



Oregon State Fire Marshal's Red Incident Management Team

September 22, 2009

Dear Medford and Ashland Residents,

We want to thank you for your hospitality, patience, kindness, and acts of charity over the last several days. Since Monday afternoon we have worked within your communities to continue the excellent work that Medford Fire Rescue, Ashland Fire and Rescue, Oregon Department of Forestry, mutual aid firefighters from Jackson, Josephine and Douglas Counties, law enforcement officers and public works crews performed in the initial hours of the Deer Ridge and Siskiyou wild land fires. Monday night we were able to provide those initial attack crews with needed rest.

We are structural firefighters from cities and fire districts around Oregon who were sent here under a little-known Oregon law, the State Conflagration Act, which allows the State Fire Marshal to send firefighters from all over the state to help in a fire emergency that has overwhelmed and/or exhausted the local responders. In the case of these fires, teams of firefighters from Benton, Deschutes, Marion, Lane, Linn, and Coos Counties responded, led by a team of trained fire officers from around the state.

When we arrived Monday we were impressed by what local residents and all of the firefighters accomplished before our arrival. The evidence of local firefighting skills lies in the 300+ homes in Medford and the approximately 250 homes in Jackson County Fire District 5 near Ashland that were protected and remain standing today.

We have enjoyed our "visit" to your community. Please accept our deepest thanks for your kindness, cooperation and patience. The following public agencies responded to this emergency:

Medford Fire Rescue	Jackson County Fire District 3
Ashland Fire	Sutherlin Fire
Lane County Fire District 1	Douglas County Fire District 2
Springfield Fire	Corvallis Fire
McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District	Philomath Fire
Eugene Fire & EMS	Alesea Fire
Coburg Fire District	Salem Fire
Sweet Home Fire	Turner Fire
Harrisburg Fire	Woodburn Fire
Illinois Valley Fire	Willamette Valley Fire Authority
Albany Fire Department	Stayton Fire
Lebanon Fire	Silverton Fire
Brownsville Fire	Bend Fire
Bandon Fire	Hillsboro Fire
North Bend Fire	LaPine Fire
Redmond Fire	Black Butte Fire
Jackson County Fire District 4	Jefferson County Fire District 1
Jackson County Fire District 5	Rogue River Fire
Lake Creek Fire District	Jackson Ville Fire
Rural Metro Fire	Grants Pass Fire Rescue
Applegate Fire District 9	Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office
Oregon Department of Forestry	

