

Fire District 3 8383 Agate Road White City, OR 97503 Business Office: (541) 826-7100



Please subscribe to Pulsepoint, and follow us on Facebook, and Twitter.

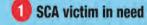




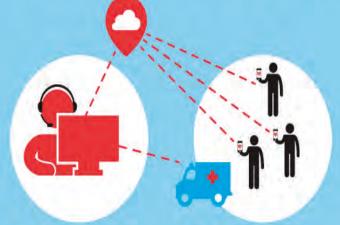


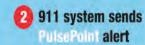
LEARN CPR - GET THE APP - SAVE A LIFE















 Users rush to help victim before professional help arrives



FIRE DISTRICT 3

Spring Newsletter 2019



FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

District Vision
To reduce and
eliminate risk from
fire, rescue and
medical events in the
mmunities we serve.

District Mission
To preserve quaility
of life and protect
property through
public education,
prevention activities
and emergency
response services.

Board of Directors Harvey Tonn

Cindy Hauser
Bill Leavens
Stephen Shafer
John Dimick

Executive Team
Robert Horton
Stacy Maxwell
Mike Hussey
John Patterson
Dave Blakely
Justin Bates

Serving the
communities of
Agate Lake
Central Point
Dodge Bridge
Gold Hill
Eagle Point
Sams Valley

White City

Contact Us 8383 Agate Road White City, OR 97503 541-826-7100 www.jcfd3.com It is my pleasure to serve as your Fire Chief. As we conclude 2018 and launch into 2019, there is no doubt that wildfires are on the forefront of people's minds. The fire problem is undeniably growing in frequency and severity, along with the problem that smoke is causing for us and our businesses. As your Fire District, we are supporting our agency partners, such as the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, who are tackling complex policy issues related to reducing the impact of wildfires.

There is work that we can do in the meantime. Our team here at Fire District 3 is committed to reducing the risk that faces our community, and you are our partner in achieving that goal. Collectively, it is our mission to preserve the quality of life you value so deeply as patrons of our District and residents of this great valley. The greatest impact we can have as a community is through your engagement and partnership with the Fire District 3 team. Preserving quality of life is a community effort that starts with risk reduction.

The theme of our newsletter is Community Risk Reduction (CRR); empowering you as our partners in the effort of preserving quality of life and minimizing the impacts of emergencies to us and our neighbors. Our programs are geared towards providing you with key information and tools that will lead us to improved service and results. While we take our duty to serve the community seriously, there are steps that can be taken to prevent or reduce the severity of emergencies before they happen. Our aim in this newsletter is to leave you feeling empowered to be part of our Community Risk Reduction team and to know what steps you can take to be proactive.

continued on page 2



Photo Credit - FrizzStudio.com

SMOKE ALARMS

continued from page 1

As committed and engaged members of our community, we ask that you be a leader in your neighborhood by using Firewise resources to create a defensible space around your home and creating a thorough evacuation plan. As part of your evacuation plan, we would encourage you to sign up for the Citizen Alert system on your smartphone at www.jacksoncounty.org/alert. These alerts will notify you of evacuations in your neighborhood, or the neighborhood of your choosing, no matter where you are. With that task completed, we ask that you help your neighbors do the same. We ask that you be trained in Hands-Only CPR (if not CPR certified) and know how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED). We have AEDs in public spaces throughout our community for use in the unfortunate event of a cardiac arrest emergency. Their locations are available through the Pulsepoint App on your smartphone. We ask that you check smoke alarms in your home to ensure they are working; we have resources to help if your smoke alarms are missing or not functioning correctly. Contact our office or ask a Firefighter for information on the public education and smoke alarm programs that are available to you.

We are proud to serve such a great community and appreciate your commitment to being prepared, informed, and willing to help in our efforts to preserve quality of life

risk reduction story with us by tagging FD3 and using the hashtag #FD3CRR. If social media is not for you, please call our office or tell a Firefighter how you have engaged in our efforts to reduce risk in the community so that we may celebrate with you.

Please enjoy this newsletter but remember this is a call to action, as you are part of our team to reduce the occurrence and impact of emergent and catastrophic events in our community.

For questions on our programs, or to know how you can be better prepared to prevent or assist during an emergency, please contact our office (541-826-7100) or ask our Firefighters.

