



WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

How to Mitigate Wildfire Damage to your Home
April 17, 2025

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Community Risk Manager
East Jefferson Fire Rescue

Goals

- Role of fire in nature
- Wildfire risk update
- How wildfire spreads
- Mitigate wildfire impacting your home
- How to respond when wildfires exist
- Resources (get your smartphones ready!)
- Questions

Benefits of Wildfire

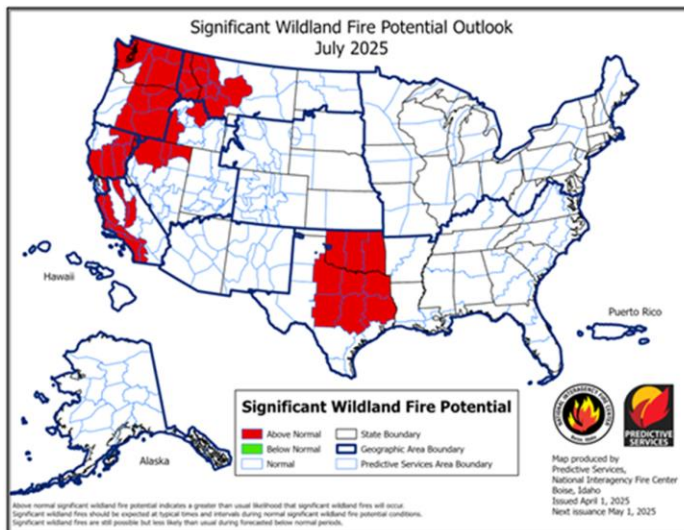
- Forest health and resilience
- Habitat improvement
- Promote biodiversity
- Agricultural clearing and pest management
- Promote new growth for food, medicine, and materials
- Cultural and spiritual practices of cleansing and renewal

Big Burn of 1910

- Northern Idaho and Western Montana
- Three million acres burned
- Killed 87 people
- Destroyed several towns
- \$1 billion worth of timber lost
- US Forest Service budget doubled
- Fighting wildfires is now a priority

Wildfire Factors

- Fuel Loads
- Temperature
- Humidity
- Wind
- Sources of Ignition



Forecast

- “a rapid transition to warmer and drier patterns is expected in late May or early June.”
- “...concerns about snowpack and a strong tendency toward warming and drying in the forecast.”

(National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook, April 1, 2025, National Interagency Fire Center)

Four Methods of Wildfire Growth

- Airborne Embers
- Low Intensity Ground Fire
- Crown Fires
- Nearby Structures



The Goals of Mitigation

Prevent the Wildfire from transitioning to a Structure Fire

- Create fuel breaks between forests and structures
- Prevent catch points of combustible materials
- Eliminate ladder fuels
- Prevent ember entry
- Prevent ignition of structures



Construction Materials

- **Roofing:** Asphalt Composition, Metal, Clay Tile, Cement, Wood Shake/Shingles
- **Gutters:** Metal or Vinyl
- **Siding:** Wood (Lap, Panel, or Shingle), Composite Cement Siding (Lap or Panel), and Metal Siding
- **Decks:** Wood or Composite (Trex)



Home Ignition Zones

- **Immediate Zone**
0-5 feet from house
- **Intermediate Zone**
5-30 feet from house
- **Extended Zone**
30-100 feet from house



Home Ignition Zones

Immediate Zone (0-5 feet)

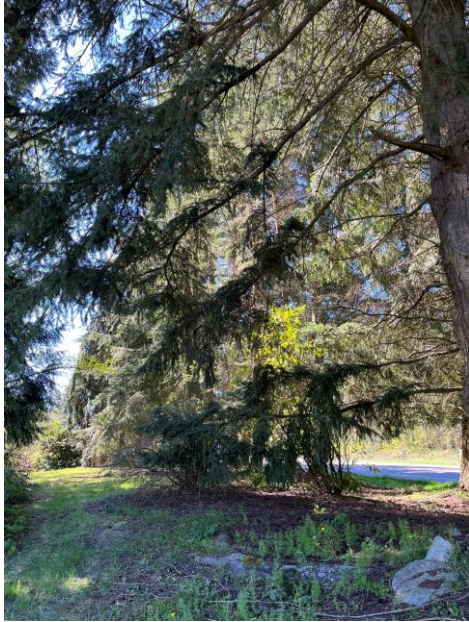
- Where wind deposits leaves, it will deposit embers.
- Clear combustible, leafy debris
- Replace bark mulch with gravel
- Keep grass trimmed
- Keep plants watered
- Trim vegetation
- Trim trees overhanging roofline
- Screen vent openings



Home Ignition Zones

Intermediate Zone (5-30 feet)

- Eliminate ladder fuels
- Trim low hanging branches above the ground
- Trim shrubs below tree branches to create space twice the height of the shrub



Home Ignition Zones

Extended Zone (30-100 feet)

- Eliminate ladder fuels
- Trim low hanging branches above the ground
- Trim shrubs below tree branches to create space twice the height of the shrub



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Four Methods of Wildfire Growth

