



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM OFFERS FREE CHIPPING

NAPA, CA, May 4, 2005 – The City of Napa Fire Department, in collaboration with the CDF/Napa County Fire Marshal's office, announced today the start of a free wood chipping service for select neighborhoods in Napa County. The chipping service is part of a new countywide fire prevention program that is being launched next week called Napa Firewise.

Napa Firewise is a community-based fire awareness program designed by city and county fire professionals to educate the residents of Napa County on the dangers wildland fire poses to them and their community. One of the key ingredients of the Napa Firewise program is the removal of brush and other fire fuels from around homes to create "defensible space" areas. These are areas from 30 feet to 100 feet in diameter where fire fuels have been removed or dramatically reduced and where firefighters can safely defend a property.

Mike Wilson, Assistant CDF/Napa County Fire Marshal and coordinator of the chipping program, urges all qualified residents to take advantage of the program. "The program is quite simple," says Wilson. "We are starting with the Alta Heights neighborhood. All the resident needs to do is place whatever quantity of materials they have to be chipped at the end of their driveway at the county/city road that serves their property. If that is not feasible, they can pile the brush at the nearest turnoff on the county/city road. For Alta Heights, the brush must be placed in the street no later than the end of the day on Sunday, May 8. The chipped materials will be dispersed on the ground at each residence or hauled away if previously requested by the property owner."

(more)

The Alta Heights neighborhood being served on May 9 -11 includes from the 300 block of Montecito Boulevard to the end, and Monte Vista Dr., Via Del Arroyo Dr., El Nido Dr., El Cortez Dr., El Camino Dr. and Lutge Court.

Future neighborhoods and chipping schedules include:

May 9 -11: Alta Heights
May 12 -13: Alston Park
May 18 - 20: Browns Valley
May 23 - 27 and May 31: Dry Creek/Lokoya
June 6 -10: Angwin
June 13 -16: Berryessa Highlands
June 20 - 23: Berryessa Estates
July 11 - 15 and 18: Linda Falls/Angwin
July 19 - 22: Deer Park

All brush must be placed at the chipping site on the Sunday before the scheduled chipping week.

This is a pilot program designed for reducing flammable vegetation around buildings and is intended for the neighborhoods listed above. If you are uncertain whether you qualify for the program or have questions regarding the types of materials that are acceptable, call the Chipping Hotline at 707-967-1410. A map detailing specific neighborhood chipping areas will be available after May 10 on the Napa Firewise website at www.co.napa.ca.us.

Based on the success of this summer's participation, the program will be expanded next year to meet demand.

For more information about the Napa Firewise program, call 707-967-1426.

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