



MEDFORD
OREGON



Media Release

April 29, 2020

Unmaintained Dry Vegetation is a Fire Hazard

City Ordinance Enforced Beginning May 1st

This year our area has experienced a very dry spring. With warmer weather approaching and fire season beginning earlier than normal on May 1st, vegetation in fields, hillsides and vacant lots is already drying out. Unmaintained dry vegetation is a significant fire risk during fire season. Fire can race through such vegetation endangering lives and property. The best way to minimize the fire risk is to reduce the available fuels. Please do your part to reduce the threat of wildfire this year by cutting dry vegetation prior to fire season.



2009 Deer Ridge Fire

The City of Medford's weeds and grass ordinance is effective May 1st. According to the City's Municipal Code section 7.430, any property with uncontrolled/unmaintained grass, weeds, brush, or any like vegetation over 10 inches tall creates a fire hazard that must be abated. The exceptions are:

- Ornamental shrubs, bushes, or other like vegetation maintained and kept in a landscaped yard or place
- Any crop grown and maintained for agricultural purposes, or grass or other like vegetation grown and maintained for pasturage upon property fenced, zoned, and otherwise lawfully used for said purpose
- Any "natural area" within a public park in the City of Medford



Violations are punishable by a fine. In addition, if the City orders the hazard abated, the property owner is responsible for the cost of the abatement of the hazard and associated administrative fees.

For more information, visit the following:

- About the vegetation ordinance and guidelines for vegetation abatement:
<http://www.ci.medford.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=2037>
- To submit a vegetation complaint, contact Code Enforcement at 541-774-2016 or submit the complaint on-line at the following location:
<http://www.ci.medford.or.us/FormPageBS.asp?FormID=14>
- If you live in the hillside areas and want more information about making your property more wildfire resistant, call Medford Fire-Rescue at 541-774-2300 to set up a free home evaluation or visit the following webpage:
<http://www.ci.medford.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=343>