



Photo by Brett Matthews

A recent state forestry department study showed that many homes in rural Lane County are at risk from wildfires.

Rural homes at risk from wildfire

Prevention steps outlined

By Wendy Fisher
Emerald Contributor

The Willamette Valley is a high-risk area for home-deestroying wildfires similar to those that burned 500 homes in California earlier this summer, according to a recent study by the Oregon Forestry Department.

The study showed more than 4,300 homes and buildings in east Lane County and about 9,800 in the west part of the county located in what forestry personnel call "rural/forest interfacing areas" — wooded and brush-filled areas.

The forestry department wants to use the study of high-risk areas as a tool to encourage home and building owners to make the surrounding land less vulnerable to fire, said Doug Decker, the forestry department's public affairs director.

"We're asking folks to take this seriously," Decker said. "It's sobering to see the shots of the Santa Barbara homes. People need to take this into

consideration."

One problem that forestry departments face is the increasing number of homes being built in high-risk areas. According to the forestry department and the U.S. Forest Service, this often forces firefighters to relinquish control of a main wildland fire or forest fire in order to fight a structure fire.

Neither the state forestry department nor the Forest Service trains its firefighters to fight structure fires, and they do not have the resources to do so. Their only responsibilities are forest or wildland fires, Decker said.

If a rural property owner's home or building were to catch fire, his or her only hope to save it is the local fire station.

A fire station's first responsibility is to save a burning structure, said Bruce Lamb, chief of the Cottage Grove Fire Department. In many rural areas, however, there are no fire stations.

If state forestry department firefighters were confronted

with a burning structure and no fire station were nearby, they would divert their attention to the structure fire, Decker said.

However, Forest Service firefighters are authorized to water down a burning house or building only if it threatens to spread to a national forest. They are not allowed to enter the structure.

"We have no authority to fight structure fires. It's kind of a touchy situation," said Hubert Mapes, Forest Service assistant fire staff officer.

Mapes added that the problem of homes in forested or brushy areas is less common in the Willamette National Forest than it is east of the Cascade Range.

In many cases, the Forest Service, the state forestry department and local fire departments work together to fight fires. Each has the authority to request help from the other organizations.

The Forest Service has published a booklet titled "Protecting your Home from Wildfire" for owners of homes and build-

Turn to WILDFIRES, Page 6

MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS

**Luncheon
Specials**

**Chicken
Satay**

\$3.95

Upstairs Next to U of O Bookstore

**CHINA BLUE
RESTAURANT**

879 E. 13th 343-2832

**Summer
Special**

**OREGON WEST
FITNESS**

2 months.....\$69.00
1 month.....\$39.00

No initiation fee
Full use of facilities

Unlimited Aerobics Weights Exercise Bicycles
Located By Running and Bike Trails

BEST HOURS • BEST PRICES

6am - 11pm **485-1624** 1475 Franklin Blvd.
7 Days a Week Across from Campus

**Looking for
work?**

LETTER PERFECT
Graphics
RESUMES

Get your resume done professionally at
Letter Perfect Graphics.

346-4381
300 Erb Memorial Union

• TYPESETTING • PASTE-UP
LAYOUT • DESIGN • CONSULTATION

Bay Sailboards

**Eugene's
Premiere
Surf
Shop**

Now Selling
◀ Surf boards
◀ Sailboards ◀ Boogie Boards
◀ Wetsuits & Accessories
◀ Rentals & Lessons

**BAY
Sailboards
inc.**

388 W 6th Ave
Eugene, OR 97401
345-7589

**MasterCare
CAR SERVICE**

Firestone
AMERICA'S HOME FOR CAR SERVICE

LUBE, OIL & FILTER

Who can you depend on for their in-depth training, computerized equipment and work backed by long-term warranties? The Masters of MasterCare, of course.

**6 MONTHS/6,000 MILE LIMITED WARRANTY
COVERS ALL PARTS & LABOR!**

plus \$1 shop fee Most cars, 5 quart maximum

MAINTENANCE BRAKE SPECIAL
Free inspection & estimate! **\$59⁹⁹**

Technicians install premium grade disc pads or brake shoes and resurface drums or rotors. ASK ABOUT OUR COMPREHENSIVE BRAKE OVERHAUL, FEATURING FREE REPLACEMENT PARTS AND LABOR FOR AS LONG AS YOU OWN YOUR CAR!

Per axle, disc or drum
Semi-metallic pads,
repacking wheel
bearings, grease seals
extra, if needed.

plus \$1 shop fee

TUNE-UPS
Trained Technicians Solve Over
2,000 Eng. Problems Every Day!

• Install new resistor plugs • Adjust idle speed • Set timing Test battery & charging system • Inspect key engine systems & parts

4-Cylinder **\$44.99** plus
6-Cylinder **\$53.99** \$1
8-Cylinder **\$62.99** shop fee

Most elec. eng. cars Transverse V-6 eng. & a/c interference extra

No Appointment Necessary

Downtown Eugene—East 11th store only
345-1593