NEWS RELEASE

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THE EL DORADO COUNTY AND LOGTOWN FIRE SAFE COUNCILS TEAM UP WITH LOCAL PARTNERS FOR WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY

Designed to encourage "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" and demonstrate defensible space best practices

EL DORADO, Calif. – Bringing together local partners and neighbors to reduce wildfire risk by creating defensible space for a local resident in need, the El Dorado County and Logtown Fire Safe Councils partnered with CAL FIRE, the El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Tribal Fire Department, and the California Conservation Corp, to host the region's first Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on Saturday, May 2.

This "neighbors helping neighbors" effort assisted an 86-year-old El Dorado resident by creating defensible space around the property to reduce wildfire risk. Volunteers focused primarily on Zone 0 (0-5 feet from the home) and Zone 1 (5-30 feet from the home), which included clearing excess vegetation, limbing trees, and removing dead branches and debris from the property.

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day highlights the community-wide effort that is required to help reduce wildfire risk. Being prepared not only means making sure your property has good defensible space and home hardening, but that your neighbors do as well.

"Most people think preparing for wildfire means doing it on their own, but we forget that our neighbors are a great resource and are usually willing to lend a hand. When one El Dorado or

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Logtown resident creates defensible space around their home, the whole neighborhood benefits because the community is one step closer to being a wildfire prepared community," said Ken Pimlott, Chair, El Dorado Fire Safe Council.

The collective effort was made possible by donations from local partners and the support from El Dorado Fire Safe Council, Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience, Logtown Fire Safe Council, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Tribal Fire Department, the California Conservation Corp, Wilkinson Portables Inc., SiteOne Landscape Supply, Sierra Landscaping Materials, Inc., and Hart's Hauling and Dump Service. The four-hour event cleared away six trailer loads (60 yards) of shrubs, branches and trees.

"Defensible space, along with home hardening, is one of the most effective tools to protect your property from wildfire," said CAL FIRE State Fire Marshal Chief Daniel Berlant. "It provides firefighters the room they need to safely do their job—and gives a home a fighting chance. CAL FIRE appreciates the leadership of the Fire Safe Councils and the strong community commitment demonstrated through these types of events and the programs they offer."

The program partners encourage Californians and communities to add defensible space around their homes and neighborhoods by:

- Removing and pruning branches hanging over the roof or chimney to keep them 10 feet away.
- Removing all dead or dying plant materials within 30 feet of all structures or to the property line.
- Limiting plants within five feet of the house to low growing, nonwoody, properly watered and maintained plants.
- Never placing plants under windows or on windowsills.

Event Media Toolkit: **https://calfire.box.com/s/znauogte0scg8l7nw6mwuypi7v8j61ji**

Visit **ReadyForWildfire.org** to learn about defensible space and home hardening.

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