

# DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Are you ready?



**The Creswell Emergency Preparedness Fair. The fair will take place on Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cobalt Activity Center.**

## State Fire Marshal Urges Citizens To Take Steps During Wildfire Awareness Month

May is Wildfire Awareness Month in Oregon and State Fire Marshal Jim Walker is asking homeowners to use this opportunity to make sure their home is protected from wildfire.

In a unified proclamation, governors from Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and California have joined to encourage homeowners to begin thinking about the approaching fire season. This year's Wildfire Awareness Week theme asks: Have you done enough to protect your home from wildfire?

"The roof is the most critical part of the house when it comes to wildfire protection," says State Fire Marshal Jim Walker. "Embers can collect and ignite on the roof, in gutters, and enter unscreened openings around the house. Although non-combustible roofing material is preferred, regardless of

the construction, keep roofs, gutters and eaves clear of all leaves, pine needles and other flammable debris."

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal, in collaboration with Keep Oregon Green, the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon forest protective associations, and federal wildland agencies are taking this opportunity to promote defensible space around homes before fire strikes this summer.

To reduce the risk, fire officials suggest removing dead vegetation a minimum of 30 feet around your house. In most cases, trees and healthy plants do not need to be removed. However, trees should be pruned and grass kept short and green to keep fire on the ground and more manageable by fire crews. If you're thinking of landscaping, ask your local

nursery or OSU Extension agent about fire resistant plants.

Homeowners should also keep access in mind for large fire trucks. Long driveways should be at least 12 feet wide, have 10 feet of vegetation clearance from the centerline out, and about 14 feet overhead. Large vehicle turnaround areas are critical for your safety as well as firefighter safety.

It is the homeowners' responsibility to protect their homes by building defensible space. For more information, visit the websites for Keep Oregon Green, Oregon Department of Forestry, or call your nearest ODF or forest protective association office.

## Importance of electrical safety during National Electrical Safety Month

Flipping a light switch. Plugging in a coffee-maker. Charging a laptop or iPhone. These actions are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier, but its potential for shock and fire-related hazards are often taken for granted. That is why the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) actively supports National Electrical Safety Month, an annual campaign sponsored by Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), which raises awareness of potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical fire safety, each May.

"Computers, kitchen appliances, heaters, fans, air conditioners — any equipment powered by electricity has the potential to be involved in an electrical fire," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice president of Outreach and Advocacy. "The good news is, people can take simple steps to greatly reduce electrical hazards like learning the proper way to plug in appliances, safeguarding electrical outlets in the home, and more."

According to a recent NFPA report, U.S. Home Structure Fires, during 2011 – 2015 electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in the ignition of 34,000 reported home structure fires, on average, per year. These fires involved equipment such as wiring, lighting, cords and plugs. The report also states that electrical distribution or lighting equipment ranked first in direct property damage and third among the major fire causes in the number of home fires.

To help address this issue, NFPA and ESFI ask residents to adhere to the following safety tips:

Check electrical cords to make sure they are not

running across doorways or under carpets where they can get damaged.

Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets in your home to reduce the use of extension cords.

Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage in a lamp or other light fixture. Check the sticker on the lamp to determine the maximum wattage light bulb to use.

Residents should also have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician, including scheduling electrical inspections when buying or remodeling a home. In addition, residents should call a qualified electrician or landlord when encountering the following warning signs in a house or apartment:

Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers

A tingling feeling when touching an electrical appliance

Discolored or warm wall outlets

A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance

Flickering or dimming lights

Sparks from an outlet

"The National Electrical Code® is updated every three years to include the latest in proven safety technology, and ESFI is committed to educating the public about the importance of upgrading to stay up to code," said ESFI President Brett Brenner. "To prevent electrical fires and electric shock at home, have your house inspected annually by a qualified electrician."



**Welding Supplies and Gases Sold Here**

**We do welding repairs**

**BOYCE & SONS**

**LANDSCAPE AND BUILDING MATERIALS**

**Open 7 days a week!**

**79149 N. River Road**

**541-942-4664**

**U-HAUL**  
AUTHORIZED DEALER



**SPRING Tune-Up**

**Only \$99\***


*We'll make sure your system is running effectively and efficiently. Call for details and an appointment today, and beat the spring rush!*

**Complete Heating & Cooling System Service**  
Reasonable Rates • All Work Guaranteed

**JAMES**  
**HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING**  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

www.jamesheating.com  
115 Lawrence St., Eugene, OR 97401  
CCB #47396  
Bus. (541) 461-2101 • Fax: (541) 686-4820




## COTTAGE GROVE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUND-UP



**SATURDAY MAY 12 • 8-2**

**SOUTH LANE COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE**  
233 HARRISON AVE  
COTTAGE GROVE

SPONSORED BY LANE COUNTY,  
THE CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE,  
SOUTH LANE COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE  
COTTAGE GROVE STATION  
AND LANE ELECTRIC



**LANE ELECTRIC**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**WHAT TO BRING:**  
Bring paint, household cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, car care products, arts and crafts products, and just about any other household hazardous waste. The limit is 35 gallons of waste in total from each household. Check labels for words like flammable, corrosive, poison, caution, and danger. *For your safety it is always best to carry these items in a separate compartment (like the trunk of your car) with secured lids to eliminate spills in transport.*

**DON'T BRING:**  
Empty containers, drums, radioactive waste, asbestos, pressurized cylinders, explosives or electronics. For information about disposal of radioactive waste, asbestos and explosives, call Lane County Waste Management Division at 541-682-4120. Up to seven (7) Covered Electronic Devices, CEDs. Can be recycled for free at any one time at these 9 Lane County Transfer Stations; Glenwood, Cottage Grove, Creswell, Florence, Marcola, Oakridge, Rattlesnake, Veneta, and Vida during normal operating hours. Also, Lane County accepts sharps, oil, antifreeze and batteries of all types year-round at all refuse disposal sites. Call 541-682-4120 for more information.

**What about hazardous waste from businesses?**  
Businesses which generate small amounts of hazardous waste may pre-register to bring that waste to this event. Businesses must pay for disposal of the waste, but most can save money by using this program, rather than hiring a contractor on their own. For more information about this program, call Lane County Waste Management Division at 541-682-4120.

**Year Round Collection Sites—Paint, Electronics, and Fluorescent Lamps**  
Paint, Electronics, and Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (and tubes up to 4 feet) are accepted year-round at various locations in Lane County through on-going collection programs. Check out the websites below to find a location near you, or call 541-682-4120 for more information.

PaintCare  
www.paintcare.org

Oregon E-Cycles  
www.oregonecycles.org  
1-888-5-ECYCLE (532-9253)

CFL Collection Sites  
List of Participating Lighting and Hardware Stores  
www.lanecounty.org/lamps

## PUT TOGETHER A PLAN

Make sure all the pieces are in place to render you and your family prepared in the event of a natural disaster.

- Listen to radio or television newscasts for the latest weather information, and follow all evacuation directions and suggestions.
- Keep a stock of non-perishable food items as well as bottled water on hand inside your home.
- Keep a 72 Hour Kit on hand inside your home that is easy to get to in the event of a disaster.

For more information and tips on disaster response and preparedness, contact your local emergency services center.  
**South Lane Fire & Rescue • 233 Harrison Ave, Cottage Grove 541-942-4493 • 55 South 1st Street, Creswell 541-895-2506**



Twitter: @southlanefire  
Facebook: southlanecountyfireandrescue