



Yosemite West Property &  
Homeowners, Inc.  
[www.YosemiteWest.org](http://www.YosemiteWest.org)

## **Chipping Program**

**May 30-June 1, 2006**

Last spring Yosemite West benefitted from a one-time only county-wide chipping program, funded by a grant awarded to the Mariposa County Fire Safe Council, through which a chipper and crew visited every community in Mariposa County for three days.

The chipping program was a big success and helped Yosemite West to reduce the amount of dead and downed wood on the ground and improve defensible space around structures, and to reduce the amount of yard debris that went on the community burn pile by Memorial Day weekend.

YWPHI has organized and will be funding a similar chipping program this spring for three days. It is scheduled *after* Memorial Day so the chips are not blown on top of pine needles, and in order to allow participation by those who only come on Memorial Day weekend.

**The chipping program is available to every property owner in Yosemite West and is not limited to YWPHI members.** The cost of the chipping program is free to YWPHI members and \$25 per property for non-members. We encourage non-members to not only participate in the chipping program, but to also join YWPHI whose annual membership dues are \$25 per household. We hope that everyone will take advantage of this program to remove yard debris from your property. Property owners do not have to be present when the chipper comes, although it is very helpful.

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.

The chips will be left on your property at the recommendation of the Mariposa County Fire Department. Chips reduce the growth of weeds and unnecessary seedlings, keep soil in place to prevent erosion, and decay slowly forming a nutrient-rich mulch.

### **Do's**

- Gather dead and downed wood from ground
- Limb trees up to 15 feet above ground
- Remove branches within 10 feet of chimneys and roof
- Remove trees less than 6" at chest height
- Pile yard debris on your property near the curb in easily accessible piles by May 28th
- Hand pile brush and small-diameter branches with cut ends pointing in the same direction towards the street

### **To Sign Up for Chipping Program**

Participation in the chipping program requires advanced sign up by May 15th.

#### **For YWPHI members**

➤ simply email [chipping@yosemitewest.org](mailto:chipping@yosemitewest.org) with your local address or lot number/street name, or call John Mock (☎ 209-372-4325), chair of the YWPHI Fire Safety committee; the chipping program is free

#### **For non-members**

Choose one of the following two options:  
➤ I/we want to participate in the chipping program and also join YWPHI for \$25  
➤ I/we want to participate in the chipping program only for a fee of \$25 per property.

Complete the sign-up form and mail it with your check to YWPHI by May 15th. You can download the form at:  
[www.yosemitewest.org/signupchipping.pdf](http://www.yosemitewest.org/signupchipping.pdf)

### **Don'ts**

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

[www.yosemitewest.org/firesafe.htm](http://www.yosemitewest.org/firesafe.htm)