



Medford Rural Fire Protection District #2

In This Issue

Emergency Preparedness "Do 1 Thing" *page 1 & 3*

Ignition-Resistant Homes *page 2*

Rural District Purchases *page 3*

Employee Retirement *page 3*

2019 Burn Permit *enclosure*

Medford Rural Fire Protection District 2
2019 Spring Newsletter

District Board of Directors

President
Joe Brooks

Vice President
Jack Tait

Secretary/Treasurer
Dan Marcisz

Directors
Bill Riggert
Bob Sheets

Medford Fire-Rescue
Fire Chief
Brian Fish

Editor
Pam Webber

Layout & Design
Christa Bennett

200 S. Ivy St., #180
Medford, OR 97501
(541) 774-2300
www.medfordfirerescue.org

Emergency Preparedness - "Do 1 Thing"

by Emergency Management Coordinator Melissa Cano



Welcome to our Medford Rural Fire Protection District 2 (MRFPD2) 2019 Spring Newsletter.

Medford Fire-Rescue (MFR) wants to encourage members of our community to be prepared for disasters and emergencies. It can seem like a daunting task and many people never get started. We want to provide our community with small steps that can make a big difference before, during, and after an emergency. Therefore, we are kicking off a year-long campaign called, "Do 1 Thing". It is a program geared at encouraging each community member to prepare yourself, your family, and your neighborhood in the event a disaster strikes. Every month has a low or no-cost option

to become better prepared. You can jump in at any time. If each of us does one thing each month, by the time a year has passed, we will have taken big steps toward being ready for the unknown.

In January, we encouraged everyone to "Make a Plan." When an emergency happens we may have to decide how to react very quickly. By planning ahead, it will be easier to make the right decisions when the worst happens. Making a functional emergency plan means you should take the following simple steps:

- Meet with your family or household members and obtain emergency medical information.
- Discuss how to prepare and respond to these emergencies that are most likely

to happen where you live, work, and play.

- Identify responsibilities for each member of your household and work together as a team.
- Plan what to do if you have to evacuate. Choose two places for your family to meet. One should be right outside your home, and the other should be outside of your neighborhood, in case you are asked to evacuate.



Decide where you will go and what route you will take to get there.

(Continued on page 3)

2019 Burn Permit Enclosed Open Burn Season Begins March 1

Burning is dependent on environmental air quality conditions.
Call 541-776-7007 to verify it is a burn day.

Permits are also available at Medford Fire-Rescue Headquarters and on our website
www.medfordfirerescue.org
Click on: Fire District 2, Burn Information and Permits

Paving the Way to Ignition-Resistant Homes

by Fire Marshal Greg Kleinberg



In the near future, new construction standards will be added to the Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) that will allow municipalities and counties to adopt more stringent ignition-resistant standards for new homes built in wildfire hazard zones. This has been a two and a half year process and it has not been an easy task to get the rules considered. However, after much testimony, workgroup progress, and stakeholder meetings, the rules were recently signed by the Building Codes Division (BCD) Director and became effective January 24, 2019.

The whole process began in 2016 when I submitted the original ORSC wildfire hazard mitigation code amendment to the BCD. I was inspired to do this from the loss of one of our own, Battalion Chief Mark Burns, who suffered irreparable damage to his lungs while protecting the Oak Knolls subdivision in Ashland from a threatening wildfire in 2010. The wildfire spread to homes before firefighters arrived and burned through 11 homes in 45 minutes. Firefighters were able to keep the conflagration from spreading into the rest of the subdivision and beyond, but tragically, Mark succumbed to the lasting effects of his injuries in 2016.

We know that most homes ignite in wildfires from ember intrusion

and small surface fires that spread to the structure. The new construction codes deal with roofs, rain gutters, vents, walls, decks, overhangs, and windows. The standards are meant to give the structure a better chance of surviving when exposed to embers and flames. Any portion of a structure that is easily ignitable or allows embers to lodge in an easily ignitable space is susceptible to ignition. Choosing the right building materials and sometimes the best orientation of those building materials based on tests can affect the outcome when exposed to wildfire conditions. This does not mean that only non-combustible materials such as concrete and metal have to be used.

California led the charge in testing ignition resistance of building materials after so many devastating losses, and implemented a state-wide wildfire construction standard more than a decade ago for all new buildings located in wildfire hazard areas. Some of the original tests later developed into American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards. There are a variety of materials including wood products that have passed a testing process and are acceptable in specific orientations. The new ORSC wildfire hazard mitigation construction code language is based on experience and testing and is considered best practice to protect homes from ignition when exposed to wildfire conditions.

