| **Talking Point - Topic** | **Add a Line for Wildfire Prevention** | **Details and Resources** |
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| Nationally, people, not lightning, start more fires on the landscape, and many of those start near the home.  OR (when it’s dire)  The landscape cannot withstand one more wildfire. | **Predictable is preventable. Predict the outcome of your behavior. If you think what you are doing might create a spark that could start a fire, find an alternative to that activity or reschedule it to a less fire-prone time of day or time of year.** | **Learn how common, everyday activities can start a wildfire:**   * The top three ways wildfires start in the PNW are: * Equipment (lawnmowers, chainsaws and vehicles) * Escaped or rekindled backyard burn piles * Abandoned campfires   **Resources:**   * Keep Oregon Green’s website: <https://keeporegongreen.org/> * WDNR’s burning restrictions page: <https://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/protection/firedanger/> |
| **Certain activities are banned in Oregon during fire season or year round due to the risk of wildfire. Know the fire restrictions-whether you are at home, at work or at play.** | **Adhere to all fire restrictions and do your part to prevent wildfires:**   * Contact your local forestry district, fire protective association or fire department regarding your planned activities. Many lands have different fire restrictions.   **The declaration of fire season means:**   * No burning of backyard debris piles or burning debris in burn barrels * No fireworks * No tracer ammunition * No exploding targets * No sky lanterns (prohibited year round in Oregon)   **Resources:**   * The Oregon Department of Forestry’s [public fire restrictions page](https://gisapps.odf.oregon.gov/firerestrictions/PFR.html): <https://www.oregon.gov/ODF/Fire/Pages/Restrictions.aspx> * Washington Department of Natural Resources fire prevention page: <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/WildfirePrevention> |
| Equipment fires | **In wildland areas, an escaped carbon particle from a muffler or dry grass contacting the hot exhaust system/catalytic converter on your vehicle may be all it takes to start a wildfire.**  **Use the right tool for the job at the right time. Call first to find out if equipment use is restricted.**  **Spring is the time to clean up excess vegetation, not during the summer when fuels are dry and susceptible to a spark from a steel blade striking a rock or emitted by a hot exhaust system.** | **Equipment of concern includes cars, tractors, harvesters, chainsaws, weed-eaters, lawn mowers, motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs):**   * It’s important to have vehicles serviced regularly before hitting the road. Older or poorly maintained equipment can easily cast sparks or overheat (check brakes, tire pressure and wheel bearings). * Avoid parking, driving or idling on tall, dry grass and keep vehicles on established roads and trails during fire season. * Ensure all parts of your vehicle –from mufflers to tow chains- are secured and not dragging on pavement. * Maintain and clean exhaust systems and make sure your gas-powered tools are equipped with a spark arrestor.   + A spark arrestor is a mechanical device that traps or destroys hot exhaust particles that have been released from an internal combustion engine. They are commonly required on power-driven machinery. * Your summer travel kit should include a shovel and fire extinguisher or gallon of water. In many areas, vehicles are *required* to have these items in their car. * Use weed trimmers with plastic lines. * Keep a fire extinguisher or charged water hose close by.   **Resources:** Information included in above-referenced websites (Keep Oregon Green, Oregon Department of Forestry, Washington Department of Natural Resources) |
| Smoking Fires | **Fire conditions are so severe, one thoughtless flick of any smoking material can start a wildfire.** | * Dispose of smoking materials in deep, sturdy ashtrays; never on the ground, in bark mulch or in dry vegetation. * Make sure butts and ashes are completely extinguished by using water or sand |
| Campfires | **Kick the campfire habit this summer - Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are a safer option to campfires at any time of year.**  **AND/OR**  **Areas that prohibit campfires outside maintained campgrounds with established fire pits will often allow the use of portable stoves.** | * Know before you go - Call your local forestry or fire district to learn if there are any current campfire restrictions at your recreation destination * Select the right spot - Where campfires are allowed, avoid building the fire near your tent, structures, vehicles, shrubs and trees, and be aware of low-hanging branches overhead. Clear the site down to mineral soil, at least five feet on all sides, and circle your campfire site with rocks. Sometimes campgrounds or events prohibit digging pits due to archeological or other concerns. Store your unused firewood a good distance from the fire. * Keep your campfire small - A campfire is less likely to escape control if it is kept small. A large fire may cast hot embers long distances. Add firewood in small amounts as existing material is consumed. * Attend your campfire at all times - A campfire left unattended for only a few minutes can grow into a costly, damaging wildfire. Staying with your campfire from start to finish until dead out is required by state law, to ensure that any escaped sparks or embers can be extinguished quickly. * Campfires are permitted on Washington Department of Natural Resources only in improved fire pits. * NEVER use gasoline or other accelerants (flammable or combustible liquids) to start or increase your campfire. Once the fire is ignited, wait until the match is cold and then discard it in the fire. * Always have water and fire tools on site - Have a shovel and a bucket of water nearby to  extinguish any escaped embers. When you are ready to leave, drown all embers with water, stir  the coals, and drown again. Repeat until the fire is DEAD out. If it is too hot to touch, it is too hot to leave. * Burn ONLY wood - State regulations prohibit the open burning of any material that creates  dense, toxic smoke or noxious odors.   State law requires the proper clearing, building, attending and extinguishing of open fires any time of year. A first-time citation carries a $110 fine. If your campfire spreads out of control, you are responsible for the cost of fire suppression. This can range from a few hundred to thousands of dollars.  **Resources:**   * <https://smokeybear.com/en> * Above KOG, ODF, DNR sites |
