments for our region, would be just the program for the families of Lassen County. The program name, “Firewise in the Classroom” was specifically chosen to indicate our commitment to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), Firewise Communities USA program.

The school chosen to present our first Firewise program was Richmond School. The plan was well received and supported by Principal Cindy Nellums. Sixth grade teacher Mrs. Sharon Cook was asked to present the program and is now in her second year presenting the curriculum. All of the materials and supplies needed for schools to present the program are supplied by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council from funds received through the

U.S. Department of Agriculture Title III funding requests from the Lassen County Board of Supervisors. One of the more important elements of the program is the Family Disaster Plan activity the students bring home to their families. This assignment consists of the student working along with family involvement in the development of their personal family disaster plans. The idea is for the family to have a plan in place for all family members to know their individual roles should the family become separated in the event of a wildland fire. The plan along with pertinent information which the family decides is important to them is them placed into a magnetic vinyl envelope and placed on their refrigerator for easy access should a disaster occur.

All school districts in Lassen County are interested as participants in this program with the Susanville School District, Shaffer School and Big Valley Intermediate School scheduled to participate this spring.

Our “Firewise in the Classroom” program is being studied by the University of California, Davis. They will be in attendance at one of our classroom presentation this spring. We hope we will receive favorable reviews and as a result the program would be recognized state wide as the recommended curriculum for presentation in rural classrooms throughout the State of California. Our Education Director, Dan Douglas will be presenting the program at the nationwide NFPA Backyards and Beyond conference in Denver in October this year in order to obtain national recognition of the program.

The recommended procedure in properly signing your home location is to first place the name of your street in a visible location removing enough of the surround vegetation, tree branches, etc. so the sign can be seen a minimum distance of 300 to 500 feet. If your street is connected to a major highway or thoroughfare the sight distance minimum should increase according to the approaching speed. Under the street name sign

you would place your house number sign. This sign must be printed on both sides so it can be seen from both directions and printed in a horizontal orientation (see example on page 5). If there is more than one home along the road there would be additional signs for each home with each sign "stacked" one below the other. The first home closest to the road intersection would place their house number sign on top and the next home up the road would place their house number below that one and so on until all homes on the road have their house numbers listed.



Example of vertical house number sign mounting at entrance to homes driveway.

The next step for proper home signage would be to install an additional house number sign at the entrance to your driveway. This sign shall also be printed on both sides so the sign could be read from either direction approaching your driveway. The number orientation would be in a vertical alignment (see example on page 5).

### MOUNTING THE HOUSE NUMBER SIGNS

There are several possibilities in mounting this sign onto a post. One way of mounting the vertical orientated sign would be to make a saw cut approximately 3/4 deep into the center of the upper portion of a 4" x 4" pressure treated post the length of the sign so you can slide the sign into the saw cut. After sliding the sign into the saw cut it is recommended that you also secure the sign to the post using a minimum of 4 small 1" x 1" L shaped brackets spaced evenly apart up the length of the sign and securing to the post using 1 1/2 inch long wood screws then using 4, 1" long 3/8" galvanized nuts and bolts with lock washers. Another example of mounting the sign is shown in the picture above. To secure the post in the ground dig a small diameter hole double the width of the post down 24" into the ground. Use scrap 2" x 4"s to hold the post "plumb" then pour in

concrete mix into the hole surrounding the post and leave for 24 hours to cure. Once post is solid you can remove the 2 x 4 bracing, paint the post if you wish and then install the sign. After completing all the recommended steps you can then rest knowing that you and your family will be able to enjoy peace of mind in knowing that if you should ever need to call for emergency assistance, that those responding WILL be able to locate you quickly when minutes and even seconds can make the difference.

