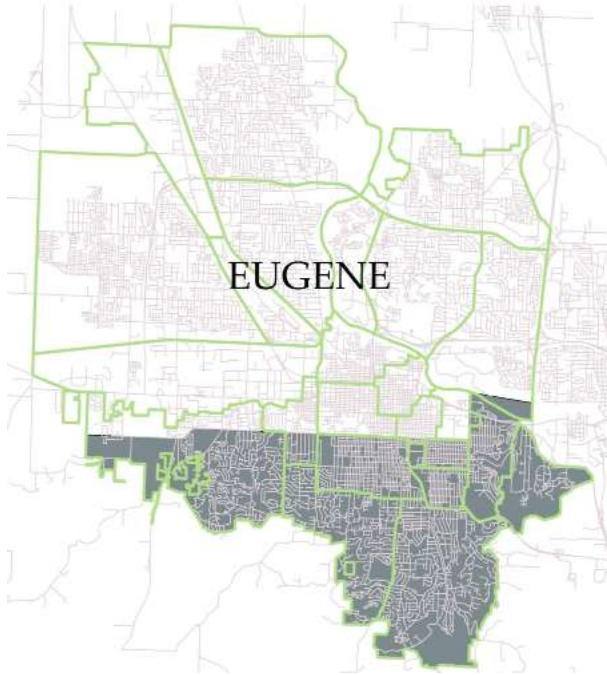


# Wildfire awareness comes to Eugene

Multiple years of drought are causing dangerous wildfire conditions this summer throughout Oregon and the West. In this issue, your **Ready Eugene!** Neighborhood Disaster

Preparedness Teams and partners at Eugene Springfield Fire share important wildfire education.

## Fireworks ban area



**Eugene banned all fireworks in South Eugene in 2021 and 2022.** The areas south of 18th, east of Agate are experiencing extreme fire danger. Citizens can report illegal fireworks, which can result in fines and judgments to repay the cost of response. (Page 2)

**Nearby neighbors meet one another** and learn how to help each other during emergencies. The Map Your Neighborhood program is supported by the City of Eugene. (Page 2)

**You can review home wildfire risk** by yourself or with neighborhood volunteers using materials provided by Eugene Springfield Fire. The explanation is also available online and summarized in a handy pull-out page. (Pages 3-4)

**With high demand for wildfire risk** awareness, neighbors are stepping forward to help. (Page 5)

## Summer donors needed

Our blood supply is running on empty. We're calling on you to pump up the community by donating with Bloodworks Northwest this summer. In just one hour of your day, you can ensure hospitals and trauma centers have the blood they need to take care of patients this summer. Book your appointment today. Support neighborhoods with the code NLC at [bloodworksnw.org](http://bloodworksnw.org).

**New evacuation zone maps prepared by Eugene Springfield Fire will be** used in nearby neighbor tabletop discussions, leading to a large scale training at Amazon Park on Sept. 12. (Page 5)

**You can be held responsible under** Oregon law for wildfire-related costs. A Portland-area teenager must pay back \$36.6 million after his fireworks started the Eagle Creek Fire. (Page 6)

# Sign up for alerts; Be Ready, Set, Go!

Sign up at [public.alertsense.com](http://public.alertsense.com) to receive emergency notifications on your cell or VoIP phone. This service allows fire, police, and other emergency response agencies to issue alerts to citizens in the event of severe weather, fire, flooding, hazardous materials, need for immediate evacuation, civil danger, local area emergencies, and missing persons.

Know the three levels of evacuation.

<b>LEVEL 1</b> <b>BE READY:</b> Prepare, monitor, and pack your valuables.	<b>LEVEL 2</b> <b>BE SET:</b> Be set to evacuate at a moment's notice.	<b>LEVEL 3</b> <b>GO:</b> Leave immediately!
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If you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Take your emergency supply kit, lock your home and choose a route away from the fire hazard.

Watch for changes in the speed and direction of the fire and smoke. Tell someone when you left and where you are going.

# City fireworks fines start at \$375

With dry forests throughout Oregon, many residents are concerned about illegal fireworks use in our neighborhoods.

Fireworks are not only potential ignition sources for unintended fires. They also cause distress and trauma for military veterans, senior citizens, wildlife, and our own beloved pets. The remnants of all fireworks used on city streets ultimately find their way into and pollute our waterways.

In the past, the City of Eugene restricted legal fireworks to four days each year: July 3, July 4, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1. However, in South Eugene for 2021 and 2022, the Council has

banned all fireworks at all times. This area, south of 18th or east of Agate,



was chosen because of the extreme fire danger.

Illegal fireworks are also banned at all times throughout the city.

The Council also banned fireworks sales in South Eugene in 2022.

Violations involving legal and illegal fireworks are fined at least \$375 and repeated violations can lead to civil liability for the cost of police, fire, and public works response efforts.

