

# FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

By COLIN MURPHEY  
*The Daily Astorian*

**W**hile it may sound counterintuitive to the layman, a carefully set blaze is one of the most effective tools to control a wildfire for those who answer the call during fire season. Personnel from multiple agencies and most of the fire departments in Clatsop County gathered at Camp Rilea last weekend to perform a prescribed burn for practice. With fires already burning in central Oregon and drought conditions across the state, it's likely the men and women who do this work will be putting their skills to the test in coming months.



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian  
A firefighter uses a drip torch to set a deliberate fire at Camp Rilea.



Chyanne Kohler looks out over a prescribed burn at Camp Rilea.



Firefighters monitor a National Guard helicopter as it drops water on the prescribed burn.



Chyanne Kohler, firefighter with the Oregon Military Department, participates in a prescribed burn exercise at Camp Rilea.



The burn was also effective in removing invasive species, such as Scotch broom, from the area.



Multiple agencies, including most fire departments in Clatsop County, took part in the training.



A wildland firefighter sets a grassy field ablaze with a drip torch.



A National Guard helicopter heads off for more water after dropping a bucketload on the fire.