



## MEDFORD BUREAU OF FIRE PREVENTION

*A Division of the Medford Fire Department*

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# Preparing Your Property for Wildfire Season



Deer Ridge Fire above Vista Pointe

In 2010, Medford Fire-Rescue will begin a Wildland-Urban Interface Home Assessment Program. This is a door-to-door campaign each year targeting specific hazardous wildfire areas. The goal is to take a proactive approach to reduce the wildfire threat by analyzing properties, giving advice, and providing educational material. We have several areas within our jurisdiction that have the potential for a wildfire disaster. Educating residents through assessment of their properties regarding fuel reduction, defensible space, and access can greatly reduce the future threat that both homeowners and firefighters face.

In September 2009 we witnessed how quickly a fire could spread within these areas when 633 acres rapidly burned in the foothills of East Medford. Fortunately, no lives were lost and all homes were saved. Under different conditions, the next time we may not be so fortunate. We know it makes all the difference to maintain a defensible space around your home and provide safe access for fire apparatus. We witnessed this on the Deer Ridge Fire. The picture on the right shows a house on Panorama Drive which serves as a good example of how preparation makes a difference. The fire burned towards the house and around the house, but lost momentum when it approached the house because the homeowner had previously thinned and mowed the vegetation around the house.



Panorama Drive House

Preparing your property before fire season is the best preventative measure to reduce the risk of losing your home in a wildfire. It also reduces the overall risk to your area. Working now to create a defensible space will help protect your home should a wildfire develop in your area.

For more information on how to prepare your property and for possible financial assistance opportunities, visit our office or the following website link:

<http://www.ci.medford.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=343>