



Post Fire Checklist and Financial Assistance

If your property has been affected by wildfire, utilize the checklist and funding opportunity below to chart a course forward. For more information, visit the OSU Extension website:

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program>

On the way back home:

- Check with law enforcement for an end of evacuation notice and the all clear to return.
- Watch for downed power lines and trees that could fall on the road or on your driveway.

Once back on your property:

- Wear proper personal protective equipment: thick boots, heavy gloves, mask, and eye protection.
- Check around the house for hot embers and wisps of smoke in gutters, under decks, wood piles and roofs. Call 911 if any heat is detected.
- Check for structural damage to your house (foundation cracks, support beam damage).
- Check for gas (smell of gas) or water leaks.
- Check the main power meter. If turned off or no power, call your utility provider.
- Check that your pump house/well is working properly—make sure water is safe to drink.
- Any damage to gas, power or phone lines—stay clear and call the utility service provider.

Going in your house:

- Before turning lights on, use a flashlight to look for embers. Check for heat throughout the house especially in the attic.
- Check for structural damage inside the house.
- Check the main circuit box. If off, make sure all appliances are off before turning the circuit box on.
- Discard all food that has been exposed to heat, smoke, fumes, or flood waters.

Financial Assistance:

NRCS often has funding available to help landowners recover from wildfire impacts. Eligible lands include: forest, crop, pasture and associated agricultural land. Available conservation practices include:

- Native grass seeding
- Cover crop for cropland and pasture
- Woody residue treatment: contour falling, slash removal, piling, chipping, etc
- Mulching: straw, wattles, hydro mulch for erosion control

After a wildfire, check the NRCS Fire Assistance website at: <https://tinyurl.com/y5xyhjga> to see if you are eligible.

Funding Opportunities Aimed to Reduce Fire Risk and Hazard

These funding opportunities help implement fuel hazard reduction and restoration work to create defensible space around your property so you can better prepare for wildfire.

▪ [Forest Service, Forest Stewardship Program](#)

- The goal of the Forest Stewardship Program is to assist landowners in developing individualized forest management plans
- Minimum plan size is 10 acres
- Up to 75 percent cost-share reimbursement
- The first step is to call your USFS State Coordinator:
California: 530-233-8743
Oregon: 503-808-2353

▪ [National Resource Conservation Service \(NRCS\), Environmental Quality Incentive Program](#)

- Provides funding for a target-based approach to fire management
- Mostly funds mechanical treatment over prescribed burns
- While the work may take anywhere from a few weeks to a few months, the application process can take 6+ months, its best to start as early as possible.
- Step-by-step explanation of the application process can be found here:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted>

- The first step is to contact your local NRCS service center

Jackson County: 541-423-6173

Josephine County: 541-673-6071

Curry County: 541-396-2841

Del Norte County: 707-487-7630

Siskiyou County: 530-572-3119

▪ [Lomakatsi Restoration Project](#)

- Lomakatsi helps private landowners enhance wildlife habitat on their property and remove hazardous fuels through ecological thinning and prescribed burning.
- Funding for this work is leveraged through local, state and federal agencies, and private funding sources.
- Lomakatsi's capacity to work with private landowners is initiative-based and dependent on the location of their lands in relation to existing project areas.
- Interested landowners should contact Lomakatsi at info@lomakatsi.org or 541-488-0208 and include the following information:
Property address (or general location); acreage; desired treatment; any past or current work in partnership with agencies; and contact information.



PHOTO: RICH FAIRBANKS

Removing smaller weaker trees from your property mimics natural forest processes and can improve fire resiliency by leaving healthy mature trees standing. Horses can be used as an alternative to heavy logging equipment.