2018 **COMMUNITY STATS** SMOKE ALARMS 607 **INSTALLED** STUDENTS TRAINED 650 IN HANDS-ONLY CPR FIREWISE USA® SITES CREATED **PULSEPOINT** 1940 **SUBSCRIBERS**

and protect property in this community. If you are social media savvy, please share your community

Deputy Fire Marshal Mark Northrop checking a smoke alarm

I am proud to be your Fire Chief and to have you on our Community Risk Reduction Team because "Together We're Better"!

Respectfully,

Robert B. Horton Fire Chief



For the past six years, Fire District 3 has installed and tracked thousands of smoke alarms throughout the District. The District's longstanding smoke alarm program is free of cost to FD3 residents living in Central Point, Eagle Point, White City, Agate Lake, Sams Valley, Dodge Bridge and Gold Hill. In 2018, the District focused on messaging presented by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). LOOK. LISTEN. LEARN. Be aware. Fire can happen anywhere.

According to the NFPA, four out of five U.S. fire deaths occur inside the home. By following these three steps, residents can learn how to prevent deadly fires.

- 1. LOOK for places that could start a fire.
- 2. LISTEN for the sound of a smoke alarm.
- 3. LEARN two-ways out of every room in the home.

The statistics are staggering when weighing the benefits of working smoke alarms in the home. During a fire, residents may have as little as two minutes to escape. Working smoke alarms can cut the risk for injury or death by home fire in half. Smoke alarms should be installed on each level of the home, in each sleeping area, and outside the sleeping areas. It is also important to know that most home fires start between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., hence the importance to have working smoke alarms in each bedroom.



Group photo at the Septemeber 2018 smoke alarm event.



In September of 2018, an exciting collaboration occurred when Fire District 3, the local American Red Cross, Charter Spectrum, the Chamber of Medford/Jackson County, and Eagle Point Chamber of Commerce teamed up to install smoke alarms in the White City and Central Point areas. With nearly 40 volunteers, the group set out to install smoke alarms in close to 400 homes. In total, 203 smoke alarms were installed in homes that are now better prepared in the event of a fire. This was a very successful partnership and is something the District looks forward to repeating in the future.

By ensuring that working smoke alarms are in each residence, the District fulfills their mission, vision, and first strategic initiative; preserving quality of life and minimizing the direct impact of fire. In 2018 alone, 607 smoke alarms were installed by Fire District 3 employees and volunteers. The ultimate goal is to have every home equipped with working smoke alarms.

If you are in need of smoke alarms in your home, please call 541-826-7100.

CPR ANYTIME

In 2016, Oregon implemented Senate Bill 79 (SB79) which requires students in grades seven through twelve to receive CPR and AED training developed by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or another nationally recognized training protocol before graduating.

In 2018, Fire District 3 entered into our sixth year teaching Adult Hands-Only CPR to seventh grade students. The program reached five middle schools and over 650 students who are now trained with an invaluable lifesaving skill. Adult Hands-Only CPR, which is also referred to as CPR Anytime, is a multi-county effort that teaches thousands of seventh grade students the basics of CPR while keeping themselves safe from exposure to bodily fluid, previously associated with mouth resuscitation.

CPR classes are typically taught in the latter part of the calendar year. Funding for the purchase of the CPR manikins and curriculum were made possible by the John and Nora Darby Heart Fund, Carpenter Foundation, Asante, FEMA, and the support of Dr. Paul Rostykus and Samantha Mattheny. To see the students in action and event photos, be sure to check out our social media pages on Facebook @JCoFD3 and Twitter @JCFd3FireInfo.





White Mountain Middle School and Scenic Middle School CRP Anytime classes.



Hands-Only CPR has been shown to be effective for cardiac arrest. It can double or even triple a victim's chance of survival.

JACKSON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 3

Proudly Serving the Communities of Central Point, Eagle Point, Gold Hill White City, Agate Lake, Dodge Bridge and Sams Valley



RECREATIONAL FIRE & RESIDENTIAL BURNING PERMIT

Your burning permit must be presented to fire crews upon request.

You are responsible for reading and understanding this information.

Per Oregon Fire Code **Section 307.3**, the *fire code official* is authorized to order extinguishment of a fire that creates or adds to a hazardous situation.