Report illegal fireworks use by calling 541-682-5111 or with the City of Eugene's "Fireworks Alert" app for Android or iPhone, which accepts photographs of the violations. Officers typically do not respond to the scene.

## Learn how to help your nearby neighbors

During a disaster, Eugene police, fire, and medical personnel will be overwhelmed and unable to immediately assist residents in our neighborhood. We as neighbors will be the first responders.

Eugene neighborhood organizations are using the Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program as an organizing template. This program was originally designed for earthquake response in the Pacific Northwest. Eugene neighborhoods have adapted the program to include wildfire evacuations.

The value of the program is in convening nearby neighbors to discuss how we can support and care for one another until outside help arrives.

During a typical MYN meeting, participants get to know one another. The goal is to share information about needs and resources in advance of a disaster.

During a typical MYN meeting, participants:

- **Identify** the skills and equipment available to help the neighborhood cope with a disaster
- **Create** a neighborhood map that

shows the locations of gas meters and non-portable propane tanks

- **Select** locations for the neighborhood Gathering Site and neighborhood Care Center
- **Compile** a contact list of those who may need extra help in a disaster.



• **Follow the Nine Steps** immediately after a disaster:

1. Take care of your loved ones.
2. Protect your head, hands, and feet.
3. Check your natural gas or propane at your home. Shut off if necessary. This is one of the best ways to prevent fire.
4. (Earthquake) Shut off water at the house main to trap water in your home and to keep pollutants out of possible drinking water.

5. Place the Help or OK sign on your front door or window. Posting the sign helps your neighbors locate those who need help first.

6. Place a fire extinguisher on the sidewalk or where neighbors can see it. This way, if a neighbor has a small fire after a disaster, extinguishers are immediately available.

7. Go to the Neighborhood Gathering Site.

8. Form into teams at the Neighborhood Gathering Site. We recommend these four teams:

- Communications - Listen for alerts and establish communication with your district's ham radio operators
- Field Team - Check on our neighbors with special needs
- Field Team - Shut off gas and propane (if needed)
- Field Team - Check Help/OK signs.

9. Share what you have done with the rest of your neighbors, after your team has completed its work, and teams return to the Neighborhood Gathering Site.

# Review wildfire risk in home ignition zone

You can use **City of Eugene** resources to conduct a self-assessment of your property's wildfire risk. Neighborhood organizations can also assist. This guidance is provided by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety.

## SLOPE

The slope of the land around your home is a major consideration in assessing wildfire risk. Wildfires burn up a slope faster and more intensely than along flat ground. A steeper slope will result in a faster moving fire, with longer flame lengths.

Homes located mid- or top of a slope (without set back) are generally more vulnerable because of increased flame length and intensity of a fire moving up the slope. Depending on the location of your home, defensible space may need to be increased.

## ZONE 1

0-5 ft. around the perimeter

The objective of this zone is to reduce the chance of wind-blown embers from a nearby fire landing near the home, igniting combustible debris or materials and exposing the home to flames. This zone is closest to the house, so it requires the most careful selection and management of vegetation and other materials.

## ZONE 2

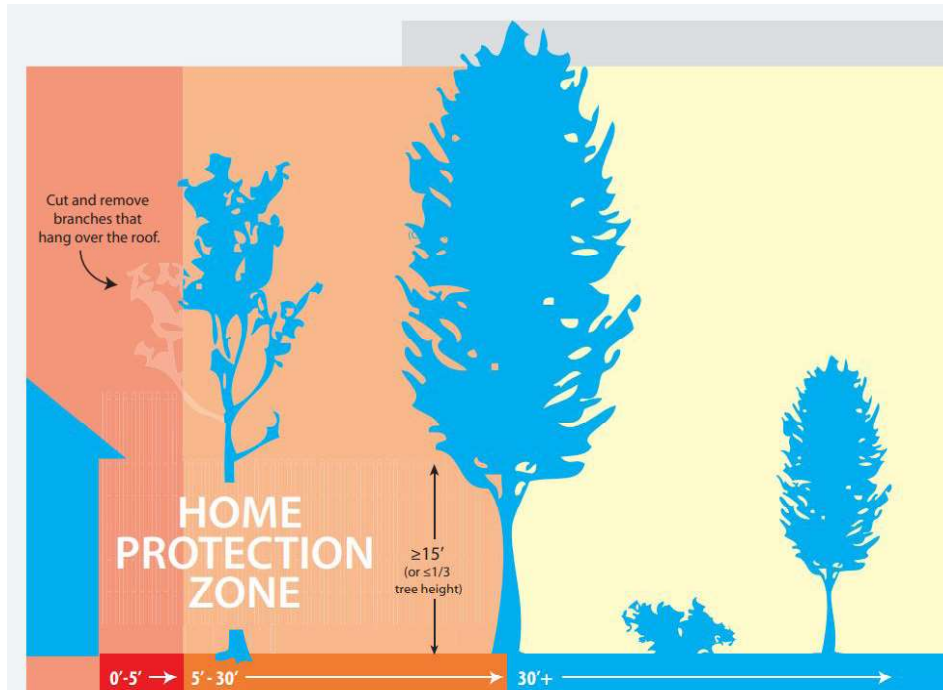
5 ft.-30 ft. around the perimeter (or to the property line)