How to Prepare Your Home for Wildfire

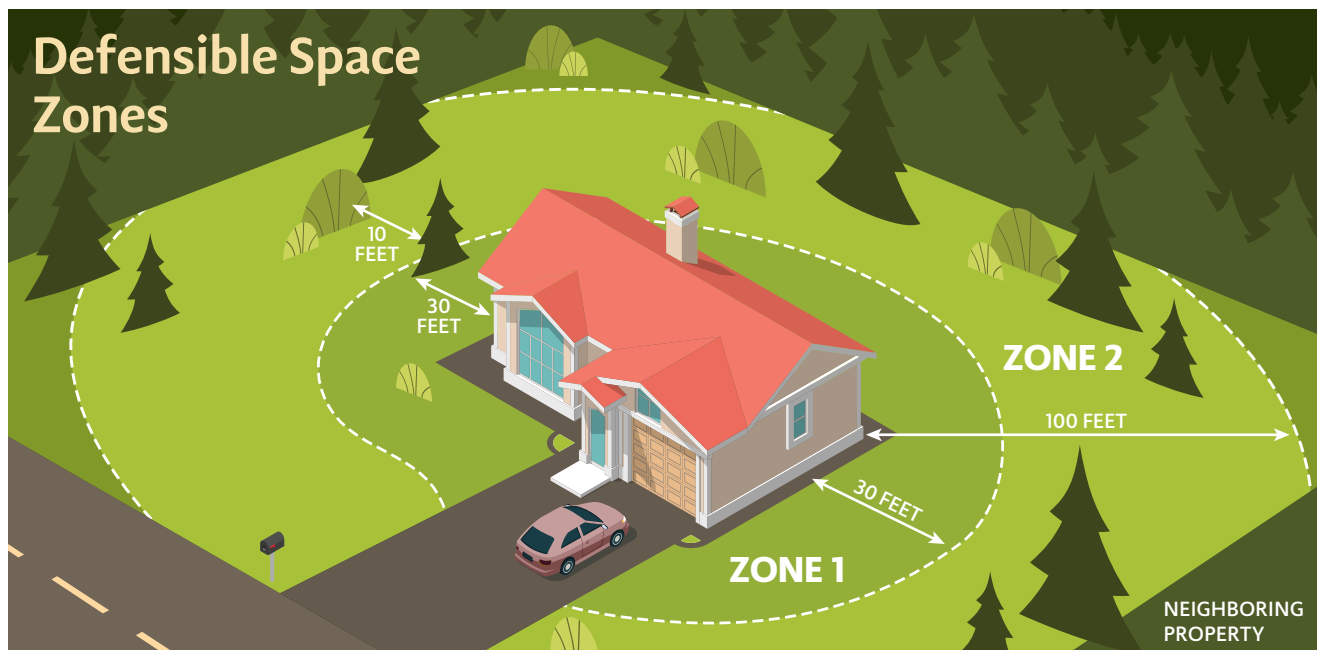
Those who live and work in communities on the edge of forests, often called the “wildland urban interface,” need to protect their homes from the threat of wildfire. Being ready for wildfire starts with **maintaining an adequate defensible space** and by **hardening your home** by using fire resistant building and landscaping materials. Fire professionals repeatedly state that the area within 100 feet of your home has the biggest influence on its chance of surviving a wildfire.

Defensible Space

Defensible space is the buffer you create by removing dead plants, grass, and weeds from around your home. This buffer is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect your home from catching fire—either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. For more information check out: <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/>.

6 No Cost Ways to Create Defensible Space:

- 1 Regularly clean your roof, gutters, decks, and the base of walls to avoid accumulation of leaves, needles and other flammable materials.
- 2 Ensure all combustible materials are removed from underneath, on top of, or within five feet of a deck.
- 3 Remove vegetation or other combustible materials that are within five feet of windows and glass doors.
- 4 Replace wood mulch products within five feet of all structures with noncombustible products such as dirt, stone, or gravel.
- 5 Maintain Zone 1 by removing all dead or dying grass, plants, shrubs, trees, branches, leaves, weeds, and pine needles within 30 feet of all structures.
- 6 Maintain Zone 2 by mowing grass to 4 inches and by removing low branches from trees and shrubs within 100 feet of all structures.



Home Hardening

Hardening your home means using construction materials that can help your home withstand flying embers, which can result in your house catching fire. Embers will seek out any opening or weak spot in your home's construction to get inside. Taking the necessary measures to harden your home can help increase its chance of survival when wildfire strikes.