- ✓ Fire extinguishing equipment (water, shovel, or rake) must be readily available for use.
- ✓ Fires and burning must be under constant supervision of a responsible person with immediate access to a phone.
- ✓ Fires and burning must be extinguished if conditions develop that could cause fire spread (wind, flying embers, etc.).
- ✓ LIABILTIY: This permit does not relieve the person conducting the burning from criminal or civil liability for damages arising from burning occurring under his/her control. Violations of the burning requirements may result in the issuance of a citation, civil penalty and/or suppression cost recovery.

A RECREATIONAL FIRE is an outdoor fire in a protected pit, barbeque pit, fabricated fire pit or chimineas. Allowed burning materials include charcoal and firewood. Dimensions of the fire are limited to maximum of three feet (3') in diameter and two feet (2') in height and MUST be 15' from structures. Recreational fires MUST be attended by a responsible adult at all times while burning.

Recreational fires are allowed year round as long as they remain under constant supervision and do not pose threat of unintended spread.

RESIDENTIAL BURNING consists of burn piles with leaves, brush and/or yard trimmings. Dimensions of the piles are limited to maximum of three feet (3') diameter and two feet (2') in height and must be 25' from any structures.

Residential burning outside of the DEQ Air Quality Maintenance Area is allowed only on designated burn days when the Ventilation Index is above 400. Call 541-776-7007 to determine if it is a burn day.

Residential burning inside the DEQ Air Quality Maintenance Area is allowed on designated burn days when the Ventilation Index is above 400 on calendar days between March 1st and October 31st. Call 541-776-7007 to determine if it is a burn day. No burning is allowed in the AQMA from November 1st – February 28th.

RESIDENTIAL BURNING IS EXPRESSLY DISSALLOWED DURING FIRE SEASON. Fire Season is declared by the Oregon State Forester when the potential of fire spread is determined to be a hazard, typically during dry and/or hot months.

You may not burn these and similar materials:

*Construction materials *Stumps *Insulated wire *Demolition materials *Petroleum products *Chemically treated material

*Plastic/rubber products *Auto parts *Animal remains *Any animal/vegetable matter resulting from handling, preparation, cooking or food service *Residential garbage *Any other material which emits dense smoke/noxious odors.

Ventilation Index & Fire Season Information 541-776-7007

(Call to check if it is a burn day or not)

DEQ Air Quality Maintenance Area Information 541-774-8207 (Call to check if you are inside or outside the Air Quality Maintenance Area)

Jackson County Fire District 3 - 541-826-7100 or visit www.jcfd3.com

(Call if you have any further questions)

Fire safety education is and always has been an important piece in building strong and safety-minded thinkers in our community. 2018 was filled with educating the young minds in our schools about smoke alarms and early notification, knowing two-ways out of each room, creating a meeting place outside the home, and other home-safety messaging. With busy families and schedules, the District empowers each student to take what they have learned home to their siblings, parents, and families.

This year's target age group was first grade. Starting in October, the District visited over 1,000 elementary children to go over key age-appropriate fire safety messages through the reading of *No Dragons for Tea*. What better way to learn about fire safety than through the eyes of a girl who befriended a dragon? As you may expect, the story progresses and the dragon lets out a big sneeze which sets the tea party and table ablaze. The little girl then walks the dragon through the important steps of evacuating the home safely. The lighthearted book teaches children the importance of smoke alarms, getting out of the home quickly (not hiding), knowing two ways out of each room, creating a meeting place outside the home, and calling 9-1-1.

The District also participated in a pilot program in 2018, teaching fifth grade students at Jewett Elementary about evacuation levels and the importance of creating an emergency "go kit." Over 120 students discovered what it takes to build an emergency kit to last them a minimum of 72-hours. From flashlights to first aid kits, the students took time to think about what they would need in the event of an emergency. The class discussed wildfires while creating the kits, but the students understood that the bags could be used for a variety of natural disasters such as flooding or earthquakes. Each student wrote their names on the bags, and were instructed to put the supplies in an easily accessible area in their room. Extra clothing, water, food, and medications were also to be added when students returned home.