It must be noted that defensible space and vegetation planning need to be part of the equation, but these are outside the scope of the building envelope that can be enforced through the ORSC. The Fire Service works diligently to educate homeowners on the importance of vegetation management and how they can better protect their existing homes from wildfire.

In 2018, Medford Fire-Rescue conducted 425 wildland urban-interface home evaluations with the goal of educating homeowners how to better protect their homes and property. The best scenario for preventing new homes in wildfire hazard zones from burning is to build the structures ignition-resistant while providing and maintaining defensible space and Firewise landscaping. For more information on wildfire home assessments and safety, please call MFR Headquarters at (541) 774-2300 or visit our website at www.medfordfirerescue.org, click on the "Fire & Life Safety" tab and then "Wildfire Home Safety".

DEFENSIBLE SPACE be fire ready



Retirement



Brian Hammer
Firefighter
30 Years of Service

Firefighter Brian Hammer retires on February 28th after 30 years with Medford Fire-Rescue. He came to us from Grants Pass Fire when he was hired on February 1, 1989. Over the years, Brian has been involved in several projects and programs. He was also the Rope Rescue lead, Fire Hose Management lead, and a Recruit Academy instructor.

Brian is looking forward to reconnecting with people he lost touch with over the years, enjoying more time with his wife, and helping his son remodel his home. Thank you for 30 years of dedication and congratulations on your retirement, Brian!

MFRPD2 Equipment Purchases 2018

We appreciate your support! Not only do your district tax dollars pay to contract with the City of Medford for emergency services; the district partners with Medford Fire-Rescue to purchase essential equipment and services necessary when responding to rescue, fire, and medical emergencies. MFR prides itself in being skilled and dedicated to serving the community with professional, specialized equipment. The following items were funded specifically by your District tax dollars:

Item & Description	\$ Amount
Firefighting Retardant Foam - Primarily for wildfires and overhaul on structures	8,730
Polaris Slip-On Pump Unit - ATV used for limited vehicle access in wildland areas	13,400
Training Structure - Multi-story building used to simulate training scenarios	128,868
Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) - Packs and cylinders (19) for use in structure fires	114,741
Wildland Pumper, Type III - Fire apparatus specific to wildland terrain	356,841
Defibrillator Preventative Maintenance - Agreement for preventative maintenance and repairs	51,280
Health & Safety Packs - Personal packs containing cancer prevention items to protect firefighter health	5,000
Smoke Generator - Used to produce theatrical smoke for training scenarios	4,425
Rural Address Signs - Provided to district patrons at no charge to ensure address identification	1,000
Turnout Washer - Commercial-sized machine specifically designed to wash firefighter turnouts	12,408

Daylight Savings Begins - March 10, 2019



When you set your clocks an hour ahead, it's a great reminder to change your smoke detector batteries

Emergency Preparedness (Continued from page 1)

• Lastly, practice your plan. Practice getting out of the house quickly, and drive your planned evacuation route. The more you practice, the more confident you will be if you really have to evacuate.

For the month of February, we are encouraging our community to be ready for a disaster by "Preparing to Hydrate." The traditional three days of supplies is a good start in the event of short-term emergencies, but a large earthquake, for example, would leave much of the area's transportation routes destroyed. The state of Oregon encourages everyone to be self-sufficient for two weeks. This means one gallon of water per person, per day, for two weeks.

The Food and Drug Administration says that commercially bottled water has an unlimited safe shelf life when stored in an unopened, sealed container. You can also store water in food-grade bottles if you take some precautions. And in a pinch, did you know that you can find clean water in a water heater or a toilet tank in your home? While those two options may not be ideal, this is why it is even more important to contribute to your water supply each month.

To follow along with each month's emergency preparedness goals, visit our website, www.medfordfirerescue.org, and click on the 'Emergency Management' tab. As we unveil each month's "Do 1 Thing" initiative, we will be updating this section of the website to include helpful documents, downloads, and examples to use in your home, free of cost.

Together, we can make our community better prepared.

Fire District 2 Newsletter ★ Spring 2019

Medford Rural Fire Protection District #2
200 South Ivy Street, Room 180
Medford, OR 97501

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 110
MEDFORD OR



★2019 BURN PERMIT ENCLOSED★

2019 Burn Permit Enclosed

Medford Rural
Fire Protection
District 2

Spring Newsletter