10 Low Cost Ways to Harden Your Home:

- 1 When it is time to replace your roof, replace it with fire-resistant composition, metal, or tile materials.
- 2 Block spaces between your roof covering and sheathing using an eave closure.
- 3 Install non-combustible metal gutter covers to prevent the accumulation of leaves and debris in the gutter.
- 4 Cover your chimney, stove pipe, and all vent openings with a noncombustible corrosion-resistant metal mesh screen, a spark arrestor, with 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch openings.
- 5 Have multiple garden hoses that are long enough to reach all areas of your home and other structures on your property. If you have a pool or well, consider getting a pump.
- 6 Caulk and plug gaps greater than 1/16-inch around exposed rafters and blocking to prevent ember intrusion.
- 7 Inspect siding for dry rot, gaps, cracks, and warping. Caulk or plug gaps greater than 1/16-inch in siding and replace any damaged boards, including those with dry rot.
- 8 Install weather stripping to gaps greater than 1/16-inch in garage doors to prevent ember intrusion.
- 9 When replacing windows use multi-paned windows with at least one pane of tempered glass.
- 10 When it's time to replace your siding or deck, use non combustible, ignition-resistant materials or consider switching to a stone or concrete patio.



Fire-Resistant Landscaping

A fire-resistant landscape isn't necessarily the same thing as a well-maintained yard. This type of landscape uses fire-resistant plants that are strategically planted to resist the spread of fire to your home. Proper placement and on-going maintenance of fire-resistant trees, for example, can help protect your home by blocking intense heat.

What are Fire-Resistant Plants?

Fire-resistant plants don't readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. Although fire-resistant plants can be damaged or even killed by fire, their foliage and stems do not contribute significantly to the fuel and, therefore, the intensity of a fire.

Choose Fire-Resistant Plants and Materials

- Create fire-resistant zones with stone walls, patios, decks, and roadways.
- Use rock, flower beds, and gardens as ground cover for bare spaces and as effective firebreaks.
- There are no "fire-proof" plants. Select high-moisture plants that grow close to the ground and have a low sap or resin content.
- Choose fire-retardant plant species that resist ignition such as rockrose, ice plant, and aloe.
- Select fire-resistant shrubs such as hedging roses, bush honeysuckles, currant, cotoneaster, sumac, and shrub apples.
- Plant hardwood, maple, poplar, and cherry trees that are less flammable than pine, fir, and other conifers.

There is a wide array of trees and plants to choose for your landscape that are both attractive and fire-resistant. For a diverse list of fire-resistant plants, <https://tinyurl.com/yy47jhl3>.

A Caution About Bark Mulch:

Bark mulch is often used in home landscapes. However, fire brands from a wildfire and cigarettes can ignite dry bark mulch, conveying the fire to your home. If you landscape with bark mulch up against your home, make sure it remains moist to prevent ignition.



Fire-Resistant Plants



Ice Plant is a very low-growing ground cover with succulent, green foliage.

PHOTO: ALVES GASPAR, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Any Coreopsis plant is popular due to its tolerance to a wide variety of soil types.

PHOTO: DOCENT JOYCE, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Lavender is a fire resistant plant that thrives in dry growing conditions.

PHOTO: KEN PEI, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Himalayan Blackberry Maintenance

Invasive weeds, such as Himalayan Blackberry, are common ladder fuels for wildfire. Not only are these plants highly flammable and quick spreading, they pose ecological problems when they out-compete native vegetation. Maintaining Himalayan Blackberry on your property can help decrease the chances of fire spread.

Himalayan Blackberry Identification and Quick Facts:

- 5 leaflets per leaf; canes have thorns; are ribbed and square in cross-section.
- Thickets often reach 6 feet or more in height; brambles (canes) can grow 3 feet or more in length in one season.
- Spreads via underground burls, runners and tiprooting from canes; quickly occupies disturbed areas.
- Less vigorous in shade; can't survive in deep shade.
- Flammable due in part to accumulation of dead material in thickets; burns well in winter.
- Fuels reduction objective: Eliminate when possible.



Himalayan blackberry is aggressive and quickly occupies cleared or disturbed areas. Don't delay in planting or seeding such sites with fast-growing native vegetation before new blackberry starts get established. Maintaining heavy shade reduces the vigor of existing plants and prevents new plants from getting established.