What was the highlight of the class? Most students said it was the fruit snacks that were placed inside the kits for extra snacks. Parents, you may need to add additional food now that the supply is low!







Fifth grade students at Jewett Elementary School creating emergency "go kits."





FIREWISE USA®

RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

The Firewise USA® program educates residents how to adapt to living in an area prone to wildfire, while encouraging neighbors to work together. Communities and neighborhoods who take ownership of their property and land, create a defensible space around the home, remove flammable vegetation, and make wise choices on home construction will be more successful in surviving a wildfire event.

The 2018 wildfire season in Southwest Oregon was difficult for many to bear, not to mention the devastating impact that the wildfires burning in bordering states had on the community. So now that wildfire season is over, what can residents do to start preparing for the coming wildfire season? P-r-e-p-a-r-e. This seven letter word will directly impact the way a home can survive a wildfire event. Firewise USA® program breaks it down into four different subgroups: vegetation management, fire resistive construction, being prepared, and other considerations.

In 2018, Fire District 3 added four new Firewise USA® program sites in Central Point. Pumice Lane, Raymond Way, West Pine Terrace, and Madrone Hills have joined the nationally recognized program to total nine Firewise USA® program sites throughout Fire District 3's service area. These projects were completed through grant funding in the amount of \$450,000 from the Westerns State Fire Managers * and Title III** (Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act) funds.

Call Fire District 3

today for a free
home assessment

541-831-2778

*While funding lasts, grants of \$500 per acre are available to all Fire District 3 residents to remove and modify fire-prone vegetation near homes. Fire-prone vegetation such as juniper, cypress, blackberry, and other conifers may pose a hazard to homes in a wildfire. To participate in the program, residents must first obtain a wildfire safety home assessment that will include site-specific recommendations for creating defensible space around a structure.

** Title III funding has been expended.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EVACUATIONS

YOUTH AND FIRE SAFETY

Thanks to our partners at Jackson County Emergency Management, there are a host of programs and resources available for the community to use to better prepare and implement before a disaster strikes. During certain types of disasters, such as wildfires or floods, residents may need to leave their home in order to remain safe. A family disaster plan should be created and include locations where you and your animals can evacuate.

When it comes to evacuation, it is important to know that re-entry into evacuated areas will likely be denied until conditions are safe. In cases where some entry is allowed, residents will need proof of their address (such as a government-issued ID). Although you will not be forced to evacuate your home, if you choose to leave you may not be allowed to return until the danger has passed. In order to keep everyone safe, citizens need to stay out of the evacuated area so that emergency workers can do their best to minimize the impact to homes and businesses.

Evacuating when asked to do so allows emergency workers to focus on controlling the disaster instead of saving the lives of people who have chosen to stay. Be sure to take your animals with you when you evacuate. Remember – if it's not safe for you, then it's not safe for them!

In 2014, the State of Oregon adopted a three-level evacuation process. It's important to understand what these levels mean in case you are ever asked to evacuate.

LEVEL 1 evacuation means "BE READY" for potential evacuation. Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, emergency services personnel may contact you via an emergency notification system.

LEVEL 2 evacuation means "BE SET" to evacuate. This level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. Residents MAY have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at their own risk. THIS MAY BE THE ONLY NO-TICE THAT YOU RECEIVE! Emergency services cannot guarantee that they will be able to notify you if conditions rapidly deteriorate. Area media services will be asked to broadcast periodic updates.

LEVEL 3 evacuation means that you need to LEAVE IMMEDIATELY! Danger to your area is current or imminent, and you should evacuate immediately. If you choose to ignore this advisement, you must understand that emergency services may not be available to assist you further. DO NOT delay leaving to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home.

Get alerted about emergencies and other important community news by signing up in Citizen Alert. This system enables us to provide you with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons or evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

You will receive time-sensitive messages wherever you specify, such as your home phone, mobile or business phones, email address, text messages, and more. You pick where, you pick how.

For more information, please visit https://jacksoncountyor.org/emergency and click on the "Citizen Alert" link.

Citizen Alert
Sign Up
Today!

Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District (JSWCD) and Fire District 3 hosted a number of learning tours in areas effected by the Peninger Fire for elementary and middle school students. Representatives from JSWCD, FD3, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and Central Point Police Department were present to discuss how the area was affected by fire.

