

MODEL PRESS RELEASE

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Contact:

Phone:

Date:

(Your agency name) Joins in Statewide Wildfire Awareness Campaign Reduce Your Risk to Wildfire

May 3 – 9, 2009 is Wildfire Awareness Week in Oregon. _____ (WUI Official) encourages home and property owners to take steps now to increase the fire-resistance of their structures. Each year fire service in Oregon fight wildfires threatening property, homes and communities.

“More people are building homes in areas bordering on, or in areas vulnerable to wildfire,” says _____ (WUI Official). “That’s why _____ (name of organization) encourages you to use fire resistant materials when designing, building, remodeling or retrofitting your home. The regular maintenance of your property, along with proper landscaping, will go a long way in helping your home survive a wildfire. We encourage each of you to be an active participant in your local community wildland fire risk reduction efforts all year long.”

Increasing fire-resistance on and around the home includes;

- Covering all vents (roof or foundation) with a fine mesh screen (1/8th inch) to prevent sparks or embers from blowing in or under your home,
- Roof with fire resistant materials such as tile, composition shingles (Class A) or metal,
- Keep flammable materials away from any propane, oil or fuel tanks,
- Keep your home’s roof and gutters free of needles and leaves. Debris such as needles and leaves can ignite easily and quickly spread fire to your home.
- Rake and remove dry vegetation and other debris from around your home and outbuildings.
- Keep flammable materials away from wooden decks or walkways, fire has been known to slowly burn the length of a deck or porch to ignite a home.
- Replace flammable deck furniture with noncombustible furniture,
- Store firewood at least 30 feet away from your home; woodpiles cause a very intense fire.
- If you have a wooden fence attached to your house, consider replacing with noncombustible fencing material. A wooden fence can act as a wick and start your house on fire.

All in Oregon share in the responsibility to lessen the likelihood of damage from wildfire.

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