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## Are All Fires Bad?

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### ***Understanding Different Types of Fires***

When we think of fire, the image of destructive wildfires often comes to mind. But not all fires are harmful — some are essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems and reducing the risk of larger, uncontrolled blazes.

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every 3-5 years, naturally clearing the forest floor, reducing future fire intensity, and replenishing the soil with nutrients.

Now, fires look a little different.

### **Here's what you need to know:**

#### **Wildfires**

Wildfires can spread rapidly, destroy homes, and threaten lives. They're often fueled by dry vegetation, high winds, and drought conditions. While some wildfires occur naturally, many are caused by human activity, making prevention and preparedness critical.

#### **Prescribed Fires**

Also known as controlled burns, these are intentionally set by professionals under carefully monitored conditions. Prescribed fires help reduce excess vegetation, or "fuel," that could otherwise feed a wildfire. They also promote new plant growth, improve wildlife habitats, and restore balance to fire-adapted ecosystems.

#### **Burning on Private Property**

In some areas, property owners use small, controlled burns to manage vegetation and reduce fire hazards. When done responsibly and in compliance with [local regulations](#), it can be an effective way to safeguard homes and communities from future wildfires.

While wildfires can be devastating, not all fires are bad. Prescribed burns and controlled fires on private property play a vital role in reducing wildfire risks and supporting healthy landscapes.

**It's always a good time to [stay alert](#), [prepare your home](#), and know your [evacuation zone](#).**



## Upcoming Events: Save the Dates



### *Here's What's Happening at SCFSC*

- **Wildfire Preparedness Workshops in Whitmore, Oak Run, and Lakehead**
  - The CWMP and WSRCD are hosting Wildfire Preparedness Workshops to learn how to prepare your property for fire season. **Whitmore, Oak Run,**

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Program (CWMP) and receive a FREE Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Report.

- **Dates & Locations:**
  - February 2nd from 6:00-8:00pm at the Whitmore Community Center
  - February 3rd from 6:00-8:00pm at the Oak Run Volunteer Fire Dept.
  - February 10th from 6:00-8:00pm at the Lakehead Lions Club
- **2026 Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference's Annual Forest Products & Construction Equipment Expo**
  - Shasta County Fire Safe Council will host a booth at this year's conference. Come say hi and get all your questions answered about fire preparedness, home hardening, and defensible space!
  - **Dates & Location**
    - February 5 from 11:00am – 5:00pm
    - February 6 from 9:00am – 5:00pm
    - February 7 from 9:00am – 3:30pm
    - *Located at the Shasta District Fairgrounds, Anderson, CA*

Want to keep up-to-date with all our events?

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## The Chipping Corner

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## Defensible Space Chipping Program Activities

**Happening Now:** Redding, Old Shasta, French Gulch, Whiskeytown — if you missed the February 1st deadline, **please call our office at 530-360-0120**. We can manually enroll you and will coordinate with our contractor to determine if it can fit into their schedule.

**Next Up:** City of Shasta Lake, Lakehead, Castella — [sign up today](#) for chipping services starting March 1st.

**LEARN MORE & SIGN UP HERE**

*The Shasta County Fire Safe Council's chipping program is more than just a convenient way to clear vegetation. It's a step toward a safer, more fire-resilient community — get involved today!*

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## Fire Safe Task of the Month



### ***Inspect and Clean Dryer Vents***

A small task with big safety benefits — inspecting and cleaning your dryer vents is an essential step in reducing fire risk and keeping your home safe.

#### **Steps To Follow:**

- **Check the Vent Hose:** Look for lint buildup or blockages in the vent hose. Disconnect it from the dryer and use a vacuum or vent brush to clear out any debris.
- **Clean the Exterior Vent:** Head outside and inspect the vent cover. Remove any lint or obstructions to ensure proper airflow. Make sure the vent flap opens and closes freely.

By keeping your dryer vents clean and clear, you're not only improving your dryer's efficiency but also taking a proactive step toward fire prevention. Let's make home safety a priority this year!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRE PREPAREDNESS](#)

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## State and Local News



### ***Fire Updates & Prevention News: What You Need To Know***

Here's what's happening in California and Shasta County regarding fire prevention, wildfire management, and insurance updates:

#### **Shasta-Trinity National Forest Prescribed Fire Operations**

The Shasta-Trinity National Forest announced prescribed fire operations scheduled for January 24, 2026. These efforts aim to manage vegetation and reduce wildfire risks in the region.

[Read more here](#)

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fire safety, including funding for new roofs and other fire-resistant upgrades. These bills aim to address ongoing insurance challenges for fire-prone areas.

[Learn more here](#)

### **California Accelerates Wildfire Prevention Projects**

As of January 2026, California has approved 218 wildfire prevention projects covering over 40,000 acres statewide. This includes significant efforts in Northern California, such as the nearly 3,000-acre Scott Valley–Callahan Fuels Reduction Project in Siskiyou County and the launch of statewide LiDAR mapping to identify wildfire fuel accumulation.

[Get the details here](#)

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## You Can Make an Impact



### ***Partner With the Shasta County Fire Safe Council***

The Shasta County Fire Safe Council is on a mission to reduce wildfire risks and promote fire safety across our community. From free chipping programs to wildfire protection plans, we're empowering residents with the tools and resources they need to safeguard their homes and neighborhoods.

If you believe in creating a safer, more resilient Shasta County, **we need your support**. Your donation helps us continue these vital programs and expand our

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*Funding for this project was provided by a grant from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as part of the California Climate Investments Program, through the California Fire Safe Council.*



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