

FIREWISE

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gaps beneath decks allow the fire inside.

“Where can embers get in?” he said. “Any kind of hole you leave in your house is fair game.”

Howell said homeowners can take many steps to make their property less susceptible to fire: moving flammable material, such as bark mulch, wood-piles and debris, away from the home; covering openings with wire mesh; acquiring hoses and sprinklers for each outdoor spigot; landscaping prudently; and installing spark arresters on chimneys.

“The more defensible your home is, the easier, the safer it is for us,” Howell said. “We put our lives on the line every day. We mitigate as much risk as we can, and that’s what we ask people to do too.”

One way communities can learn more about fire prevention and steps to improve safety is through the Firewise program. Jerome said the informal, community-driven program implemented through the Oregon Department of Forestry provides assessments for communities that wish to participate and also offers resources for some of the work.

“The whole idea is for communities to be accountable,” she said.

Once the risk assessment is complete, the community decides if it is interested and creates a timeline and priorities. She said community members choose and implement the projects, and they can perform them over time. The program has few requirements and helps by raising awareness.

For communities that become designated as Firewise communities, she said some funding is available for vegetation management within 200 feet of a home. She said Firewise communities must also perform an annual community project.

Three Firewise communities have formed in Grant County — Pine Creek, Middle Fork and Ritter — and Jerome said others have expressed interest. She said the first in Eastern Oregon was Pine Creek in 2014, and the community survived the Canyon Creek Complex fire the following year. She hoped other communities would form as well.

“Now is the time to do it,” she said. “You don’t want to wait until the fire comes.”



Contributed photo/Irene Jerome

Oregon Department of Forestry’s Dave Meyer, second from left, describes fire behavior that occurred in Dick Creek area during the Sugar Loaf Fire in June 2015 to Jenny Martin, from left, Tanner Walczyk, Jagger Michael, Tim Briggs, Jim Latshaw, Mark Howell, Dave Fields and Gail Beverlin. Topography, aspect, heavy juniper fuel and weather all played an important part in the intense fire that burned through this area.



Contributed photo/Irene Jerome

From left, Jim Jerome, Dwain Anderson and Howard Gieger feed a chipper at Jack and Lola Derosier’s property in the Pine Creek Firewise Community.



Contributed photo/Irene Jerome

A North Fork John Day Watershed Council youth crew assists Rick Gugliemi and Karen Prudhomme by piling slash behind their home in the Ritter Firewise Community.

FOREST

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Service regulation reform; and the reform of laws, such as the Environmental Species Act, the Clean Water Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

“Things do need to turn around,” he said.

At the state level, Storm said the association has focused its lobbying on preventing “bad bills,” such as diesel emissions and labor legislation, and tax increases. He said the current legislative session was a “train wreck” under single-party control with Democrats wanting to tax and spend, increasing the size of government. He said, however, ODF provides many services to loggers with a tiny general fund budget.

“The Department of Forestry is one of the good things in government we strongly support,” he said.

After Storm spoke, ODF Entomologist Christine Buhl discussed problems with bark beetles. Prevention is important, she said, because once they’re inside the tree, it’s too late. She said pheromone-based repellants can prevent the beetles from targeting trees by deceiving them into thinking the tree is fully occupied by other beetles.

The rice-sized insects can attack trees as a group, overwhelming the trees’ defenses, she said. Symptoms include pitch, boring dust, staining and galleries under the bark. While just the tip of a branch may yellow from drought, Buhl said bark beetles will affect an entire branch or the top of a tree or the whole tree.

She said ODF provides a variety of fact sheets about bark beetles and other problems, available at tinyurl.com/odf-foresthealth/usfs-fidl.

ODF John Day Unit Stewardship Forester Kirk Ausland concluded the dinner by awarding Brad Clemens of B & M Timber a Central Oregon District Merit Award for his salvage work after the Canyon Creek Complex.

“B & M Timber has produced quality results under the most difficult circumstances and challenging conditions,” Ausland wrote when he nominated Clemens for Eastern Oregon Operator of the Year. “... Desired future conditions will be more obtainable, and reforestation efforts in the near future will benefit from these salvage operations.”

10 safety tips to protect homes from wildfire

1. Clear leaves and other debris from roofs, gutters, porches and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting your home.
2. Remove dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house.
3. Screen in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
4. Remove flammable materials (wood piles, propane tanks) within 30 feet of a home’s foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don’t let it touch a house, deck or porch.
5. Wildfire can spread to tree tops. Prune trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
6. Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
7. Don’t let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
8. Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair the shingles that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration.
9. Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
10. Enclose eaves and screen soffit vents using 1/8 mesh metal screening to prevent ember entry.

Additional information and materials are available at firewise.org.

BIOMASS

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The facility will process the debris closer to its source, reducing transport costs and creating jobs locally. This reduced cost will allow more work to be done in the forest, according to Scott Fairley, the Greater East-

ern Oregon Region Coordinator for Business Oregon.

Based on demand, the facility can change to other products.

The project competed against eight others and was chosen alongside a water development project in the Umatilla Basin. The biomass project was chosen because it

created local jobs using local resources and increased productivity from federal lands, Fairley said.

At the 13-acre Seneca facility, located in the industrial park, a set of scales was recently installed, certified by Forest Service and state, so federal timber can be brought in. More equipment, including

doweling machines and a chop saw sorting system, will be delivered from Klamath Falls. Williams said the Seneca facility did not receive any state funding and is up and running. The John Day plant is expected to open this summer.

“Iron Triangle is not only trying to utilize low-value material but add jobs in the community as well,” Williams said.



Scott Fairley



The Basics & Effective Communication Strategies

Thursday, June 8 | 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
John Day DHS APD Office
725 W. Main St., Suite E
John Day, OR 97845

If you or someone you know is affected by Alzheimer’s disease or dementia, it’s time to learn the facts. This program provides information on detection, causes and risk factors, stages of the disease, treatment, and much more.

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PUBLICATION FOR SONSHINE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Sonshine Christian School will be accepting pre-registrations for the 2017/2018 school year. Registration fee for students is \$75.00.

Zoo Phonic Programs Taught

Pre School students must be 3 years of age before September 1 of the school year and able to toiletting without staff assistance. Their classes will be offered 2 days a week from 9-11am.

Pre-Kindergarten students must be 4 years of age before September 1 of the school year. Their classes will be offered 3 days a week from 9-11:30am.

Registration packets can be picked up at the church office, 521 E Main Street, John Day. The office is open Tuesday-Thursday 9am-3pm. For information call (541) 575-1895 or e-mail Trace at the church e-mail address, judy@johndaynazarene.com

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