

Starting a Council: Sustaining Momentum

It is vital to maintain enthusiasm and interest in the Council among members. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Recruit New Members

New members will bring new ideas to the Chapter. Review the original invitation list you sent to the community. Identify invitees who do not attend Chapter meetings and persuade them to come to the next meeting. Is there anyone missing from the list?

Ask Each Member to Bring An Idea For a Fire Safe Project

Different members have different areas of expertise. Tap the diversity of Chapter members by encouraging members to think of creative projects that interest them and their organizations. Members will devote more time and energy to a project when they can see a direct benefit.

Continue to Communicate With Existing Fire Safe Chapters

More established Chapters have already experienced many of the growing pains your Council may experience and can provide insight on what works and what doesn't. Invite members of another Chapter to attend your Chapter meeting and speak.

Get Help from the Statewide Council

The statewide Fire Safe Council is a source for videos, brochures, public service announcements and helpful hints. Use the Council's materials in your community. Canvass the neighborhood providing fire safety brochures to homeowners. Or work with your local cable television provider to broadcast a fire safety video or public service announcement.

Participate in Community Events

Gain visibility by setting up a booth at a community fair and handing out fire safe information. Or, educate the community about fire safe landscaping by creating a small fire safe garden for fair-goers to enjoy.

Generate Publicity

Once a fire safe project is underway, share your good news! The Nevada Fire Safe Council has a Public Relation Specialist on board to help you do this. Please contact Candace Lowery at 775-849-0870 or email her at pintail215@charter.net. She will call the local daily or weekly newspaper, and radio and television stations. Tell the editors about the Council's fire safe project and how it will benefit the community. Or, write a news release about the project, send it to local media and follow up with a phone call to determine if they will cover it.