

# May Cleanup: Time to Create Defensible Space

## IMPROVE YOUR ODDS-PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE!

May is cleanup month AND a great time to create or improve your home's wildfire defensible space.

The term defensible space refers to the area between a house and an oncoming wildfire where the vegetation has been managed to reduce the wildfire threat and allow firefighters to safely defend the house. In the event that firefighters are not available, defensible space also greatly improves the likelihood of a home surviving without assistance.

Use May cleanup month as an opportunity to remove dead and dying trees, dead native and ornamental shrubs, dead branches, leaves, needles, twigs, grass, weeds and flowers, and other flammable debris within the defensible space zone.

### 5 Steps to Effective Defensible Space:

#### *Step 1: Know Your Distance*

The size of defensible space is usually expressed as distance extending outward from the house in all directions.

#### *Step 2: Remove The Dead*

Within the recommended defensible space zones remove: dead & dying trees, dead native & ornamental shrubs, dead branches, dead leaves, needles and twigs, dried grass, weeds and flowers.

#### *Step 3: Create Separation*

Thin dense tree and shrub stands to create more space between them.

#### *Step 4: No Ladder Fuels*

Vegetation that can carry a fire from low-growing plants to taller plants is called a ladder fuel.

#### *Step 5: Make it, Lean, Clean, & Green*

Remove most or all flammable plants, including big sagebrush, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, cheatgrass, pinyon juniper, and weeds. Select less flammable plants and materials (e.g. gravel) for the home landscape. Keep plants well watered!



## Clean-UP Project!!



This year the Eureka/Diamond Valley Firewise Committee has decided to host a clean-up project to help an elderly individual create/clean their defensible space. The project will be on May 1, 2015 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Volunteers are welcome and following the clean-up project please join us at the 6th Annual Wildfire Awareness Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eureka Fire Department. If you're interested on being a volunteer or would like more information on the project please contact Jessica Santoyo at (775) 237-6010. (Please turn the page to view details regarding the Wildfire Awareness Event.)

For more information: <http://co.eureka.nv.us/natres/firewise/index.html> or [www.livingwithfire.info](http://www.livingwithfire.info)

Brought to you by the Eureka County Firewise Communities

# FIREWISE COMMUNITY & WILDFIRE AWARENESS DAY EUREKA

May 1, 2015 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. At the Eureka Fire Department

PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR  
TIPS/IDEAS ON:

- ⇒ DEFENSIBLE SPACE
- ⇒ BEING EMBER AWARE
- ⇒ LANDSCAPING
- ⇒ FREE HOME ASSESSMENTS
- ⇒ CLEAN-UP PROJECTS

FREE!!!

FREE FIRE RESISTANT PLANTS!!!



SEE SMOKEY BEAR!



FREE!!!

FREE BBQ!!!



FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES &  
BIKE RAFFLE!!!!



RAFFLE PRIZES FOR  
KIDS & ADULTS!!

FREE!!!



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