

MARCH AGAINST WILDFIRE!

Clear your Defensible Space Now!

El Dorado County Fire Safe Council promotes:

..... MARCH AGAINST WILDFIRE!.....

Clear your 100' Defensible space during the month of March.

Free Neighborhood **Green Waste Dumpsters, Chippers and Senior Program available to El Dorado County residents www.edcfiresafe.org /530-647-1700**

The unseasonably heavy & unusually low elevation snowfall of December 7th & 8th 2009 caused large mature Oak and Grey Pine trees to split creating a significant number of future snags and increased fuel loading on the west slope of El Dorado County. According to **CAL FIRE**, the resulting damage to the trees has created a continuous vertical arrangement of aerial fuels and standing snags that is highly conducive to spotting and resistant to suppression. This massive increase in wild land ladder fuels occurs mostly in the heavily populated High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone portions of El Dorado County. Much of the impacts can be seen along the sides of roadways, around homes and structures, and in undeveloped areas throughout the county. These increased fuel loads have not been mitigated and are expected to persist in the county for years to come.

As a result, **CAL FIRE** anticipates that El Dorado County will experience a significant increase in the number of debris burn escapes during the 2010 fire season as residents and governmental agencies seek to dispose of the dead vegetative material around their homes and facilities. In addition, **CAL FIRE** expects roadside fires caused by vehicles to be more frequent and intense, as well as for partially broken branches and tree tops to come down on power lines, increased illegal dumping of vegetative material, and the possibility that arsonists may view the increased fuel loads as an opportunity to create mayhem.

All of this has the potential to result in increased demand on fire suppression resources, increased safety issues to firefighters & the public as well as elevated air pollution levels throughout the county in the summer of 2010.