

# Woodside Ranch FIRE NEWSLETTER

Woodside Ranch Fire Education Committee

September 2020

## *BE PREPARED*

In light of the ultra dangerous fire season so far, it's critical that all of Woodside Ranch be prepared when the fire hits here. We are fortunate to have a window of smoky calm to do what is necessary but remember, we aren't burning now but **it could happen overnight**. Be prepared!

Thank you to Boone Zimmerlee, Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator for the following article. Please take advantage of the information and links.

There are many resources that I wanted to be sure everyone was familiar with. If you have navigated through the **Project Wildfire** website, then you may already be familiar with them, but I thought I would highlight the ones I felt were more relevant given where we are in the current fire season. With the ability to have a wildfire spring up in your backyard unexpectedly and force evacuations, I wanted to highlight

<https://www.projectwildfire.org/evacuation/>. Here you will find resources describing evacuation levels, preparing family and loved ones and resources for building a go kit. With a little bit of navigating around the page you can find a wealth of information for yourself and to share with your community. As always there are several other resources throughout the Project Wildfire website to help guide you in preparing your home, community and yourself, pre and post wildland fire.

To stay informed on evacuations and emergency alerts in Deschutes County, you can sign up for alerts through the Deschutes County Alerts System: <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736723736#/signup>. This includes evacuation alerts like the ones sent out notifying residents of evacuation levels during the Rosland Road fire which was in the LaPine area.

A great resource to find out where the smoke is coming from and find non-emergency updates on wildland fires in Central Oregon is:

<https://www.centraloregonfire.org/>.

You can also sign-up for text alerts for wildfire and prescribed fire by texting "COFIRE" to 888-777.

Another good resource is the Ready, Set, Go program. They have a well laid out 7 week program of addressing defensible space in the 0-5' and 5-30' zones around your home.

If you are looking for a systematic approach to helping disconnect the fuse between the wildland to your home, here is a good start:

[https://www.wildlandfirersg.org/s/are-you-wildfire-ready?language=en\\_US](https://www.wildlandfirersg.org/s/are-you-wildfire-ready?language=en_US)

Also wanted to add, if you are not aware, [Project Wildfire is on Facebook](#). Resources and links are often shared there as well.

For specific information about getting **Ready** for evacuation see the February 2020 issue of the Woodside Ranch fire newsletter at <http://www.woodsideranch.net/images/Evacuation%20Ready.pdf>

## ***FIRE DANGER FROM CHINA HAT AREA CONTINUES***

The summer season has encouraged even more short and long term campers to set up in the forest along China Hat Road, increasing the danger of wildfire just across the road from Woodside Ranch. Even though the Forest Service prohibits any campfires in this area as well as camping more than 14 days, this doesn't deter many from engaging in these activities.

Just over the Labor Day weekend there were at least two human caused fires. One was a camper fire resulting in propane tank and possibly ammunition explosions. The fire did spread into the brush but the Bend Fire Department with lots of equipment was able to suppress the fire quickly. A second fire ignited past the Horse Butte turn off to Sundance. It was apparently started by people shooting at exploding targets in an area of extremely dry brush on a 95 degree day. Use of those targets is also prohibited by the USFS.



It's important that Woodside Ranchers make their voices heard about the danger of this type of illegal activity to Woodside Ranch and all other housing developments in the area.

**Take action! Contact the USFS and County Commissioners, listed below.**

Emphasize the critical nature of increasing enforcement to prevent a major fire. Destruction of many Woodside homes is a likely possibility if such a fire breaks out. It is up to you to help protect Woodside Ranch. Please copy the WRHA board at [board@woodsideranch.net](mailto:board@woodsideranch.net).

Holly Jewkes, Deschutes National Forest Supervisor  
541-383-5300, [holly.jewkes@usda.gov](mailto:holly.jewkes@usda.gov)

Deschutes County Commissioners:

Patti Adair, 541-388-6567, [Patti.Adair@deschutes.org](mailto:Patti.Adair@deschutes.org)

Tony DeBone, 541-388-6568, [Tony.DeBone@deschutes.org](mailto:Tony.DeBone@deschutes.org)

Phil Henderson, 541-388-6569, [Phil.Henderson@deschutes.org](mailto:Phil.Henderson@deschutes.org)

***BE PREPARED, BE ALERT, BE CAREFUL  
STAY SAFE***