

FIRE SAFE

OREGON FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION PLAN



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MAY

FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION PLAN

May 1st kicks off Wildfire Awareness Month with National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. Throughout the month of May, we will look at key components of Wildfire Prevention in the Wildland Urban Interface across Oregon. Bigfoot returns to remind everyone to protect this space and #BelieveInFireSafety.

PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE

MAY



NOTABLE DATES

- **May 1st** - May Day
- **May 1st** - Wildfire Community Preparedness Day
- **May 1st - 7th** - Arson Awareness Week
- **May 8th** - Mother's Day
- **May 9th - 15th** - Hurricane Preparedness Week
- **May 15th - 23rd** - EMS Week
- **May 21st** - Armed Forces Day
- **May 30th** - Memorial Day
- Wildfire Awareness Month
- National Mental Health Awareness Month
- Youth Traffic Safety Month

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

May 11th, 2022

Summer Cooking Safety
[Register Here](#)

May 25th, 2022

Wildfire Prevention for Youth
[Register Here](#)



Available Resources:

[Visit OSFM's WUI webpage for more information](#)

[Believe in Fire Safety Video](#)



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

503-934-8228 | OSFM 3565 TRELSTAD AVE SE SALEM, OR 97317

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May 1st - May 7th: Defensible Space

May is a great time to begin outdoor home projects and there are several that can help in creating defensible space. Reducing fire fuels near your home allows for greater protection against fires starting or spreading. Creating defensible space includes ensure there is space between vegetation, eliminating flammable debris, and keeping plants and landscaping healthy and hydrated.

Home projects to plan for the month of May:

- Clean debris from your roof, gutters & chimney.
- Prune bushes and trees so they avoid touching your home or consider replacing them with fire resistant plants.
- Be aware of what is touching the base of your home and that bark dust is flammable, increasing fire risk close to your home.
- Clean under decks, removing vegetation and debris.
- Maintain other buildings and fence lines on your property.
- Lawns should be clipped, clear of debris, healthy and green.

NFPA Messaging: Defensible Space

- Wildfires can spread to homes from blowing embers and flames. Maintain your home and landscape to reduce the chance of embers and flames igniting material on or near the home.
- To prevent home ignitions from wildfire, start with the exterior of your home. Roofs can catch embers. Regularly clear debris from roof valleys and gutters.
- For new homes and home improvements, look for fire-resistant materials whenever possible. Building materials, including the roof, should be listed by a qualified testing laboratory.



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May 8th - May 14th: Backyard & Debris Burning

Escaped debris burns are the leading human cause of wildfires in Oregon. While the spring may be a great time to reduce excess vegetation around the home, debris burning can pose a fire threat.

- When possible, recycle yard debris in place of burning it. Chip, compost, or haul debris to a recycling center.
- Call before you burn yard debris. Check your local burning restrictions and if a permit is required before burning.
- Know the weather forecast. Never burn on dry or windy days and be prepared to extinguish the pile when conditions change.
- Burn only yard debris. State regulations prohibit the open burning of any material that creates dense smoke or noxious orders including garbage or food waste.
- Keep the burn pile small or use a burn barrel. Don't burn more than you can manage to control at one time.
- Ensure that the ground is clear of combustible debris and make sure there are no tree branches or powerlines above. Remember to wet the surrounding areas before, during and after the burn.
- Always have water and fire tools on site. Keep a water-charged hose, a bucket of water, a shovel, and dirt or sand nearby to extinguish the fire.
- Do not leave the fire unattended. Oregon law requires that you monitor a debris burn continually from start to finish until it is completely out.
- Extinguish the fire. Drown the burn pile with water, stir the coals, and drown again. Repeat until the fire is completely out. This means you can touch any leftover materials with a barehand.
- Finally, recheck the fire. Go back and recheck old burn piles using the extinguish the fire method above, as they can retain heat for several weeks and rekindle when the weather warms and the wind begins to blow.



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NFPA Messaging: Backyard and Debris Burning

- Check with your local fire department or municipality for any restrictions before starting an open-air fire, recreational fire, or outdoor cooking fire. Obtain proper permits, if required. You might not be allowed to do outdoor burning in some municipalities and during some seasons (i.e., during burn bans).
- Closely supervise all outdoor fires. Make sure the fire is out before leaving the area.
- Supervise children around any fire outdoors, including campfires, fire pits, chimneys, and outdoor fireplaces.
- Where outdoor burning is allowed, never burn plastics, construction debris, treated lumber, tires, pesticides, paint, or aerosol containers. These items contain toxins that can be harmful to people and animals when burned.
- Avoid burning on windy, dry days. Embers from open burning can ignite nearby structures or cause a wildfire.
- Where outdoor burning is allowed, never use gasoline or other flammable or combustible liquids.
- When burning, have a hose, bucket of water, or shovel with dirt or sand nearby to extinguish the fire.

May 15th - May 21st: Equipment Use

The use of outside equipment such as law mowers, tractors, and other tools is another leading cause of wildfires. While these tools can help in creating defensible space and proper maintenance around the home, it is important to know the ways to reduce the risk of fire.

- Begin by calling the local fire agency to learn if there are any current restriction or regulations in effect.
- Use gas powered equipment early in the day when the humidity is often higher and the temperature is lower.
- Use a weed trimmer with plastic line in place of a metal blade and remove rocks other objects that may create sparks.
- Keep equipment properly maintained and exhaust systems in proper working order.
- Keep a fire extinguisher or water-charged hose close by.



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May 22nd - May 28th: Outdoor Cooking Fire Safety

Summer barbecue season is just around the corner and it is important to know how to be fire safe before the next backyard get-together or cookout.

- Begin by calling the local fire agency to learn if there are any current restriction or regulations in effect. Outdoor burn bans or restrictions may include outdoor cooking or limit the type of grill that is acceptable.
- Gas grills that allow you to quickly shut off the heat source provide more control of fire danger than charcoal or wood pellet barbecues that maintain heat and embers beyond desired cooking time.
- Only use grills and smokers outdoors, away from home siding, deck railing, and out from under eaves or hanging branches.
- Never leave the grill unattended while cooking.
- Empty coals and ash into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid that is only used to collect coals and ashes and keep this container at least 10 feet from the home.
- Dispose of coals and ashes only after they are cooled completely.

NFPA Messaging: Backyard and Debris Burning

- Propane, charcoal, and wood pellet barbecue grills must only be used outdoors. Indoor use can kill occupants by causing a fire or carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Place the grill well away from siding and deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches according to the manufacturer's instructions. Do not store or use a grill on a porch or balcony, including any porch or balcony on an upper level of the building.
- Place the grill a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Have a 3-foot (1 meter) "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Use long-handled grilling tools for plenty of clearance from heat and flames when cooking.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in the tray(s) below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Never leave a hot barbeque grill unattended.



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