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How To Talk To Kids About Wildfire Safety



Tips for Talking About Wildfire Risks

appropriate conversations can help them feel prepared and empowered. In Shasta County, where wildfire risks are high, it's especially important to teach kids how to stay safe and understand what to do in an emergency.

Here are some tips to guide the discussion:

- **Keep It Simple and Honest:** Use clear, calm language to explain what wildfires are and why they happen. For example, "Wildfires are big fires that can happen in nature, and they spread quickly when it's very dry." Avoid overwhelming them with too many details.
- **Focus on Safety Plans:** Reassure them by sharing your family's [Wildfire Action Plan](#). Show them evacuation routes, explain where you'll go, and practice together so they feel confident.
- **Empower Them With Actions:** Teach small, helpful tasks they can do, like packing an [emergency kit](#) with their favorite items or learning [how to call for help](#). Feeling involved can reduce their anxiety.
- **Address Their Feelings:** Let them share their worries and ask questions. Acknowledge their feelings and remind them it's okay to feel scared. Offer comfort and emphasize that adults are working hard to keep everyone safe.
- **Make It Relatable:** Use stories or examples they can understand, like how firefighters are heroes who work to stop wildfires and protect people, animals, and nature.

By keeping the conversation calm, constructive, and interactive, you can help children feel more secure and prepared without unnecessary fear.

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

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SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE COUNTY COORDINATOR PROGRAM

YOUR SIGNATURE

MATTERS.

Please sign the SB 973 Support Letter

Many of you know our incredible County Coordinator, Amanda, and the amazing work she does to support wildfire resilience here in Shasta County through the Wildfire County Coordinator Program.

Now, we need your help to keep this program strong!

SB 973 will formalize and expand the Wildfire County Coordinator Program, ensuring it continues to provide the resources and coordination we need to protect our homes, landscapes, and way of life.

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Together, we can make a difference in building a safer, more resilient Shasta County.

SIGN THE SUPPORT LETTER

Upcoming Events: Save the Dates



Here's What's Happening at SCFSC

- **Redding Home Show**
 - Shasta County Fire Safe Council will host a booth at this year's event. Come say hi and get all your questions answered about fire preparedness, home hardening, and defensible space!
 - **Dates & Location**
 - March 14th and 15th at the Redding Civic Auditorium, Redding CA

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

The Chipping Corner

**Chipper Day Schedules:
Sign Up/ Work Done**

- Dec/ Jan
- Jan/ Feb
- Feb/ Mar
- Mar/ Apr
- Apr/ May
- May/ Jun
- Sep/ Oct
- Zone Extents
- Zip Codes

Info Here:
tiny.cc/chipperday

(530) 360-0120
chipper@shastafiresafe.org

Shasta County Fire Safe Council Chipping Program

Map data from California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS; Cartography by Naomi Yates of Yates GIS July 2025

Defensible Space Chipping Program Activities

Happening Now: City of Shasta Lake, Lakehead, Castella — if you missed the March 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: Montgomery Creek, Big Bend, Round Mountain — [sign up today](#) for chipping services starting April 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



Prune Trees and Shrubs

A simple task with significant safety benefits — pruning trees and shrubs is a crucial step in reducing wildfire risk and protecting your home.

Steps To Follow:

- **Create Defensible Space:** Trim back branches and shrubs within 5 feet of your home. This helps prevent flames from reaching your house in the event of a wildfire.
- **Remove Dead Vegetation:** Cut away dead or dry branches, leaves, and plants. These can act as fuel for fires and increase the risk of rapid spread.
- **Keep Trees Trimmed:** Ensure tree branches are at least 6-10 feet off the ground and spaced apart to prevent fire from climbing and spreading through

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By keeping your trees and shrubs well-maintained, you're not only enhancing your property's appearance but also taking an important step toward wildfire prevention!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT FIRE PREPAREDNESS](#)

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:

New Laws Strengthen Home Hardening and Insurance Access

The California Wildfire Public Model Act (SB 429) introduces new measures to improve wildfire risk transparency and support home hardening efforts. This includes the nation's first publicly available wildfire loss model to help homeowners better understand and mitigate risks.

[Read more here](#)

California Assemblymember Introduces the Good Fire Act

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This legislation aims to promote safer, more controlled fire management practices.

[Learn more here](#)

Defensible Space and Home Hardening in Shasta County

The Shasta County Fire Safe Council is reminding residents of the importance of creating defensible space and hardening homes against wildfires. These proactive measures are critical for protecting homes and communities year-round.

[Get the details here](#)

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 impact. Together, we can make a difference. Partner with us today!

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[Newsletter 2025 February](#)

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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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