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Airborne Embers

- Eliminate combustible, leafy debris on the roof, gutters, and around base of the home
- Eliminate combustible exterior storage items including furniture, firewood, lumber, garbage, and leafy debris
- Mesh screening on soffit, gable, and crawl space vents that is 1/8" or less
- Clear debris and storage below decks, add fine mesh screening to prevent debris, ember, and animal entry

Low Intensity Ground Fire

- Trim grasses
- Keep vegetation watered
- Trim vegetation above ground

Crown Fire

- Eliminate ladder fuels
- Limb up 5-10 feet above ground
- Trim shrubs below branches

Ignition Sources - 85% caused by human activity

- Campfires
- Debris burning
- Yardwork with hot tools, creating sparks
- Driving vehicles over tall, dry grass
- Discarding butts in vegetation, bark mulch, planters, etc.
- Tow chains sparking
- Damaged/missing spark arrestors on chimneys
- Arson

Be Fire Smart

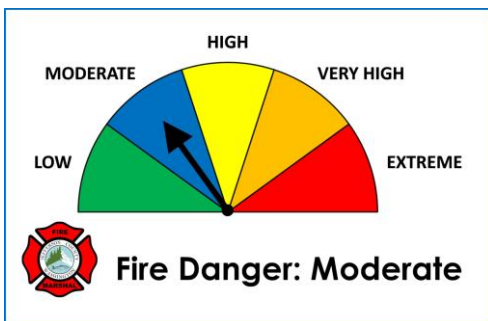
- Pay attention when doing work or burning debris
- Be mindful of weather conditions
- Never leave campfires unattended, extinguish fully
- Keep grass mowed and watered
- Only discard cigarettes in sand, covered containers
- Properly secure tow chains
- Have chimney flue cleaned and inspected regularly
- Pay attention to fire danger levels, based on conditions and available resources



Low

Prohibited: No restrictions.

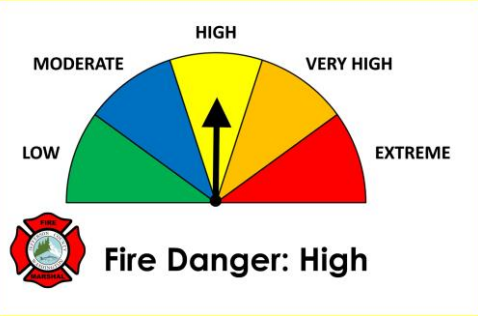
Allowed: Recreational wood fires; yard debris or land clearing burning in unincorporated areas; gas or propane fueled appliances; BBQs; open flame devices such as tiki torches, liquid fuel candles, or lanterns.



Moderate:

Prohibited: No yard debris or land clearing burning; no gas or propane weed burners.

Allowed: Recreational wood fires; gas or propane fueled appliances; BBQs; open flame devices such as tiki torches, liquid fuel candles, or lanterns.



High

Prohibited: No recreational wood fires; no open flame wood or charcoal cooking; no open flame torches, liquid fuel candles, or lanterns; no discharge of fireworks of any type.

Allowed: Gas or propane fueled appliances; enclosed wood, pellet, or charcoal cooking.



Very High

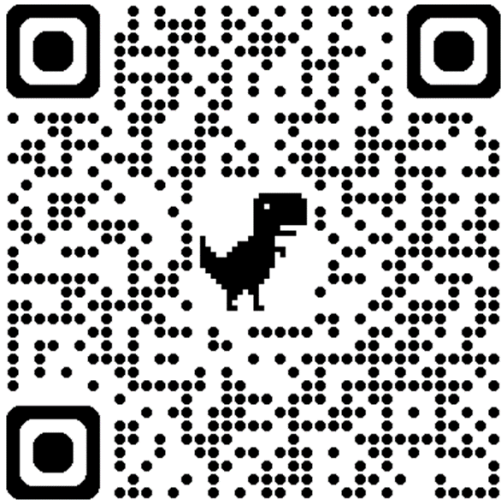
Prohibited: No wood or charcoal cooking.

Allowed: Gas or propane fueled appliances only.



Extreme

Prohibited: All outdoor fires, burning, or discharge of any kind or type.



NIXLE Alerts

Text **JEFFCODEM** to **888777**

Sign up for alerts from the
**Jefferson County WA Emergency
 Management**
 & other public safety agencies in your area.

