

Fire Risk Reduction Help for SBNA Area

Firewise Oregon Department of Forestry

Firewise helps give structure and continuity to a neighborhood's long-term fire resistance efforts. A group of at least eight neighbors get together to make a plan and participate in an annual work day such as clearing tree limbs or brush. **If any of our local neighborhood groups can put together a Firewise plan by late January, good things will happen for the participants including:**

- **ODF crew could help with chipping, brush clearing, and some tree cutting.** Oregon Dept of Forestry (ODF) has some crew time left from last year's grant and will save one week for us assuming at least one local group can get a plan in place in time. (The crew gets a lot done in a day.). We can maximize the amount accomplished if we do the easy stuff (like trimming low limbs and stacking them) before the crew arrives.
- Homes would become known to ODF and fire department who would be more able to defend them in a fire.
- Grant funding in our area for fire risk abatement will know and prioritize Firewise communities.
- We would be seen more favorably when CWPP decides on a pilot project (described below in the CWPP section).
- The risk of fire spreading from neighboring properties would be reduced.
- It is possible that Firewise participation could lower home insurance cost. This is something we could investigate.
- And of course, you, your family, and your home would be safer.

Additional Information at the January SBNA presentation and at:

<https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Firewise-USA/Become-a-Firewise-USA-site>

Where to Start:

- **Alex Rahmlow (Fire Planning Coordinator, Western Lane District, Oregon Department of Forestry)** will give a Firewise presentation (plus lessons learned from the recent CA fires) to SBNA January 5th and will provide information on how to proceed. For info see the SBNA message sent Dec 8th or email SBNA@sarahmacarthur.com
- Each SBNA local group that has 8 (or more) homeowners willing to participate (they may be distributed throughout a local group area) develops a brief action plan per Firewise guidelines (before the end of January if we want crew help). ODF provides knowledge and guidance, but Firewise group decides what to work on in an annual work day. Jan 5th meeting for details.

Alex also works with Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) and Rivers to Ridges which have much potential for us, especially for areas neighboring parks. These will not be part of the Jan 5th presentation, but will be of interest to landowners bordering Spencer Butte Park and other public lands. I'm sure Alex would be glad to provide info after the meeting.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Lane County

CWPP coordinates efforts of private and public lands, especially the interface between, with a focus on reduction of fire risk. The last plan (link below) was published in 2006. They are currently seeking funding and hope to update the plan soon. Here's why CWPP up is important to those of us in SBNA:

- CWPP has determined that the **SBNA area is a high priority** for reducing wildfire risk.
- **CWPP will be developing a private project** around a public property. SBNA area is a good target area for them because we have many shared boundaries of public and private land.
- Our participation in Firewise projects would be a big plus in helping us become involved as a pilot project.

Current CWPP Plan (updated in 2005):

http://www.lanecounty.org/government/county_departments/public_works/land_management_division/land_use_planning___zoning/lane_county_community_wildfire_protection_plan

Rivers to Ridges

Rivers to Ridges is a partnership of organizations and agencies that focuses on treatment and restoration, especially around parks. They focus on treatment of private and public where they meet. One mission is to "*protect and enhance the region's land and water resources and their ecosystem functions and values*". One goal of their controlled ecological burn program was to **remove fuels from the wildland/urban interface**.

Additional Information: <https://rivers2ridges.org/>