

PREVENTING A NATURAL DISTURBANCE FROM BECOMING A HUMAN DISASTER



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BEND FIRE AND RESCUE



- Bend is at a high risk of wildfires
- Live in a wildfire ecosystem
- Not only from the outside, but also from the interior
- Wildfires are bigger, burning longer, destroying more property and killing more people than ever before
- Once we accept that, we can plan for it





- Awbrey Hall – 1990
- Skeleton – 1996
- Two Bulls – 2014
- Juniper Ridge – 2020
- Hundreds of additional starts





- Not a wildfire problem, but a home ignition problem
- Solved by reducing home and landscape ignitability without necessarily controlling extreme wildfires
- Homes burn down because they are built with, and surrounded by flammable material
- It's an ember problem, not fire inferno problem





- A single to urban conflagration
- Heat and embers igniting surrounding homes
- Fire Department overextended
- Evacuation routes cut off
- Loss of entire neighborhoods and communities
- Enormous physical, emotional and economic consequences
- We can break this cycle by building fire resistive communities





- 2016 Community Assistance for Wildfire
- Headwaters Economics
- 5 Recommendations
- #1 priority: Develop and adopt wildland urban interface (WUI) regulations





- 2019-2021 Goals – Public Safety
- Develop a Comprehensive Wildfire Resiliency Plan
- The Bend City Council recognizes that all homes within the City of Bend are considered to be in the Wildfire Hazard Zone and it is critical that the City work to develop standards to ensure our residents are protected, to the greatest extent possible, from the destruction of wildfire





- Wildfire Resiliency Steering Committee
- This Committee will be tasked with developing wildfire mitigation recommendations that will be presented to the Bend City Council reflecting community values and priorities for the protection of life and property from wildfire risks.





- This Committee will be made up of experts from a broad consortium of stakeholders including:
 - Bend Fire & Rescue
 - Deschutes County Project Wildfire
 - OSU
 - Central Oregon Builders Association
 - Central Oregon Landwatch
 - Community Development Department.
- Reviewing current language
- Researching other communities WUI codes
- Potential Oregon codes





- Bend will continue to grow, so let's grow in a smart and sustainable way
- We don't want to stop development, just use the best available science to build homes and communities that have the best chance of surviving a wildfire
- The ultimate goal is to build a community that can not only absorb a wildfire, but to also anticipate wildfire so a natural disturbance doesn't turn into a human disaster.





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