



Fire Safe Sonoma

Chipper Extravaganza

Free neighborhood Chipper Service!

You cut it, we'll chip it!!!

The **Chipper Extravaganza Project** provides funds for selected neighborhoods that are committed to working together for wildfire safety. If you are in one of these neighborhoods, and want to sign up for chipper services, please fill out and return this form, and we will work on getting the chipper scheduled to your property

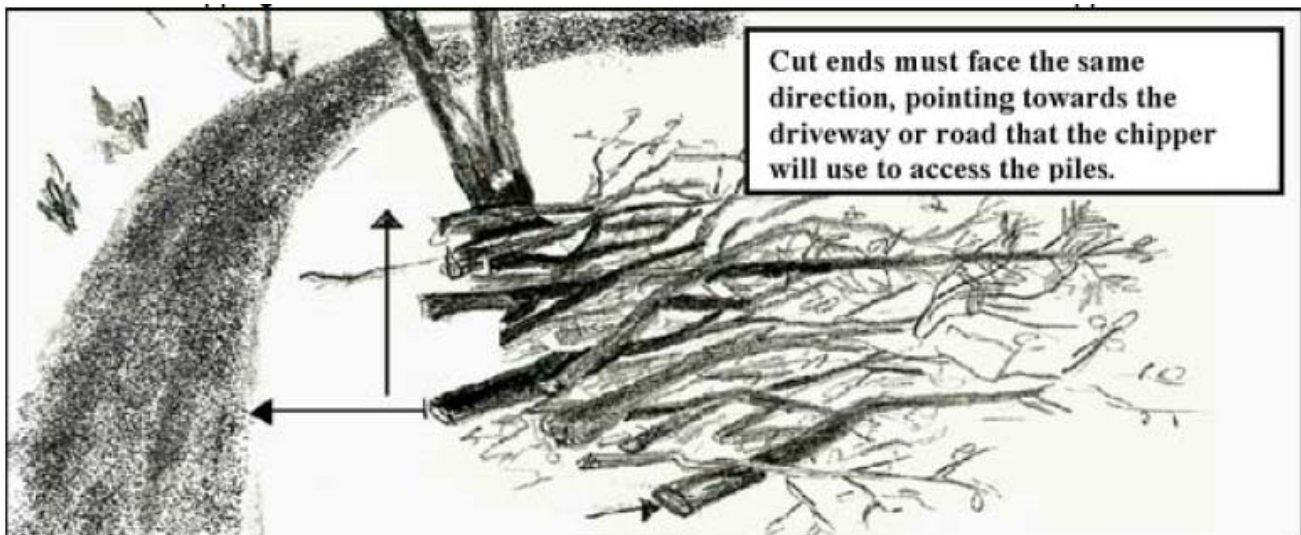
If you are not sure if your neighborhood has been selected for a Chipper Extravaganza Project or have questions about how you might get chipping services for your neighborhood or your home, please call (707) 206-5467 or email csafford@mcn.org to find out.

Having 100 feet or more of defensible space has been clearly demonstrated to help save homes in wildfires. **Defensible space does NOT mean moonscape.** Defensible space simply means that you have thinned and removed excess vegetation and “ladder fuels” that allow fire to climb from trees and brush to buildings. For more details about how to create defensible space, take a look at *Living with Fire in Sonoma County* or contact us or your local fire department for further information.

In order to participate in the chipper program, please carefully read the attached “How to make a Chipper Pile Checklist,” then fill out the “Request for Chipping Form” and return it to Fire Safe Sonoma or your neighborhood group contact person. We also ask that you send in the “Follow up Questionnaire” when you have completed your work.

