

Burn safely – or not at all

The adage April showers bring May flowers is being tested this spring. And while the unseasonably dry weather is pulling Oregonians outside, it's also spurring firefighters into action.

The year 2021 has already produced nearly three times the average number of fires to date; many of which have resulted from escaped backyard debris burn piles, according to the Oregon Department of Forestry. As of April 13, 70 fires have burned 402 acres on Oregon Department of Forestry protected lands, 40 of which came from debris burning that accounted for 154 acres. The 10-year average for all fires by this date is 24 fires for 225 acres.

While fire season has not officially started, experts say to watch the conditions and not the calendar.

"Just because fire season has not been declared does not mean fire danger does not exist," said ODF Fire Prevention Coordinator Tom Fields. "The window of opportunity to clean up around homes and dispose of woody debris in a safe manner is narrowing each year. Now is the time to reassess and wait for better conditions."

Some jurisdictions, like the City of Sisters, do not allow outdoor burning of debris at all. Fields says



that if burning is your choice of debris disposal, the window to burn this spring may already be closed and that it may be best to wait until late fall or winter to burn debris safely. When conditions warrant, follow these simple steps.

- Place yard debris in an open area away from structures, trees and power lines.
- Create small piles (4-by-4-foot)

to better manage the burn.

- Cover portions of piles with polyethylene plastic (landscape material) to keep a portion dry for lighting later (preferably in late fall or winter).
- When conditions improve, check with your local fire agency for any regulations in place.
- Never burn under windy conditions.

- To maintain containment, create a perimeter around the pile at a minimum of 3 feet, scraped clear to bare mineral soil.

- Keep a shovel and charged hose nearby to manage the burn.
- Make sure the pile is dead out before leaving.

Return periodically over several weeks to make sure the pile is still out: No heat, no smoke.



FIREFREE

A FireFree yard debris disposal event is set for Sisters area:

Northwest Transfer Station
68200 Fryrear Rd., Cloverdale
May 26-June 5, Wed.-Sat.
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dispose of grass clippings, brush, plant prunings, pine needles, pine cones, weeds, trimmings and branches, stumps or trees (no larger than 12 inches in diameter). Such debris will be accepted for free. The transfer station will not accept sod, dirt, rocks, lumber, metal, trash, or plastics of any kind, including plastic bags, and any stumps or trees larger than 12 inches in diameter.

25 Years Experience In Landscape Solutions

Your **trusted, local** landscape contractor



Spring irrigation startups

Grass maintenance & management, residential & commercial Irrigation design/build

Pond construction/maintenance

Fencing • Pavers • Excavation



VOHS
Custom Landscaping

541-515-8462
LCB#9264 • CCB#188594

WWW.VOHSLANDSCAPING.COM

SEPTIC SYSTEM FAILING?

Restore Your Septic, Don't Replace It!

- No excavation
- One-day service
- Rooter & jetting service
- **SAVE THOUSANDS \$\$\$**

Drainfield Restoration Services, Inc.

541-388-4546

Since 1995 • CCB#88891

For free septic tips visit: www.RestoreYourSeptic.com



DRAINFIELD RESTORATION

It's a moment to dread: Your drainfield is failing. Replacing it and tearing up your yard is dauntingly expensive, running into the thousands of dollars. But what if you could restore your drainfield without replacing it?

Turn to Drainfield Restoration. As Central Oregon's only factory-trained Terralift operator, they can restore your drainfield for a fraction of the cost of replacement. Drainfield Restoration blasts air into the soil, breaking up biomat and compaction, restoring the soil's original leaching capacity. They can also jet inside lines and remove tree roots that are often the culprit in drainfield problems in Sisters Country.

It's a one-day project — and it works for years.

In business since 1995, Drainfield Restoration has saved clients thousands of dollars across the state of Oregon. For tips on restoration and care of your septic system, visit www.RestoreYourSeptic.com.

NORTHWEST MORTGAGE ADVISORS

LOOKING TO REFINANCE OR PURCHASE A NEW HOME?

Let me put my finance and business management skills to work for you as your mortgage loan originator.

Jenalee Piercey

Mortgage Loan Officer | NMLS#1778674

541-591-5405

411 SW 9th St., Ste. 204, Redmond



TOP 100 MORTGAGE COMPANIES
In America 2012 - 2018



NW Mortgage Advisors is a direct lender with their own underwriting authority and a broad investor pool. NMLS# OR ML-#2891

PAINTING IS OUR PASSION!



LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

22 Years Experience • Competitive Rates

Interior/Exterior Painting
Remodeling • Decks • Repairs

Residential & Commercial Building Maintenance



Home Customizations, LLC ccb#191760

541-588-0083