



NEWS

October 10, 2008

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
SOUTHWEST OREGON DISTRICT
5286 Table Rock RD
Central Point, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SOUTHWEST OREGON NEWS MEDIA

Contacts: Greg Alexander, ODF Medford Unit Forester, (541) 621-4156
Rick Dryer, ODF Grants Pass Unit Forester, (541) 474-3152

FIRE SEASON ENDS

Fire season is over on lands protected by the Oregon Dept. of Forestry's Southwest District. It officially ended this morning at 9:00 a.m. and all public and industrial fire-prevention regulations are lifted. This declaration affects state, private, county and Bureau of Land Management forestlands in Jackson and Josephine counties.

The fire danger level is "low" (green).

Debris pile and barrel burning is now allowed on ODF-protected lands. However, open burning is regulated for air quality in all of Jackson County, and in the Rogue Basin Open Burn Control Area in Josephine County. Before starting a burn, call the open burning advisory number for your county:

- Jackson County, 776-7007
- Josephine County, 476-9663

Some cities do not allow open burning, and many rural fire protection districts require a burning permit. Call your local structural fire service provider before burning.

Fire season started June 16 and lasted 117 days. Two hundred and forty-six fires burned 1,770 acres this season. According to the ten-year averages, the district normally has 191 fires that

burn 5,126 acres. The number of lightning-caused fires, 74, was higher than normal this year, but the number of acres burned by lightning, 1,390, was lower than normal. The number of human-caused fires, 172, was higher than normal but the number of acres burned, 380, was half of the ten-year average. District firefighters stopped 95 percent of the fires at 10 acres or smaller. The largest fire of the year was the 1,275-acre Doubleday Fire, which was located south of Butte Falls in Jackson County and was caused by lightning in mid-September.

For more information about the Oregon Department of Forestry's fire season regulations, contact the Southwest District's unit office in your area:

- Medford Unit, 5286 Table Rock Rd., Central Point. Phone: (541) 664-3328
- Grants Pass Unit, 5375 Monument Drive, Grants Pass. Phone: (541) 474-3152

Southwest Oregon District fire precaution level information is also posted on the World Wide Web at www.swofire.oregon.gov.

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