Mobile #	<input type="text" value="Public safety Text messages sent here"/>
Home #	<input type="text" value="Public safety voice messages sent here"/>
Voice Msgs	<input type="button" value="Do not send Voice Messages"/>
Email	<input type="text" value="Public safety email sent here"/>
Zip Code	<input type="text" value="Selects messages for your location"/>
Language	<input type="button" value="English"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I accept the Terms & Conditions and Privacy Policy	
<input type="button" value="Sign Up!"/>	

For help, reply **HELP** to 888777. To cancel, reply **STOP** to 888777. No charge but Msg &



Evacuation Levels

Level 1 (READY)

A wildfire threat is in the area. Plan and pack, in the event an evacuation becomes necessary

- Go Bag ready
- Water, food, contact list, cash, prescriptions, extra glasses, pet supplies, or anything else you might need
- Full tank of gas
- Fully charged cell phones



Evacuation Levels

Level 2 (SET)

High probability of need to evacuate

- Evacuate now if you have mobility concerns or limited ways out of your neighborhood



Evacuation Levels

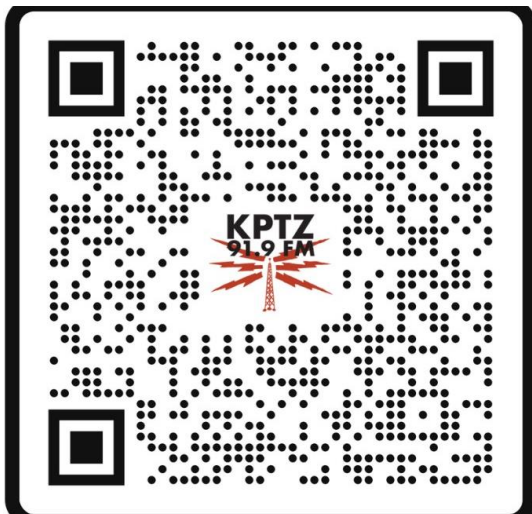
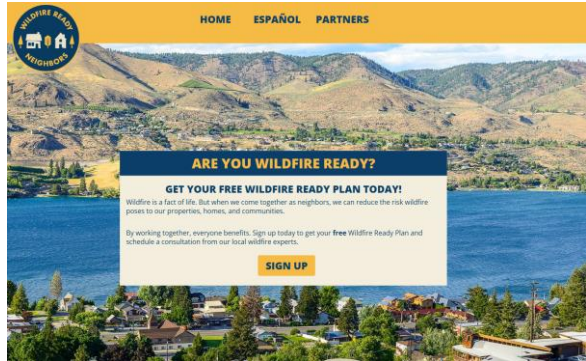
Level 3 (GO)

- Evacuate Now
- You are asked to leave within a specified time, by pre-designated routes due to roadblocks that may be established



Wildfire Ready Neighbors

www.wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov



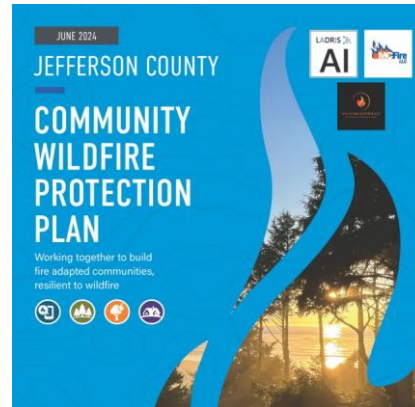
KPTZ Interview



kptz.org/2025/04/07/attention-please-3/



Jefferson County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

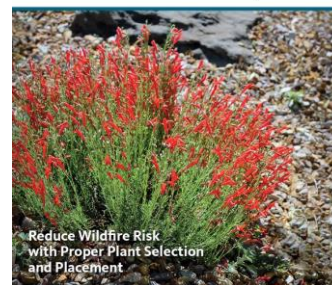


<https://jefferson-county-cwpp-jeffcowa.hub.arcgis.com/>



Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscapes (Updated October 2023)

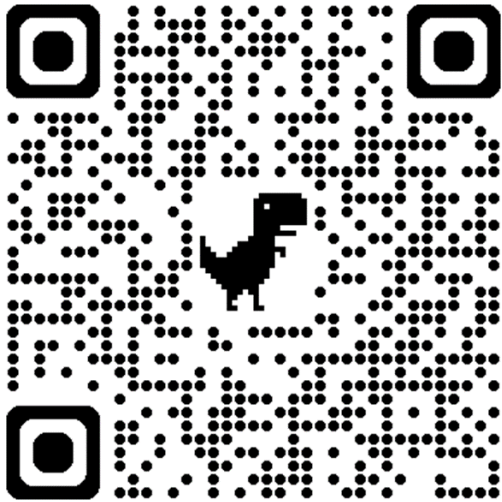
A PNW EXTENSION PUBLICATION
Fire-resistant Plants
for Home Landscapes



PNW
PACIFIC NORTHWEST
EXTENSION PUBLICATION

PNW 194 | REVISED OCTOBER 2023
View online: <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/publications/194>

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/extd8/files/documents/lommena/fire-resistant-plants-for-home-landscapes-111423.pdf>



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Sign up for our Newsletter
 (First Edition coming up)



www.ejfr.org



ALL COUNTY PREPAREDNESS DAY

Saturday June 28th, 2025

Finnriver Farm & Cidery

9:00am – 4:00pm

www.preparednessday.org

- Raise awareness of emergency preparedness
- Provide access to resources and networks
- Build community/strengthen relationships
- Strengthen community resilience
- Skill building for community members



Water Storage and Food Resiliency

May 15, 2025

3:30pm and 5:30pm

Register at

tinyurl.com/be-prepared-2025



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