### WHERE CAN I GET THESE SIGNS?

The signs are made to order. They can be obtained locally through LASCO in Susanville. However there may be other local businesses that can help you with the signs as well. Just provide them with the specifications (below). Also, there are many sign businesses you can find on the internet as well. When ordering your house number signs you need to relay the following information to your vendor:

#### Horizontal Signs

Blank sign material and size - 3/16" Aluminum blank material.  
Length - 24" Height - 6"

Background Material - 3M 3200 Engineering Grade Scotchlite Reflective Sign Vinyl

Number material - 3M 3200 Engineering Grade Scotchlite Reflective Sign Vinyl

Number height = 4 inches

#### Vertical Signs

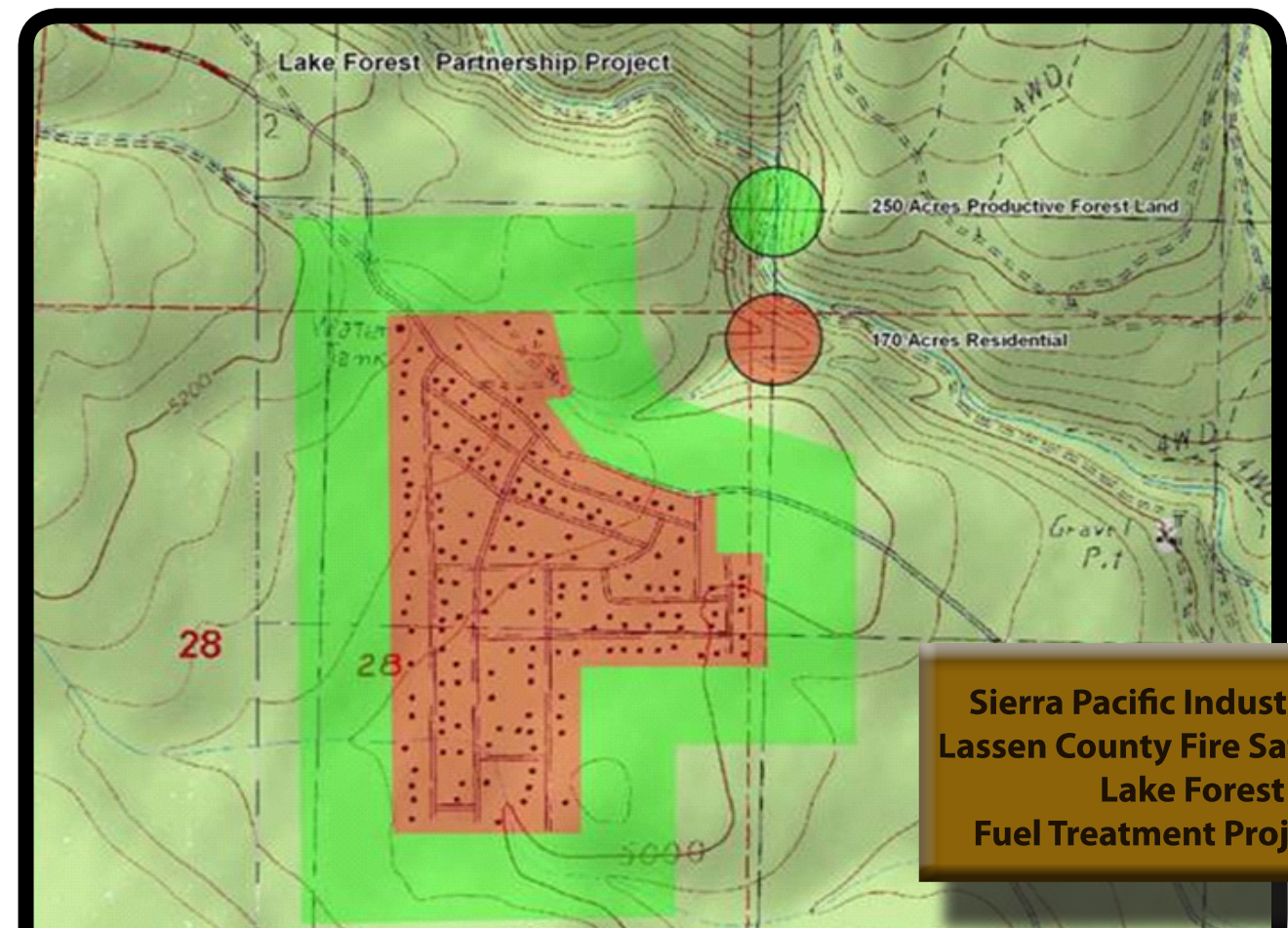
Blank sign material and size - 1/8" Aluminum blank material.

