

## **LRE Chipper Event**

### **June 14-15, 2025**

Please note that any participating property owners failing to prepare their slash in accordance with the Do's and Don'ts listed below will result in that property being skipped over and the removal of any remaining slash the sole responsibility of that property owner.

#### **Do's**

- + Leave slash as long as possible, it is easier to feed the chipper.
- + Streamline the slash, heavy branches with "Y's" often get stuck in the chipper.
- + Pull the slash out to the roadway adjacent to your property with butt end out.
- + Pile 2-branches deep, it's easier if you don't create big piles.

#### **Don'ts**

- + NO old firewood.
- + NO rotten or dirty logs. Dirt and sand will dull the chipper blades quickly
- + NO old fencing. Nails are often embedded in fencing.
- + NO placing stacks of chipping material under the LPEA powerline. (An LPEA line clearing project will begin May 5th and continue for several weeks)
- + NO limbs larger than 4" in diameter. We need to ensure the chipping event itself goes efficiently and we dispose of as much slash as possible over the two-day event. If you have limbs that are larger than 4" in diameter, set them aside and I suspect we will have community members who will gladly cut the limbs down to size and remove these larger pieces for firewood.

The LRE Wildfire Mitigation/Emergency Management Committee is also encouraging property owners to focus their efforts on the mitigation practices listed below in preparation for this year's event:

- + Remove any slash that has fallen to the ground.
- + Remove the ladder fuel on all large trees, particularly Ponderosa Pines and Spruces.
- + Clear a 10' perimeter of any flammable materials (small trees, shrubbery) around large existing trees.
- + Create a minimum of a 5' defensible space around all structures.
- + Clear a 15' buffer of all flammable trees and shrubbery along the HOA right-of-way bordering your property. Doing so not only expands the effectiveness of an already existing fire break, but also helps to ensure that our roadways are of sufficient width to allow for evacuating residents and/or providing a clear route for emergency vehicles. You should likewise ensure that any trees and shrubbery along your driveway has been cut back to allow for the access of emergency vehicles. The Upper Pine Fire Department will not traverse down a driveway that poses a risk to its firefighters or equipment.

### **Registration Deadline**

**June 1.** So we can plan accordingly and prepare a route map to expedite the chipping process, please let me know ASAP (but no later than June 1) by text/phone (608-516-3050) or email ([GaryDurango20@gmail.com](mailto:GaryDurango20@gmail.com)) if you plan to participate in this event. Please note that property owners need NOT be present while the slash is being chipped at their respective properties. As was the case in both 2022 and 2024, we are utilizing a “professional” operator for the chipper itself and soliciting volunteers from LRE to assist in loading the slash throughout the two-day event.

### **Volunteers**

The success of our past chipper events has been due in large part to the volunteers who assist with pulling the slash out to the road and loading

the chipper. As in previous years, the chipper operator (Kern) is responsible solely for ensuring that the chipper operates efficiently and that nothing that could jam the chipper or dull the blades is inserted.

We will be utilizing four (4) shifts each comprised of six (6) individuals over the course of the two days with each shift lasting four (4) hours. If you are available and willing to work one or more of the shifts listed below, please let me know ASAP the day(s) and shift(s).

Saturday (8 am – Noon): Gary Karner

Saturday (Noon - 4 pm): Gary Karner

Sunday (8 am – Noon): Gary Karner

Sunday (Noon – 4 pm): Gary Karner

Please note that all volunteers are **required** to wear a hat, sturdy shoes/boots, long pants, long-sleeve shirt, heavy duty gloves, and ear protection. It is also highly advisable to wear eye protection.

### **Funding**

As referenced in the previous email, it is highly unlikely that any external funding sources provided in the past by various organizations (e.g., Wildfire Adapted, State Farm Insurance) will be available this year due to the funding cuts enacted by the current administration.

Nonetheless, we are keeping the cost share per participating property owner to \$30 (payable to LRE HOA) for 30-minutes of chipping at any given property. If prepared properly, a 30-minute timeframe will be sufficient to clear the amount of slash piled at most properties while helping to ensure that we get to each participating property over the course of the two days. If time permits, we will circle back around to any property with remaining slash for an additional nominal fee (e.g., \$15 for each additional 15-minute interval).

## **LRE Website**

All LRE residents are also strongly encouraged to access the Wildfire Mitigation/Emergency Management pages on the LRE website for the most up-to-date fire mitigation and emergency management information pertaining to LRE and our surrounding area.

In closing, please feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions or concerns regarding the planning, preparation and/or executions of this event.

Gary Karner  
LRE Fire Ambassador  
LRE Wildfire Mitigation/Emergency Management Committee  
Upper Pine River Valley Fire Protection District, Board of Directors

Cc: Mr. Paul Alvarez, Upper Pine River Valley Fire Protection District.