

# Fire danger level raised as risk increases

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — Seaside responded to fire precautions issued by the state Thursday, implementing recreational fire restrictions and limiting some industrial activities to early daylight hours.

"It's just way too dry" for burning later in the day, Seaside Division Chief Chris Dugan said.

As of Thursday, in response to a dry summer and rising wildfire danger, the state raised the industrial fire precaution level from Level 1 to Level 2 for the Northwest 1 Zone. This zone stretches from Astoria to the border between Tillamook and Lincoln counties and includes forest lands surrounding Seaside and Cannon Beach.

Under Level 2, called Partial Hootowl, power saw use, blasting and welding — among other activities — are allowed only at night and in the morning and afternoon between the hours of 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Level 2 requires a two-hour fire watch — fire monitoring at least two hours after operations cease.

## Bark dust fires

Within Seaside city limits, there have been no fire incidents of a large scale, Dugan said, but the department has seen an increase in bark dust fires this year, a symptom of the dry summer. Bark dust fires are usually the result of careless cigarette disposal, he said.

Although they are considered trivial, Dugan cautioned, "all fires start small, and they can spread."

Each year, during fire season, all lands outside city limits but within the Seaside Rural Fire Protection District become regulated by the state's Department of Forestry.

Seaside Fire & Rescue continues responding to incidents in city limits, but when it comes to wild or forest land fires in the rural district, the forestry department's crews respond in conjunction with the local fire department, Dugan said.

"Restrictions are pretty much tight everywhere, because of the conditions this

## PUBLIC RESTRICTIONS

Public restrictions on forest lands also have been in effect since June, because of high temperatures, low precipitation and similar factors. The restrictions apply to lands in Clatsop County that are protected by the Department of Forestry. They are as follows:

- Smoking is prohibited while traveling, except in closed vehicles on improved roads.
- Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires, except at designated locations. Use of wood burning devices, used in conjunction with temporary dwellings, including tents and trailers, is prohibited.
- Non-industrial use of chain saws is prohibited, except as waived by the forester.
- Use of motorized vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, is prohibited, except on improved roads and designated areas.
- Possession of the following firefighting equipment is required while traveling, except on state and county roads: one gallon of water or one operational fire extinguisher and one shovel.
- Use of fireworks, exploding targets, tracer ammunition and sky lanterns are prohibited during fire season.
- Cutting, grinding and welding of metal is prohibited.
- All open debris burning is prohibited with two exceptions. Burn barrels are allowed by permit, and metal barrels in good condition, heavy mesh screens, an available water supply and hand-tools are required. Burn barrels only are allowed from daylight to 10 a.m.

year," said Rod Nichols, an information officer with the state department.

To date, about 620 fires have burned more than 3,300 acres on lands protected by the Department of Forestry and forest protective associations. Of these, 429 have been caused by people.

According to the new precautions, recreational fires are allowed by permit under certain guidelines issued by the Department of Forestry and the Clatsop County Fire Defense Board. Recreational fires must be at designated campsites, personal residences or beaches and no closer than 50 feet from dune grass or 15 feet from any structures. These fires must be clear of all combustibles and completely extinguished prior to leaving. The maximum fire size is 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height, and the maximum fire pit size is 4 feet in diameter.

Chain saw use on personal property is allowed only until 1 p.m. daily.

## Higher risk

"It is standard for the levels to rise this time of year, but we're seeing areas at a higher level right now than often times in the past," Nichols said.

For instance, the Douglas

County area is at a Level 4, or general shutdown, "and it's not very often we get up to a Level 4 in this state," he said.

A large portion of the state has been in a drought for about three years, with two severe fire seasons last year and in 2013, which was the most expensive fire season in department history, Nichols said.

"We're really primed to have fires, and if we do get fire starts, it's likely they'll spread rapidly because of conditions," he added.

"Right now, the restrictions are fairly tight around the state," Nichols said. "We're in the most active period of the fire season."

Additionally, the Department of Forestry and the state Fire Marshal are asking for the public's cooperation in general to prevent human-caused fires by reducing fire-prone activities.

"We're looking at a formidable fire weather forecast," Oregon State Forester Doug Decker stated in a news release. "The benefit of any recent moisture we've received has now evaporated, and we're looking straight at record-breaking temperatures, extremely low humidities and dry lightning: the trifecta of bad wildfire conditions."

# A banner idea for Heritage Square hole

## Banners and benches by Regatta parade

By DERRICK DEPLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

Bamboo was a bust, but some enterprising thinkers have not given up on hiding the ugly pit at Heritage Square.

Jeff Daly, a photographer and filmmaker, has city approval to put up interpretive banners and wooden benches along Duane Street between 11th and 12th streets.

The first display explains the restoration work at the Astoria Column. Daly said others could tell stories about the Astoria Bridge, the old ferries that plied the Columbia River between Oregon and Washington state, the devastating Astoria fire in 1922 and the famous Astoria Clowns.

Daly hopes to have several displays ready by the Astoria Regatta's Grand Land Parade Saturday afternoon, when thousands are expected downtown. The hole at Heritage Square is along the parade route.

"So everybody is going to stand there, waiting for the parade to start, looking at this hole going, 'I thought? Didn't you hear? What was supposed



Derrick DePledge/The Daily Astorian  
Interpretive banners and wooden benches could help disguise an unsightly hole at Heritage Square.

to? How come? Don't they ever?" Daly said.

"It's always bothered me that we can't just cover it up a little bit."

He has wanted to do something for a few years but revived the idea after Astoria City Councilor Cindy Price's attempt to cover the hole with bamboo did not work as planned.

"You build a visual distraction," Daly said. "So your eye doesn't go to the bad. It goes to the good."

