

Fire season is on the horizon, it’s never too early to prepare

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According to the United States Forest Service (USFS), nearly 85% of wildland fires in the United States are caused by humans. Human-caused fires result from campfires left unattended, the burning of debris, equipment use and malfunctions, negligently discarded cigarettes and intentional acts of arson. But whether the fire bearing down on your house is caused by another person or nature there are a few things you can do to protect your property or evacuate in a timely and safe manner.

One great resource available to you is the Keep Oregon Green Association (KOG). For 75 years KOG has been educating the public on how to prevent wildfires. In April 1941, after public outcry over the human-caused Tillamook Burns, roughly 250 Oregon leaders came together to form the organization KOG’s mission is to promote healthy landscapes and safe communities by informing the public of everyone’s shared responsibility to prevent human-caused wildfires. Another great resource is your local USFS office or Oreon Department of

Forestry’s (ODF) website.

When it comes to protecting your home and property, there are three zones. Zone 1, extending 1-5 feet from a dwelling, is the first zone of defensible space. Defensible space means creating a fire-resistant periphery around your home and property and making that property accessible to the large trucks and other firefighting equipment that might be deployed during a wildfire.

In Zone 1, called the Immediate Zone, the goal is to minimize ignition sources starting in the home itself. Use fire-resistant materials and screens on roof vents, remove debris from gutters, decks and roofs, replace mulch around your house with rock or gravel, remove all plants within 5 feet of foundation and look up to remove branches overhanging your dwellings.

In Zone 2, the Intermediate Zone that is 5-30 feet from the dwelling, the goal is to reduce and space flammable vegetation to retard the advance of fires. Green lawns, driveways and rock paths and fire-resistant ground covers act as fuel breaks. In this zone you also want to remove ladder fuels by removing limbs from trees 6-10 feet up. Also locate your firewood pile at least 30

feet from home, preferably uphill.

In Zone 3, the Extended Zone, the goal is to create an effective first line of defense to slow the advancing fire by starving it of fuel. Removing ladder fuels is the primary strategy here. Additional actions include making sure your address is clearly visible, day and night, from both directions on your road as well as creating adequate access for firefighters to help save your structures and to have a solid evacuation plan. All this is vitally important to do before fire season starts. For a visual recap of this information go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufi3rFFh1MM> to view a great 5-minute video put out by Tom Fields, fire prevention coordinator with ODF and Khris Babbs, president and CEO of KOG.

Having a solid evacuation plan depends on your circumstances. Deeper advance planning is required if you have large animals or large numbers of animals you have to evacuate, if you have disabled household members or if the routes in and out of your area are limited.

If you have large animals such as horses, work with them ahead of time to ensure that they load and

unload easily from transportation. If you don’t have transportation line it up now before fire season starts. Calculate how much food and other supplies you’ll need for an extended time for all your family members, including animals.

Make sure you have a secure carry case for smaller pets and keep them accessible. Work with them ahead of time so that they are easy to get in and out of their crates. Drive the recommended evacuation route and visualize it full of traffic. Think about where you’ll go if these roads are clogged. Research alternative escape routes and make sure that your vehicle can navigate them. Sign up for and monitor fire evacuation information and be ready to evacuate by keeping essentials in your vehicle and making sure the details of your plan are in motion early. This may seem like a lot of work but it could save your life and the lives of your loved ones, including pets.

There are many good resources for evacuation plans such as <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Go-Evacuation-Guide/> and <https://www.ready.gov/wildfires>. The key thing to remember is, do it now!

Today in History: by The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 1, the 121st day of 2019. There are 244 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On May 1, 1707, the Kingdom of Great Britain was created as a treaty merging England and Scotland took effect.

On this date:

In 1786, Mozart’s opera “The Marriage of Figaro” premiered in Vienna.

In 1931, New York’s 102-story Empire State Building was dedicated. Singer Kate Smith made her debut on CBS Radio on her 24th birthday.

In 1941, the Orson Welles motion picture “Citizen Kane” premiered in New York.

In 1945, a day after Adolf Hitler took his own life, Admiral Karl Doenitz effectively became sole leader of the Third Reich with the suicide of Hitler’s propaganda minister, Josef Goebbels.

In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnaissance plane over Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

In 1964, the computer programming language BASIC (Beginner’s All-Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) was created by Dartmouth College professors John G. Kemeny and Thomas E. Kurtz.

In 1967, Elvis Presley

married Priscilla Beaulieu at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas. (They divorced in 1973.) Anastasio Somoza Debayle became president of Nicaragua.

In 1971, the intercity passenger rail service Amtrak went into operation.

In 1975, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Brewers broke baseball’s all-time RBI record previously held by Babe Ruth during a game against the Detroit Tigers (Milwaukee won, 17-3).

In 1982, the World’s Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee, was opened by President Ronald Reagan.

In 1992, on the third day of the Los Angeles riots, a visibly shaken Rodney King appeared in public to appeal for calm, pleading, “Can we all get along?”

In 2011, President Barack Obama announced the death of Osama bin Laden during a U.S. commando operation (because of the time difference, it was early May 2 in Pakistan, where the al-Qaida leader met his end).

Ten years ago: Supreme Court Justice David Souter announced his retirement effective at the end of the court’s term in late June. (President Barack Obama chose federal judge Sonia Sotomayor to succeed him.) Singer-actor-impressionist Danny Gans, one of Las Vegas’ most popular entertainers, died at age 52.

Five years ago: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel called a 50-percent jump in reports by members of the military of sexual assaults the previous year a “clear threat” to both male and female service members’ lives and well-being, and said he’d ordered Pentagon officials to increase efforts to get male victims to report abuse.

One year ago: Entering the State Department headquarters for the first time as America’s top diplomat, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo vowed

to reinvigorate American diplomacy and help the United States get “back our swagger.” Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein lashed out at Republican allies of President Donald Trump who had drafted articles of impeachment against Rosenstein, saying the Justice Department would not give in to threats.

Today’s Birthdays: Singer Judy Collins is 80. Actor Stephen Macht is 77. Singer Rita Coolidge is 74. Pop singer Nick Fortuna (The Buckingham) is 73. Actor-

director Douglas Barr is 70. Actor Dann Florek is 68. Singer-songwriter Ray Parker Jr. is 65. Actor Byron Stewart is 63. Hall of Fame jockey Steve Cauthen is 59. Actress Maia Morgenstern is 57. Actor Scott Coffey is 55. Country singer Wayne Hancock is 54. Actor Charlie Schlatter is 53. Country singer Tim McGraw is 52. Rock musician Johnny Colt is 51. Rock musician D’Arcy is 51. Movie director Wes Anderson is 50. Actress Julie Benz is 47. Actor Bailey Chase is 47. Country singer Cory Morrow is 47. Gospel/

rhythm-and-blues singer Tina Campbell (Mary Mary) is 45. Actor Darius McCrary is 43. Actor Jamie Dornan is 37. Actress Kerry Bishe is 35. Actress Lizzy Greene is 16.

Thought for Today: “Any man who has the brains to think and the nerve to act for the benefit of the people of the country is considered a radical by those who are content with stagnation and willing to endure disaster.” — William Randolph Hearst, American newspaper publisher (1863-1951).

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Reg. \$1.39 lb.

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