

Woodside Ranch FIRE NEWSLETTER

Woodside Ranch Fire Education Committee

July/August 2020

Spring Fuels Cleanup

The Spring FireFree cleanup was a big success. Seventy-nine homeowners participated in a program creating defensible space around their homes. Some star performers cleared nearly their entire lot, others removed record amounts of brush and some on Tall Pine participated for the first time. All the participants seemed to devote more effort than in the past due to the extra time created by the COVID-19 stay at home order. We removed about 3,800 cubic yards of fuels or 11% of the total for Knott Landfill. Woodside Ranch Homeowners Association contracted 4 Brothers Tree Service for chipping, hauling and removal of all debris and final cleanup of street sides. The project came in slightly over budget but thanks to a \$4,000 grant from Deschutes County we came out OK. Thanks also to homeowners who cleaned up on their own. Their efforts also contribute to making Woodside Ranch a nationally recognized Fire Wise Community.



(Above) Photo of brush and limb piles stacked correctly for disposal.

Before and after photos of ground and ladder fuel removal efforts.



Heightened Fire Risk Near Woodside

Good thing we did all this fuels reduction. There is a real danger developing just south of us in the forest off China Hat Road. The Forest Service prohibits any campfires in this area, however, there is increased short and long term camping there. At least five human caused fires have occurred in the area to date. Fortunately, Bend Fire and Rescue extinguished them before they could spread into Woodside

Ranch. Careless action during hot, dry, windy conditions could have a major fire bearing down on all our houses in no time.

If you see any campfires or open fires in the forest, you should call the Deschutes County non-emergency number, 541-693-6911. Call 911 immediately if you see unattended fires of any kind.

Other reportable activities include camping longer than 14 days, dumping trash, motor vehicle travel on undeveloped roads, abandoned vehicles, shooting, fireworks and smoking outside a vehicle. All these occurrences should be called in to the Deschutes County non-emergency number 541-693-6911. The Sheriff's office will contact the appropriate agency to respond. The USFS is responsible for enforcement in the area and currently has Rangers patrolling until 10 p.m.



Contact the USFS and County Commissioners, listed below, to notify them of incidents off China Hat and encourage them to increase enforcement to prevent a major fire potentially causing the destruction of many Woodside Ranch homes and possibly the loss of life. You can help raise the alarm and help protect Woodside Ranch.

Holly Jewkes, Deschutes National Forest Supervisor
541-383-5300, holly.jewkes@usda.gov

Deschutes County Commissioners:
Patti Adair, 541-388-6567, Patti.Adair@deschutes.org
Tony DeBone, 541-388-6568, Tony.DeBone@deschutes.org
Phil Henderson, 541-388-6569, Phil.Henderson@deschutes.org

Be Ready to Evacuate

Wildfire season has begun early due to high temperatures, extended drought, low humidity and high winds. The situation is exacerbated by illegal activities and fires in the national forest off China Hat Rd. Fire

conditions are at the highest level, extreme, so be ready to evacuate at any time. You may have only minutes to gather your family, pets, and essentials before the fire is upon you.

- Have your Go Bags ready including COVID-19 supplies such as masks, hand sanitizer and wipes. Review evacuation plans with the family.
- Remember that life is more important than property. Leave immediately if you feel threatened.
- Keep your car gas tank at least half full.
- Load your car with essential items, wear clothes to protect you from heat/embers and face the car outwards if a fire is nearby.
- Stay tuned to local media such as KTVZ.com or KBND 1110 AM for reliable information.
- Leave early as roads are crowded and visibility low. Evacuation is slow. Post a sign at the end of your driveway that you have evacuated.
- For detailed evacuation information refer to the Fire Newsletter on the Woodside Ranch Website at <http://www.woodsideranch.net/images/Evacuation%20Ready.pdf>

The Red Cross is currently working on evacuation procedures that address the COVID-19 pandemic. Present plans are for you to evacuate to a designated emergency center, yet to be determined, and remain in your car to check-in. They will then direct you to a motel/hotel for shelter. Watch for more details.

Be Careful - Tips for Fire Season

- No burning in Woodside Ranch
- Clear the 5 feet closest to your house of anything that could burn
- Keep all grasses within 50 feet of the house cut to 4 inches or less
- Don't use equipment that could spark into dry vegetation

***RESEARCH SHOWS THAT FIRES ARE LIKELY TO START DURING FIRE WEATHER WATCHES OR RED FLAG WARNINGS.
BE CAREFUL AND STAY ALERT!***