The hole, at the site of a former Safeway, has been an eyesore downtown since the supermarket's foundation

collapsed after heavy rains in 2010. The city hopes to remove contaminated soil stockpiled in the hole this year.

Longer term, the City Council is exploring a mixed-use redevelopment project at Heritage Square that could include a new public library and housing.

"Citizens are doing this work. They're putting their time and their effort into it," City Manager Brett Estes said of Daly's idea. "And I think that's just what everyone appreciates while the city is focusing on the bigger look at what happens there."

# Parkinson's forum in Seaside

The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — Parkinson's Resources of Oregon is presenting "Cognitive Changes in Parkinson's Disease," an educational event with Dr. Richard Rosenbaum, medical director of the Portland Parkinson's Program, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Aug. 14 at the Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A in Seaside.

Rosenbaum is a neurologist in the field of Parkinson's care and research, and author of the book

"Understanding Parkinson's: A Personal and Professional View."

He will be discussing ways Parkinson's disease can affect thinking, memory and mood, how to determine whether this may be a problem, as well as treatment strategies for cognitive challenges.

People with Parkinson's, as well as their family members and care partners, are encouraged to attend, meet others in the community, and grow in their knowledge and abilities to cope with the challenges of Par-

kinson's Disease.

Parkinson's Resources of Oregon has several support groups in the coastal communities, a helpline and lending library, web-based educational programs, and a social worker available to assist individuals with navigating resources.

To register or find out more about the resources available, call 800-426-6806. For information, go to [www.parkinsonsresources.org](http://www.parkinsonsresources.org) or email [info@parkinsonsresources.org](mailto:info@parkinsonsresources.org)

# 'Meet the Mayor' event with LaMear

The Daily Astorian

Astoria Mayor Arline LaMear will hold her monthly

event to hear public concerns on Wednesday at noon at City Hall.

LaMear has committed to holding monthly "Meet the

Mayor" events during her first year as mayor. The events are held on the first Wednesday of the month.

# Oregon Democrats express support for Planned Parenthood

By ZANE SPARLING  
Capital Bureau

In the midst of a controversy surrounding the release of undercover videos that critics say appear to show officials from Planned Parenthood casually discussing the sale of fetal tissue, Oregon's top Democrats remain united in support of the organization.

But that doesn't necessarily mean they want to talk about it.

The Center for Medical Progress, an anti-abortion group, has in recent weeks released a series of undercover videos that it says show Planned Parenthood officials discussing the sale of organs and tissue harvested from aborted fetuses. Sale of such tissue for profit is prohibited by federal law, though researchers can reimburse providers for the cost of its collection and preservation. The videos also appear to show officials discussing alternative abortion techniques to provide more intact organs.

Planned Parenthood says the videos are highly edited and present exchanges out of context. It claims the organization and its employees have done nothing wrong and that the videos are meant to promote an anti-abortion political agenda.



Don Ryan/AP Photo

Gov. Kate Brown, shown here after signing a voter registration bill in March, and other top Democrats have expressed support for Planned Parenthood.

## Committed to comprehensive health services

A spokesperson for Gov. Kate Brown issued a terse, one-sentence statement in response to questions about the videos.

"No matter what happens in other states or at the federal level, Gov. Brown is committed to Oregon providing comprehensive health services to all women, and Planned Parenthood has been a long-standing and effective partner in that effort," the spokesperson said.

Brown's office did not comment on whether the governor had seen any of the videos, or whether the allegations and the organization's use of

state funding warranted investigation.

Since 2008, Brown has received \$20,000 in campaign contributions from EMILY's List, an abortion rights group, and about \$10,000 from EMILY's List Federal Fund. Planned Parenthood PAC of Oregon has given \$3,500 to Brown. The president of Southern Oregon Planned Parenthood has personally donated \$150.

Brown spoke at a Planned Parenthood "Day of Action" rally in April of this year

and accepted the Pro-Choice Champion award from the group in 2012. Her first job, as a lobbyist for the Women's Rights Coalition, was funded in part by Planned Parenthood.

## Ethical questions for medical professionals

Brown chose Jeanne Atkins as her replacement as secretary of state when she succeeded former Gov. John Kitzhaber. Atkins led the Women's Rights Coalition when it hired Brown in 1991 and also worked as a lobbyist for Planned Parenthood.

Speaking through a spokesperson, Atkins said she had no official reaction as an office holder.

"My personal belief ... is that ethical questions about medical care and medical research are best resolved among medical professionals ... I hope Oregonians will listen thoroughly not just to the allegations but to the responses given," Atkins said.

On social media, state Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum, D-Portland used the hashtag "#Stand-withPP" to show her support for Planned Parenthood. Like Brown and Atkins, she de-

clined to discuss the issue in detail.

"We know these to be politically-motivated attacks coming from a group with a questionable background," spokesperson Molly Woon said. "We know Planned Parenthood to be a trusted health care provider."

## Defund Planned Parenthood

Abortion opponents were less restrained.

State Rep. Bill Post, R-Keizer, ran on an anti-abortion platform in 2014. Post said if he could, he would defund Planned Parenthood tomorrow.

"In political terms, when the Founding Fathers said, 'Life, liberty and pursuit of happiness,' it's pretty hard to

have the last two without the first," he said. "When a woman goes in for an abortion, I doubt she was thinking that the baby was going to be torn to pieces and sold off."

Post plans to introduce a bill to stop all taxpayer-funded abortions in Oregon, which are performed by a number of service providers, during the legislature's short session next year.

Data from the Oregon Health Authority list 105,441 abortions performed in Oregon over the last 10 years. In fiscal year 2013-14, around 43 percent of all abortions performed in state were taxpayer funded, Post said.

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