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New fire safe chapter formed in Mound House

By Karren Rhodes
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Rural living has its benefits, but the threat of fast-moving wildland fires isn't one of them. That's why Mound House residents are joining forces with the state's Fire Safe Council to help make their community safer from fire threats that they have vividly experienced in the past few years.

The Upper Mound House Fire Safe Chapter #116 was recently formed because resident Melinda Cash learned of the program through her activities with the Central Lyon County Parks Board and Mound House Advisory Board. Cash gathered a coalition of concerned citizens who interested in reducing the chance of wildland fire and its devastation to lives, property and natural resources in their neighborhoods and community.

By mobilizing residents in the portion of Mound House that lies to the north of U.S. 50 at the Lyon/Carson County lines the general Linehan Road area, the chapter hopes to encourage all residents in that area to make their homes and neighborhoods fire safe.

This grassroots movement is embraced by the state agency which will help the new chapter develop strategies such as fuels reduction and the means to educate residents and business people to learn how to live with fire by developing protection strategies such as fuel reduction activities, an evacuation plan, and contributing to a bio-mass pile where residents can deposit their yard cuttings and fire fuels to be used in the prison's bio-mass power facility.

Additionally, the chapter will work closely with the Central Lyon County Fire District to have their goals align with the fire districts.

Murphy said that the council's risk assessment of the Mound House area showed a high probability of more wildland fires. "Only 26 years ago BLM firefighter lost his life on Redrock Road fighting a wildland fire."

He said the new chapter is the only active one in Lyon County, though he hopes other neighborhoods Mound House and other communities will consider creating a web of fire safe chapters to protect their neighborhoods.

To contact Pat Murphy about forming a Fire Safe Chapter call 775-267-2123. For more information visit www.nvfsc.org

To join the Upper Mound House Fire Safe Chapter call Melinda Cash at 775-241-2198.