Manual removal of Himalayan blackberry can be an effective control option, but it is labor intensive and often a difficult and painful process. Cut large plants at ground level and remove root crowns and large lateral roots. It is important to remove as much of the root system as possible to prevent regrowth. This method will need regular follow-up to remove new growth and seedlings. While effective, this process heavily disturbs soil and increases the erosion potential of a site. This method is not recommended on steep or unstable soils.

Recommended Tools:

- **Spade/grub hoe:** Dig out plants including the root mass when soils are moist.
- **Brush hog:** Not effective as a standalone treatment but can be used with other treatments such as goats.
- **Brushcutters, hedge trimmers, loppers:** Repeatedly cut back vegetation early in the growing season. Subsequent cuttings are at flowering or when the plant has grown back to around 18 inches high.

Emergency Preparedness

We are experiencing more extreme fire events and are entering an era where wildfire is becoming more prevalent. Before a wildfire, it is important to prepare yourself and your home for the possibility of having to evacuate. Below are preparation actions that should be completed and familiar to all members of your household:

Create a Wildfire Action Plan!

Your Action Plan should include:

An Evacuation Plan:

- Designate an emergency meeting location outside the fire or hazard area.
- Know several different evacuation routes from your home and community.
- Sign up for local emergency notifications (*See below*).
- Check for road closures: <https://www.tripcheck.com>
- Have an evacuation plan and emergency kit for pets and large animals.¹



Always have a 'Go Bag' packed:

- Keep it easily accessible and have enough supplies for at least three days
- 'Go Bag' Checklist:
 - Face masks or coverings
 - Non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person
 - Can opener and utensils
 - Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
 - Prescriptions or special medications
 - Change of clothing
 - Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
 - An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
 - First aid kit
 - Cell phone chargers and backup batteries
 - Flashlight
 - Sanitation supplies
 - Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
 - Don't forget pet food and water!



Sign up for Emergency Alert Notifications:

- Jackson and Josephine: <https://tinyurl.com/y4rb3llh>
- Curry: <https://tinyurl.com/y4yyge7t>
- Del Norte: <https://tinyurl.com/y5otvvd3>
- Siskiyou: <https://tinyurl.com/y22ymkg9>
- Nixle: On a cell phone, text zip code to "888777" to sign up for emergency and "advisory" text alerts.



1. <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/go-evacuation-guide/animal-evacuation/>

Insurance

- Call your insurance company to discuss policy limits and coverage.
- Know what your policy covers- understand if you have a replacement cost policy or an actual cash value policy.
- If you are renting, consider purchasing renters insurance.

If you are a small forest owner, you have a huge liability. Any fire that starts on your land and spreads outside is considered your fault. For this reason, fire liability insurance is popular to obtain. Many people join groups that offer fire insurance, such as the **Oregon Small Woodlands Association**. For more information, contact Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center, Extension Forestry at (541) 776-7371.

For more information on community preparedness, funding opportunities and other resources, Google search your counties Fire Safe Council and Community Wildfire Protection Plan:

- [California Fire Safe Council](#)
 - [The Mid Klamath Watershed Council/Orleans-Somes Bar Fire Safe Council](#)
 - [Del Norte Fire Safe Council](#)
 - [Fire Safe Council of Siskiyou County](#)
- [Oregon Department of Forestry – Community Wildfire Protection Plans](#)



For current wildfire information and maps, check out the KS Wild’s Fire Dashboard:
<https://www.kswild.org/fire-dashboard>

PHOTO: RICH FAIRBANKS

Working on Your Land

Preparing your property for wildfire can take a lot of work depending on its size and your desired goals. Forestry professionals conduct treatments to help reduce the amount of fuel (grasses, needles and shrubs) within a forest. Fuel treatments include thinning and pruning trees and prescribed burning. While some of this work can be done on your own, sometimes you may need professional help.

Before hiring a forestry professional, below are a few questions that can help you prepare for your visit and develop a plan for your property.

What do I have?

- Walk through your property and describe what you see. What kinds of trees and plants are present as well as the quantity and condition?
- Map out important features including streams, drainages, and roads.

