

Spring 2005 Chipping Program

Mariposa County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) - a non-profit, non-governmental, non-regulatory community partnership of residents, property owners, businesses and agencies - works to reduce our vulnerability from the threat of wildfire. MCFSC has a two-year grant funding a county-wide chipping program for a chipper and crew to visit every community in Mariposa County for two days.

Yosemite West is on their schedule for late spring 2005 - it is likely to be sometime between May 15th and May 31st. We will not know exactly what two days the chipper and crew will come to Yosemite West until a few days beforehand, since their schedule ultimately depends on weather. The chipping program is available to every property owner in Yosemite West and is not limited to YWPHI members. Property owners do not have to be present when the chipper comes, although it is very helpful.

The MCFSC chipping program can help Yosemite West to:

- reduce the amount of dead-and-down wood on the ground and improve defensible space around houses; and
- reduce the amount of yard debris that goes on the community burn pile during our annual Memorial Day yard debris clean-up.

(There is some chance that the chipper may not come to Yosemite West until after the annual Memorial Day yard debris clean-up. If this is the case, do not transport your piles for the chipper to the community burn pile - the chipper will still come. We will make an announcement to everyone if this happens.)

Take advantage of this free program to remove yard debris from your property by creating an easily accessible and manageable pile of yard debris on your property at the curb. Yard debris means only brush and small-diameter branches. The brush should be hand-piled only with the cut ends all pointing in the same direction towards the street. The chips will be left on your property.

You can make a difference in whether or not your home and community survive a wildland fire. Your actions will make it safer for the firefighters who risk their lives to protect your property.

Chipping Guidelines

Follow these guidelines when making your curbside pile for the chipper.

Do's

- Pile yard debris on your property by May 15th
- Hand pile brush with cut ends pointing towards the street
- Gather dead-and-down wood from the ground
- Limb trees up to 15 feet above the ground
- Remove branches within 10 feet from chimneys and roof (branches with green pine needles and cones attached are acceptable)
- Remove trees less than 6 inches at chest height

Don'ts

- No yard debris in the street
- No rocks
- No dry pine needles
- No fallen pine cones
- No poison oak
- No branch/tree greater than 8 inches in diameter in pile
- No machine-made piles or dozer-made piles

Please contact Kimberly Bullock at the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council (☎ 209-966-7700, email: kimberlyb@sti.net) if you have any questions about the program or what can be chipped.

For further information about what you can do to build a Fire Safe community visit

www.yosemitewest.org/firesafe.htm