

BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MEDIA RELEASE

**JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER**



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BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PARTNERS WITH THE WILDFIRE SAFE RESIDENTS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Butte County Sheriff's Office is helping prepare the community for wildfire by partnering with the Wildfire Safe Residents Assistance Program.

The Wildfire Safe Residents Assistance Program provides elderly, low income and disabled residents with defensible space around their home for wildfire safety. Inmate crews from the Butte County Sheriff's Office will clear brush, tree limbs, pine needles and leaves from around homes, providing a defensible space. The program will begin this Friday November 2nd and will initially assist two residents in the Magalia area.

"Grant funds are very difficult to find for this program and the Sheriff's Office is providing a critical service to the community by assisting with this program," said Calli-Jane Burch, Executive Director of the Butte County Fire Safe Council.

Sheriff Jerry Smith said, "We are excited about our new partnership with the Butte County Fire Safe Council. This is another opportunity for us to enhance public safety by helping members of the community create defensible space around their homes."

The Wildfire Safe Residents Assistance Program was developed in 2003 by Butte County Fire Safe Council, a non-profit organization with a mission to provide safety in Butte County through wildfire hazard education and mitigation. Over 250 residents throughout the County have participated in the

program and the new partnership with the Sheriff's Office will enable the program to assist additional residents.

Do you have trees and brush causing a fire hazard around your home? The Residents Assistance Program is now accepting applications for residents who are elderly, disabled or low income by calling 530-877-0984.

Preparing for fire season is critical and should not be delayed. There are many things you can do to prepare:

- Rake pine needles and leaves 10 feet away from your home
- Keep vegetation well watered and mowed in the 100 foot area around your home
- Get a copy of the Town of Paradise/Upper Ridge Evacuation Plan
- Have a personal preparedness plan
- Install a reflective address sign at your driveway.