What do you want to do with it?

- Think about your reasons for owning the land. What do you want your land to look like and be used for over the long term?
- Identify goals that are most important to you.

What assistance is available to you?

- Find out what people and programs are available to help you, including local experts and agencies, neighbors, grants, and cost-share programs (See page 20).

What is your action plan?

- Create a project list, breaking down large goals into smaller, more manageable tasks.

Tips on how to choose a forester:

- Call several foresters before you decide on one and request references from previous jobs.
- Choose someone whose style and approach to forest management is compatible with yours.

Did you know?

The Rogue Valley is home to one of the most active forestry and wildfire protection service industries in the country and the Latino community constitutes a majority of this workforce. This important work often comes at a cost—forest workers are at high risk of injury, are often paid less than a living wage, and disproportionately experience other equity issues including wage theft. **Lomakatsi Restoration Project's Promotora Program** provides forest workers with practical information they need to keep themselves safe on the job. Promotoras de Salud (or Community Health Workers) meet with forest workers around the community to deliver training and offer safety resources, primarily in Spanish. The Promotora Program gives a voice to the highly skilled and specialized forest workers who, on a daily basis, make our communities safer from the risk of severe wildfire and enhance wildlife habitat. For more information, check out Lomakatsi's website: <https://lomakatsi.org/>.



PHOTO: LOMAKATSI RESTORATION PROJECT

Lomakatsi's Promotora Program conducts trainings on forest worker safety and workplace rights. After each training, the Promotoras de Salud pass out their contact information in case the workers have questions or concerns.

For a full list of forest contractors visit:

Southern Oregon: <https://mysouthernoregonwoodlands.org>

Northern California: <https://www.clfa.org/resources> or contact the Northern California Society of American Foresters: 1-800-738-8733

Permits and Procedural Steps to Burning on Your Property

Josephine County

- Determine if you live inside or outside the [‘The Rogue Valley Burn Control Area’](#)¹. Call the Air Quality Program Coordinator at 541-474-5325 to find out.
- Contact your local Fire District or ODF to obtain a burn permit. Follow permit requirements. If you are within the City of Grants Pass, call the city at 541-450-6200.
- Permits can also be obtained on the Illinois Valley Fire District website: <https://ivfire.com/>
- Call the open/barrel burn advisory at 541-476-9663 to hear the daily predicted ventilation index and burn status.

Jackson County

- Determine if you live inside or outside [‘The Air Quality Maintenance Area’](#)².
- Contact your local Fire Department to obtain a burn permit. If you don’t know which fire district you live in, see the [map of fire districts](#)³.
- Call the open/barrel burn advisory at 541-776-7007 to hear the daily burn status.

Curry County

- Contact the Coos Forest Protective Association at 541-247-6241 to obtain a burn permit.
- If you live within city limits, call your local fire department.

Del Norte County

- Burn permits can be purchased or renewed online: <http://www.ncuaqmd.org/index.php?page=burn.portal>.
- Automated burn day status information can be obtained by calling 707-443-7665.

Siskiyou County

- Burning of a 4-ft high by 4-ft square pile does not require a permit. To burn more piles, you must obtain a non-agricultural burn permit by calling: 530-842-8123.
- If you have more questions, call the Air Pollution Control office: 530-841-4025.

1. Google search: ‘Rogue Valley Burn Control Area Josephine County’
 2. Google search: ‘Air Quality Maintenance Area Jackson County’
 3. Google search: ‘Fire districts Jackson County’

When Burning:

- Have the right tools: McLeod, drip torch, water source (hose, backpack).
- Check your local weather. Do not burn if strong winds or low humidity is forecasted.
- Make sure slash piles are not close enough to damage or torch adjacent trees.
- Slash piles should have a dry ignition point: use a 3’x3’ piece of slash paper to create a dry spot in the pile. Put in the paper when the pile is about half built and then cover with more slash.
- **Do not burn during wildfire season.**



Slash paper in the middle of a burn pile helps keep debris dry for easy ignition.

PHOTO: RICH FAIRBANKS



A propane torch is used to set fire to slash piles and conduct prescribed burns.

PHOTO: RICH FAIRBANKS