



NEWS RELEASE

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Fire District Adopts Wildland Map; Giving Homeowners Choice of Roofing

On Tuesday, TVF&R's Board of Directors adopted a new wildland hazard ordinance in an effort to assist homeowners in protecting their home against wildfire. The ordinance and its related map identifies wildfire hazard zones - based on specific criteria such as topography, water supply, and vegetation - within TVF&R's 210 square-mile response area. The adoption of the ordinance and map now gives homeowners residing in a hazard zone, the option of saying "no" to wood shake and shingle roofing - even if mandated by their homeowners' association covenants and restrictions. The District has identified 12,544 tax lots in Washington and Clackamas counties that fall within an identified zone.

During a wildfire, thousands of burning embers known as firebrands are produced. Firebrands – which can be carried by wind currents and deposited up to one-half mile ahead of the fire - account for the majority of homes destroyed by wildfire. A roof with non-combustible materials such as composite or metal stands a better chance of surviving a wildfire.

In addition to its recent efforts developing and adopting the ordinance and map, TVF&R has taken other deliberate steps over the past decade to prepare for wildfire. The District has specialized wildfire equipment and tools, and each year firefighters participate in hands-on training to ensure their readiness. Last week the District kicked off its "*Wildfire Can Happen Here*" campaign which includes hundreds of yard signs placed throughout the region. **District residents can also have their home and property surveyed by a fire department representative by calling Deputy Fire Marshal Ed Bonollo at 503-612-7000.**

Karen Eubanks, Public Information Officer states, "Unlike the city, when a fire breaks out in the "interface" it can challenge fire operations and response due to lack of water (*fire hydrants*) and accessible roads." The following tips can help firefighters protect a home and/or extinguish a wildfire:

- Plant low growing, fire resistant plants (*groundcover, perennials and annuals*) near your home.
- Remove the lower branches of trees at least 10 feet from the ground and cut back limbs that hang over your roof.
- Remove leaves, dry grass, and brush from underneath decks and crawlspaces.
- Remove leaves and other vegetation from your gutters and roof.
- Keep landscaping well pruned and watered.
- Store firewood and other combustibles away from your home.
- Ensure driveways are wide enough for fire vehicles (20 feet wide, 15 feet high)
- Replace wood shake roofing with non-combustible material.

For more information visit the District's website at www.tvfr.com for more tips.