



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Public Invited to Wildfire Preparedness Mixer **Fires of 1910 Movie Presentation**

The Whitefish Area Fire Safe Council is hosting a wildland fire preparedness mixer on Tuesday, June 22 at the O'Shaughnessy Center in Whitefish from 4:30 – 7:00pm. The event is free and will feature a 6pm showing of a video presentation titled "Century of Fires - The 1910 Fires."

Other activities will include a message from Whitefish Mayor Mike Jenson regarding wildfire preparedness at 6:30pm, a visit by Smokey Bear with fire prevention handouts, an exhibit about the fires of 1910, and fire specialists and foresters available to discuss potential financial assistance grants to help fund firewise efforts, the Whitefish Fire Department's Red Zone Neighborhood Mapping Project, and home/landowner information about actions to conduct prior to fire season. Private fuel-reduction contractors will also be available.

The council is inserting a "Living with Fire, A Homeowner's Fire Safe Guide for Montana" publication in upcoming Daily Interlake, Whitefish Pilot and Hungry Horse News Newspapers. The guide includes clear and concise information about fire behavior, creating survivable space and firewise landscapes, specific actions land/homeowners can take and additional information.

The Whitefish Area Fire Safe Council is part of the Fire Safe Montana Program. The local council is made up of concerned citizens, local, state, and federal agency representatives, local businesses, and contractors from the area working together to help protect the community from wildland fire. The members of the group work cooperatively on solutions to reduce the loss of lives and property from the threat of fire in and around Whitefish.

Sponsors and supporters of the wildland fire preparedness mixer include the Whitefish Area Fire Safe Council, Flathead National Forest, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Whitefish Fire Department, Big Mountain Fire Department, Whitefish Rural Fire Service Area Board and Northwest Montana Resource Conservation and Development.

The week of June 21 is designated as "Wildfire Awareness Week" across the state. For more information visit www.firesafemt.org or contact the Whitefish Area Fire Safe Council at wafiresc@gmail.com.

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