How to Make a Chipper Pile Checklist:

- ❑ Chipping will only be done along road or driveway frontages which will allow the crew to safely work from the road or driveway. **DO NOT BLOCK ROADWAYS.**
- ❑ Do not place piles along busy, heavily traveled roadways, where signage or additional crew would be required for crew safety. If you have questions about locating your pile, contact us at (707) 206-5467.
- ❑ Piles must be stacked with the cut ends facing the same direction, pointing towards access route to piles.
- ❑ Piles must be placed within 5 feet of chipper access.
- ❑ Piles must be placed on the uphill side of road or driveway.
- ❑ Please don't put piles within 10 feet of power poles.
- ❑ Make piles wider and spread out rather than taller.
- ❑ Recently cut vegetation chips better than old dried out branches and shrubs. Old piles or materials may not be chipped by the contractor.
- ❑ Piles must be free of roots or stumps, rocks and mud, poison oak, blackberries and other vines, Scotch or French broom and gorse.
- ❑ **Make certain** there are no nails, wires or any metal pieces in wood. Do not put construction-type wood such as fence posts or 2x4s in your pile.
- ❑ The chipper cannot chip rakings or piles of needles, leaves or duff.
- ❑ The chipper can handle material up to 7" in diameter (no root balls).
- ❑ All material chipped will be blown back onto the property. You are responsible for spreading out the piles of chips after the contractor has gone.
- ❑ You do not have to be home when the chipper comes.
- ❑ **If the pile is not prepared per this checklist, it may not be chipped.**
You will be responsible for disposing of any unchipped materials.





CHIPPER PROGRAM APPLICATION

My Neighborhood Project Area: _____

Name: _____ Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Assessors Parcel Number: _____ Address: _____

City/Zip: _____ Nearest Cross Street: _____

Are you the owner of the property? Yes [] No []

Owners Name (if different): _____ Contact Phone (if different): _____

Please tell us how much you anticipate that you will have ready for the chipper:

Number of piles: _____ Total size of piles combined: W _____ (X) L _____ (X) H _____

Approximately how many acres of property will you clear? _____

Where will the material be located? * On the shoulder of a Road [] Driveway [] Other [] Please specify location: _____

**It is essential you do not obstruct any roadways, driveways or other access routes with your material.*

I have read and I understand the requirements on the attached "How to Make a Chipper Pile" checklist and agree to allow Fire Safe Sonoma Inc.'s private contractor admittance onto my property in order to access the pile for chipping. I understand that material will be chipped back onto my property unless it is deemed impractical by the contractor. I understand that Fire Safe Sonoma provides this service through contracts with private chipping companies. The contractor has final authority to determine if a pile is suitable for chipping. I understand that if the pile is not prepared per the checklist, it will not be chipped, and that I will be responsible for disposing of any unchipped materials. Fire Safe Sonoma provides the contractors with a schedule, but final decisions for scheduling of chipping are made by the contractor. I also understand that if I am not the property owner, it is my responsibility to obtain permission from the owner to conduct clearing activities. In addition, I will comply with the chipping crews' decisions as to where chipped material is deposited because safety is their foremost concern. I will not make any attempt to load brush into the chipping machine. I understand that all work will be halted should this attempt be made. I understand that Fire Safe Sonoma is not obligated to perform this service and that Fire Safe Sonoma is not liable for its failure to perform this service or for the negligent performance of this service.

Signature

Name (Printed)

Date

Please complete and return this form: Email to csafford@mcn.org or Fax (888) 752-8503 or mail Fire Safe Sonoma 2300 County Center Dr., #221A Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Fire Safe Sonoma gladly accepts your donations. Fire Safe Sonoma is a 501 (c)(3) public charity and donations to the organization are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Your donation will help us to continue programs like this one.



POST CHIPPER USE SURVEY

We can use your help! Data about how much you have cut for the chipper program will be very helpful to us for future grant writing projects. Please complete this form AFTER you have completed all of your brush work, and send it to Fire Safe Sonoma at the address below. Thank you!

Chipping: Number of piles: _____ Total size of piles combined: W_____ (X) L_____ (X) H_____

Approximately how many acres of property did you clear? _____

How many hours did it take you to prepare your material? _____

What would you do with this material if this program were not available?

Burn it Leave on property Chip Take to Sonoma County Disposal Facility

If you would take it to Sonoma County Disposal, how many miles (round trip) is that? _____

If you hired someone to cut and stack the material for you, how much did it cost? _____

Signature

Date

**Please send the completed form to:
Fax (888) 752-8503 or email csafford@mcn.org (preferred)
2300 County Center Drive, 221A Santa Rosa, CA 95403**

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Revised: 4/13/10