

Residents learn fire safety

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More than 50 Round Hill residents recently attended a "fire safe" and cleanup day. On a brisk, sunny morning, a variety of presentations were provided, giving neighbors a better idea of how to protect their homes against the dangers of a wildfire. Glen Smith, chairman of the chapter, began the morning explaining the purpose and goals of the organization, and the status of grant requests that are being applied for. The process of meeting the necessary requirements to apply for funded tree and brush removal was also explained.

Capt. Rich Nalder of the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District, left, explains to Round Hill residents how to keep their home fire safe.



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Firefighters from the Tahoe Douglas Fire Protection District explained what homeowners can do to assist them with home preparation in the event of a fire. Battalion Chief Curt Fields took the group around one of the houses in the neighborhood, explaining many of the challenges that firefighters face, and how owners can help get their homes fire safe.

Michael Pook, from the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District, presented "How Defensible Space works with BMPs," with options on how they need to be implemented. With the confusion that exists with the current status of best management practices, or BMPs, he was able to answer many of the questions that residents had regarding regulations. With saw in hand, John Pickett from the Nevada Fire Safe Council gave a lively demonstration of how to make a property comply to defensible space requirements. In a short time, a large portion of the property was cleared of unnecessary foliage, without destroying the natural look of the landscape.

After a hearty barbecue lunch, a motivated number of the group headed down to the home of Hank Totaro, a senior citizen in the neighborhood, to utilize what they had learned. In less than an hour, the group had chopped, clipped and carried much of the overgrowth on Totaro's property, giving a clean, fire-safe look to his property.

With the knowledge that residents gained during the event, Round Hill homeowners are confident that they can make their neighborhood safer if a fire were to strike their area.

For more information on the Round Hill Fire Safe Chapter call Glen Smith at (775) 588-1550.

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