Length - 30" Height - 6"

Background Material - 3M 3200 Engineering Grade Scotchlite Reflective Sign Vinyl

Number material - 3M 3200 Engineering Grade Scotchlite Reflective Sign Vinyl

Number height = 4 inches



# Lassen County Fire Safe Council presents "Assessing Residential Wildfire Hazards,"

For the first time in northern California, Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) is offering residents the opportunity to learn how their actions can make homes and communities safer from wildfire by attending "Assessing Residential Wildfire Hazards," a newly developed course by the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Firewise® program.

This is valuable information for residents and others wanting to know more about recognizing and reducing (mitigating) wildfire hazards to their homes and communities. The Interactive seminar is free-of-charge and will be presented by national expert, Pat Durland. He will introduce the latest scientific logic and techniques in reducing wildfire threats.

Wildland fire agencies have largely been unable to reduce wildland/urban interface destruction through traditional fire response procedures. Recent research has led to a greater understanding of how wildland fires ignite homes. By understanding and applying this knowledge of how wildland/urban interface fires occur and by using new approaches, future wildland/urban interface fire disasters can be significantly reduced.



This seminar will help you understand how a small percentage of today's wildfires burn most of our nation's homes. It will discuss the myths and realities that surround wildfires; why firefighters can't always save your home; the three ways wildfires ignite homes; how to spot the most dangerous wildfire hazards; new options to reduce wildfire hazards without removing them; when to take action against wildfires; what to do that makes the difference; and more. As one participant noted, "Finally, all this wildfire information makes sense!"

### After attending this session you should be able to:

- Separate the realities from the myths that contribute to the wildland fire problem.

- Explain why fire agencies can't stop the big fires that burn hundreds of homes.
- Describe how vegetation fires ignite homes.
- Define what we mean by the Home Ignition Zone concept.
- Identify the 'little things' that make 'big differences' in preventing homes from burning.
- Discuss your options when a Mega wildfire threatens your area.
- Assess wildfire risk by identifying hazards to structures in wildland, forested, and grassland areas.

### Who Will Benefit:

Wildland and community residents, stakeholders, partners and others that want to understand how their actions can effectively reduce wildfire losses and provide for safer homes and communities.

### The Presenter:

Pat Durland is a nationally recognized wildfire expert with 35 years of experience. He was one of the founders of the Firewise® program and as a 20 year resident of the Idaho foothills, understands and appreciates the challenges of living in the wildland/urban interface. He is a dynamic speaker and his passion is helping residents and communities understand how to reduce wildfire losses. Check him out at [www.stonecreekfire.com](http://www.stonecreekfire.com).

**Don't miss out, Sign up Today!**



Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 18, 2011 from 8:30-5:00 and take advantage of this opportunity to learn how to protect your home and family, meet the local players in the wildfire arena and talk with the experts.

The session will be held at the Susan River Fire Station at 472-355 Richmond Road North and a free BBQ lunch will be provided. Space is limited so guarantee your spot by contacting the Lassen County Fire Safe Council by calling 530-251-5560 or email [mcdirden@hotmail.com](mailto:mcdirden@hotmail.com) today!