| Target shooting | **Recreational shooting can take place on public land, but there are restrictions on the types of targets and ammunition used during fire season.**  **OR**  **When target shooting is done in the right way, it poses little threat to people’s safety or natural resources. However, careless, unsafe shooting can cause great resource damage and pose serious threats to human life: both to forest staff and visitors.** | **Follow regulations and use good judgement:**   * Seek permission from the landowner where you plan to shoot. They can provide a safe designated shooting area. * Check the rules and regulations in the area you are visiting. Pack out all target trash including shotgun shells, fragmented clay pigeons, or any targets. Trash gives negative impression of shooters.   **Know what activities you might encounter**   * Respect the rights of others, including private property owners, trail users, campers and others so they can enjoy their activities undisturbed. * Make sure you are at least 150 yards from a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation area or occupied area. * During fire season, voluntarily stop shooting after 1:00 p.m. on extremely hot days and follow these guidelines * Never shoot across a road or body of water or into caves. * Never shoot in a manner or place where any person or property is exposed to injury or damage or result of a discharge. * Improve the reputation of shooters by only shooting at legitimate targets. Do not use trees or other natural objects as targets. Do not shoot household appliances or other objects dumped in shooting areas. Use targets made of:   + Cardboard, paper   + Or manufactured thrown-type clay (clay pigeons) * Wooden backing on targets is not allowed. Always place targets against a non-flammable backstop of mineral soil and clear of flammable debris for 20 feet on all sides. Avoid shooting against rocks. * Never use incendiary ammunition or exploding targets, which are prohibited on National Forest lands. * Avoid both steel-core ammunition as well as steel targets, as these can present additional risks. * Always bring a fire extinguisher, water and a shovel, and place them near target areas to help immediately extinguish any fires. After shooting, stay on site for at least an hour afterward to ensure no fires have started. OR check the target area for any signs of smoke, heat or fire.   **Resources:**  Tread Lightly – Respected Access, Oregon:  [**https://www.treadlightly.org/recreation\_tips/camping/**](https://www.treadlightly.org/recreation_tips/camping/) |
| Drought, changing weather conditions and the resulting unpredictable fire behavior, combined with people at work or at play suggests that 2018 has the potential to be a busy fire year. | **Conditions change; for your safety, stay informed on current and predicted conditions in your community, and be prepared when you are enjoying the outdoors.**  **During periods of high wildfire activity, it is not uncommon for wildfire suppression asset requests to exceed supply.** | You are your own first line of defense. You may need react quickly to put it out if you start a fire.   * Keep a charged water hose handy when mowing your grass. * Work in the mornings or late evenings to avoid the hottest parts of the day, and postpone your work when the weather calls for low humidity or high wind * Keep a water hose or bucket or fire extinguisher on hand * Use a nylon or plastic weed whacker line instead of metal * Be careful not to set a hot tool down on dry grass or leaves * Allow power engines to cool before refueling, and make sure the hot exhaust is kept away from dry grasses, weeds, and shrubs - only use such equipment that’s in good repair and has spark arresters installed. when applicable * Stay home for an hour after finishing your work - this way you’ll be around to notice if anything begins to smolder and smoke   **Resources:**  Northwest Coordination Center Website:  <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/>  For more details about drought, by state, visit: <https://www.drought.gov/drought/regions/states> |
| Fire investigation/arson/consequences | Call 9-1-1 to report a fire or suspicious activity  Arson Tip Line: 1-800-468-4408  Crime Stoppers Tip Line: 1-877-876-TIPS  Know how to report a roadside hazard: 1-888-ASK-ODOT  In WA – WA Department of Transportation prefers web reporting: <https://www.wsdot.wa.gov> | * Wildfire agencies are required by law to [investigate](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/Investigations) and then prosecute people who cause a wildfire. Please do your part to ensure that person is never you. * Fires that are intentionally or negligently set on Bureau of Land Management lands (or that spread onto BLM lands) can result in imprisonment for up to a year or a $1,000 fine (and possibly additional fines). Responsible parties may also have to pay firefighting and natural resource damage costs, which can be quite extensive. * Fires that are intentionally or negligently set on Forest Service managed lands (or that spread onto Forest Service lands) can result in imprisonment for up to six months, a $5,000 fine, or both. Responsible parties may also have to pay firefighting and natural resource damage costs, which can be quite extensive. |
| Sky lantern (also known as ***aerial luminaries***, ***Chinese lanterns***, ***wish lanterns***, etc.): a paper or cloth sack over a candle or other flame-lit device. Hot air from the flame causes the balloon to rise into the air. | **Sky Lanterns are illegal year round in Oregon Air Space.**  **Sky Lanterns are illegal to release in Washington.** | * Summer weddings and other celebrations may bring the temptation to release sky lanterns, but they are a wildfire risk and must not be used. * As of January 1, 2017, releasing a sky lantern into Oregon airspace will be a Class A violation subject to a maximum penalty of $2,000. * Washington follows the International Fire Code, which states, “A person shall not release or cause to be released and untethered sky lantern.” |
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