The Peninger Fire occurred late afternoon on July 17, 2018 in downtown Central Point; burning over 100 acres of land, numerous out buildings, and damaging a number of homes. With the fire's close proximity to a busy interstate exchange and well-used Bear Creek Greenway, JSWCD and FD3 took this opportunity to speak to local students and community members about fire ecology, habitat restoration, and what it means to live in an area prone to wildfire.

The main objective of each tour was for students and representatives to discuss the fire's impact on the land. Students spoke with Central Point Police and an FD3 fire investigator to learn more about public safety on the Greenway and what it means to be prepared. JSWCD and ODF staff introduced key ecological pieces that make the effects of the fire appear as they do today. Students learned how trees can tell their life history and record important events. Other key topics included the adaptations native plants make to help survive and recover after a forest fire, as well as the role that native and non-native plants play in impacting how a fire burns.





Jewett and Mae Richardson Elementary fifth grade students discussing tree health and evacuations

In Southern Oregon, high temperatures, drought, and wildfire are major concerns in land management. For many residents, this summer has been especially trying. Wildfire on your property can alter the way water moves, how wildlife use your property (including insects, rodents, and birds), and your property's resilience to other disturbances (future fires, heavy rain events, wind, and erosion).

For help and resources visit the Natural Resources Conservation Service's After the Fire: Resources for Recovery. If you are a Jackson County resident, call JSWCD for a free site visit and technical advice. Visit https://www.nrcs.usda.gov or call 541-423-6159.

HOW TO PREAPRE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES

HOW TO

PREPARE YOUR HOME

FOR WILDFIRES



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the Immediate Zone: 0 to 5 feet around the house; Intermediate Zone: 5 to 30 feet; and the Extended Zone: 30 to 100 feet.

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 8 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and ensure mulches in the Immediate Zone (0 to 5 feet around the house) are non-combustible options like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

5, SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

6, EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet, for emergency vehicle access.

BE PREPARED

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay – don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- · Store firewood away from the home
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- · Create small fuel breaks with hardscaping features

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY OF FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK WHERE YOU LIVE.



Firewise* is a program of the National Fire Protection Association. This publication was produced in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, US Department of the Interior and the National Association of State Foresters. NFPA is an equal opportunity provider Firewise* and Firewise* USA* are registered trademarks of the National Fire Protection Association, Quinoy, MA 02169.

Order a Reducing Wildfire Risks in the Home Ignition Zone checklist/poster at Firewise.org

The Home Ignition Zone (HIZ): A Three Step Process

The home ignition zone was created in the late 1990's through experimental research showing how homes ignite due to radiant heat. What came of this was defining three specific zones around a home.

Immediate zone 0-5 feet from the furthest attached exterior point of the home:

The home and the area 0-5 feet from the furthest attached exterior point of the home; defined as a non-combustible area. Science tells us this is the most important zone to take immediate action on as it is the most vulnerable to embers. START WITH THE HOUSE ITSELF then move into the landscaping section of the Immediate Zone.

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows. Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

Intermediate zone 5-30 feet from the furthest attached exterior point of the home: 5-30 feet from the furthest exterior point of the home. Landscaping/hardscaping- employing careful landscaping or creating breaks that can help influence and decrease fire behavior.

- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.
- Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of 4 inches.
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to 6-10 feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- Space trees to have a minimum of 18 feet between crowns with the distance increasing with the percentage of slope.
- Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than 10 feet to the edge of the structure.
- Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.

Extended zone 30-100 feet from the furthest attached exterior point of the home:

30-100 feet, out to 200 feet. Landscaping/hardscaping- the goal here is not to eliminate fire but to interrupt fire's path and keep flames smaller and on the ground.

- Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris.
- Remove dead plant and tree material.
- Remove small conifers growing between mature trees.
- Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings within this area.
- Trees 30 to 60 feet from the home should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops.*
- Trees 60 to 100 feet from the home should have at least 6 feet between the canopy tops.*
- * The distances listed for crown spacing are suggested based on NFPA 1144. However, the crown spacing needed to reduce/prevent crown fire potential could be significantly greater due to slope, the species of trees involved and other site specific conditions. Check with your local forestry professional to get advice on wwhat is appropriate for your property.