# CAN THEY FIND YOU?

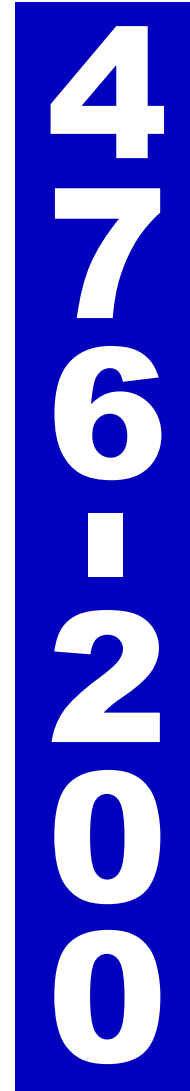


The Lassen County Fire Safe Council (LCFSC) is interested in assisting you in protecting you and your family. With this in mind, we would like to introduce you to our new house number sign project. After several months of development we found that there are multiple concerns with regard to how people identify their home's location. In an effort on their part to add "individuality" to their home environment they have inadvertently created a more concerning result. Some of these individual house number designs are made of materials which do not lend themselves to providing good visibility should a person or emergency responder come looking for their destination. In some cases some have chosen to not number their home at all which could lead to devastating circumstances.

Our "Can They Find You" house number sign project was developed after multiple meetings with your local volunteer fire departments, emergency service agencies, Lassen County Fire Chief's Association, U.S. Forest Service, BLM, CalFire prevention offices and concerned citizens regarding the ability of our local emergency service agencies to find homes when people call for their services.

Many Lassen County homes have house numbers already in place but there are countless others that do not. In order for emergency service personnel to find you they must have a way of distinguishing between homes. California Public Safety Code 4291 requires home identification to be indicated by using a mini-

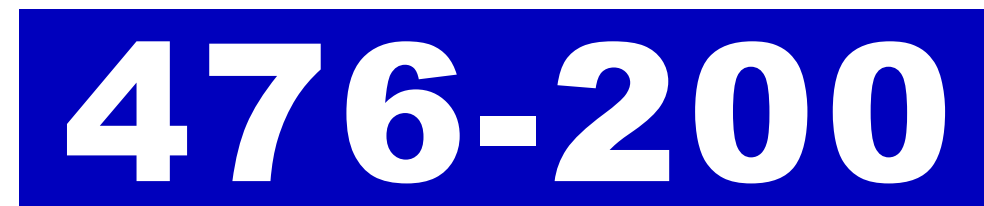
a contrasting background. With this in mind, the Lassen County Fire Safe Council suggested the above mentioned fire and emergency service providers adopt the reflective blue background with 4" white reflective numbers. This contrasting sign design provides for maximum visibility in all situations but does not conflict with any other typical street name sign colors.



Example of typical house number to be placed at driveway entrance

With County maintained streets the street name signs are printed on both sides with highly reflective "engineer grade" 3M sign material for both the green background and white letters and the designated colors for signs indicating private streets which are also printed on both sides with highly reflective "engineer grade" 3M sign material for both the white background and black letters. Therefore the choice of the blue background with white numbers was chosen and is now recommended for use county wide. The material for these signs would also be the highly reflective engineer's grade material which allows for excellent night visibility under all conditions whether there is fog or smoke from a wildfire present. Some of you may have already noticed the house number signs placed in the Milford area. Our sign project is similar but with the larger sized numerals to allow for better visibility for the fire fighters and emergency responders.

The Lassen Fire Safe Council house numbering sign project actually recommends the use of several signs in order to properly designate your home. With so many Lassen County homes located on private roads and with many of these private roads not even road name signs are posted, it is extremely likely that you will never be found should you call for emergency services. Add to this a home without a properly posted house number you are virtually guaranteeing the emergency service will not be able to locate you.



Example of typical house number sign. Recommended sign placement under street name sign or on road leading to home.

imum 3" size number and Lassen County Building Ordinance requires a minimum 4" size number placed on

### PROPERLY LOCATING THE HOUSE NUMBER SIGNS