

RESPONSE INTO UNDER PROTECTED LANDS

Relative Information: The District is bordered by cities, other fire districts, and under protected areas inside and outside the Fire District. Although Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) provides wildland fire protection in the under protected areas, it does not provide any type of structural fire protection, emergency medical services (EMS), rescue, or response for hazardous materials or natural disasters. Vacant lands assessed by ODF inside the boundaries of the Fire District are only included in a fire district with the owner consent (ORS 478.010). Outside the boundaries of a fire district, some property owners have chosen to build and live in those under protected areas either with or without the understanding that a full service fire agency will not be available for response to their emergencies.

The District may be requested to respond into under protected areas by members of the community through the 911 system. The District has the authority to determine if it will respond. There are a variety of state laws that address such situations:

ORS 476.280 allows the district board to authorize the Fire Chief or designee to respond into under protected areas to suppress fires when such fires cause or may cause undue jeopardy to life or property.

ORS 478.310 authorizes a district to respond outside its border, upon request, to a fire or other public safety incident or to airplane and/or other incidents that may occur on transportation routes with or without a contract to do so and provides the authority to recover the costs of the response.

ORS 476.290 and ORS 478.310 provide for billing and collection of district response costs in accordance with a State Standardized-Cost Schedule established by the State Fire Marshal.

The District does not ordinarily respond out of its territory but may do so if deemed appropriate and beneficial under the circumstances. The decision to respond is a judgment call requiring the approval of the Fire Chief or designee. Some of the criteria used to make these decisions include:

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| 1. Threat to life and property | 5. Contracts |
| 2. Availability of resources | 6. Location/distance |
| 3. Nature of request | 7. Time of year |
| 4. Mutual aid agreements | 8. Political or legal issues |

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the Board of Directors to authorize the Fire Chief and/or his/her designee the discretion to send District resources into under protected areas for the purpose of protecting life and property as long as protection capability within the District is not unreasonably reduced.

It is the policy of the District to bill for such services when appropriate and in accordance with adopted District standards and Oregon Revised Statutes.