The stage had been set for extreme fire conditions

- Unprecedented winds; Extreme fire danger
- Jackson County in Extreme Drought
- Risk of power outages, particular at WTP
Tuesday, September 8 2020

~11am

~2pm
Tanks could not refill due to sustained elevated demand.

Less than 5 miles
Risks to Drinking Water

- Turbidity
- pH and alkalinity
- Temperature
- Organic carbon and nutrients
- Disinfection byproducts
- Harmful algal blooms
- Metals concentrations
- VOCs and other “contaminants”
Source Water Monitoring

- Updated source water monitoring plan
  - Frequency
  - Locations
  - Parameters
  - Improved online monitoring capabilities

- Data Analysis

![Rogue River Organics Graph](image1)

![Little Butte Creek Turbidity (2017 – 2020)](image2)
RESILIENCY
MWC Treatment Resilience
Backup Power Resilience

Enable production of up to 23 mgd fully treated water without grid power
Scheduled to be online summer 2021
Source Watershed Resilience

- Forestry
  - Forest management on MWC land
  - Collaboration with Forest Service, BLM, private timber, other landowners and stakeholders

- Agriculture
  - Working with JSWCD, irrigation districts and others on Agricultural non-point source reduction
  - NWQI – NRCS grant focused on upper Rogue

- Urban
  - Almeda Fire and Bear Creek
  - Industrial and urban areas upstream of DW providers
  - Stormwater monitoring and control
We’re all in this together...
Regional Collaboration

• Distribution system monitoring for VOCs
  • Talent, Phoenix, Charlotte Ann Water District sampling every burned structure prior to re-connection to water system

• Source Water
  • Increase in monitoring and data-sharing amongst Rogue Drinking Water Partners (RDWP)
  • Regional emergency response plan development

• Partnering Agencies
  • State / County agencies providing guidance and resources
  • Non-profits
Collaboration is key to ensuring safe drinking water
  • Shared resources such as online instrumentation assists all utilities in monitoring potential threats
  • Development of enhanced tools is needed
    • Models to predict time of travel in local waterways
    • Real-time, online data sharing
    • Affordable instrumentation to provide accurate data without the need of slow and expensive lab testing
• All partners will be better prepared for the next event which we hope will never happen
Grants Pass Perspectives

• Initial data has not revealed any immediate reasons to be worried
  • Continued monitoring will be required
• It is hard to say that the data is “not typical” most utilities do not monitor raw water to the extent that it is being done in response to this fire
  • Finished water is all that traditionally matters
• More data will be required to create a good post rainfall profile of the source water to assist operators to make decisions ahead of future events