The objective of this zone is to create and maintain a landscape that, if ignited, will not readily transmit fire to the home. Trees and shrubs in this zone should be in well spaced groupings and well maintained. Ladder fuels (i.e., shorter vegetation or shrubs under taller trees) should be avoided to prevent the fire from climbing into the crown or upper portions of trees. If these groupings were to be ignited by wind-blown embers, the resulting fire should not be able to threaten the home by a radiant

heat exposure or by flames being able to touch the exterior surfaces of your home.

## ZONE 3

30 ft. - 100 ft. (or to the property line)



The objective of vegetation management in this zone is to reduce the energy and speed of the wildfire. Tree and brush spacing should force the fire in the tops of the tree, brush or shrub crowns to drop to the ground. Flame length should decrease.

## TREE BRANCHES OVERHANGING OR WITHIN 10 FT. OF THE ROOF

Branches overhanging your roof will result in more debris accumulation on your roof, in your gutters and near your home.

## OTHER COMBUSTIBLE ITEMS/STRUCTURES

A fire in close proximity to a propane tank can result in gas releasing at the pressure relief valve, potentially resulting in a column of flame. Flames impinging on the upper surface of the tank can result in an explosion, particularly when the fuel level is low.

If ignited, other combustible items on your property, such as a tool storage shed or gazebo, could expose your home to radiant heat and flames.

## ROOF SLOPE

Roof slope is important because it will affect the amount of debris that accumulates and will also influence the radiant

exposure to the roof if nearby vegetation or buildings ignite.

## ROOF MATERIAL

Your roof is a large, relatively horizontal surface where debris from trees and other vegetation can accumulate. When a wildfire is threatening your home, wind-blown embers can also land on your roof and ignite this debris, potentially putting your home at risk. Your roof must be able to resist the burning embers from the wildfire and flames from ignited debris. Roof coverings are rated as Class A, B, or C. A Class A fire-rated roof covering offers the best protection.

## ROOF DESIGN

Even with a Class A roof, locations where the roof covering meets another material can be vulnerable. Debris can accumulate at these locations, and so can wind-blown embers. It is important to inspect these locations as they are potential "weak links" on your roof (for example, wood shingle siding on a dormer next to a Class A roof covering), or areas where the Class A roof can be bypassed (for example, non-bird stopped tiles at the roof edge).

## SKYLIGHTS

During a wildfire, skylights could be an entry point for wind-blown embers and flames if the glass or Plexiglas opening were to fail. Operable skylights would also be vulnerable if left open when a wildfire threatens. Debris accumulation on top of and around skylights will be greater on flat or lower-sloped roofs. Dome-type skylights use an acrylic glass product and flat-type skylights use tempered or other specialized glass. Performance differences between acrylic and glass would make the flat-type skylights less vulnerable to wildfire exposures. All skylights incorporate metal flashing at the base, where it integrates with the roof.

**(See Risk review on next page)**



# Risk review

(Continued from previous page)

## VENTS

Most homes have enclosed spaces that are vented, including attics and crawl spaces. Other openings in an exterior wall include those for dryer vents and vents to supply make-up air for rooms where gas appliances are operating (e.g., furnace and/or water heater). Wind-blown embers that enter the attic or other enclosed spaces can ignite combustible materials that have either accumulated there or have been stored there.

Vents on vertical walls or surfaces have been shown to be vulnerable to the entry of embers. For the attic, these vents would include gable end vents, through-roof vents with a dormer face and under-eave vents used in open-eave construction. Crawl space vents (also called foundation vents), dryer vents and vents to supply make-up air would also be vulnerable to the entry of embers.

Some attic and foundation vents that have been specifically designed to resist the entry of embers and flames are commercially available. Your local fire or building department would know if any of these vents have been approved for use in your area.

Consider using closure devices. There are commercially available options or you can make your own and store in a place where they can be easily retrieved and installed when wildfire threatens. The commercial devices should be deactivated, or home-made covers removed, after the wildfire passes. Some gable end and crawl space vents have been designed to resist the entry of embers and flames - check with your local fire or building official to find out if any have been approved for use in your area.

## EXTERIOR WALL - FOUNDATION

There are three basic types of foundations: concrete slab-on-grade, raised floor (i.e., one having a crawl space) and pier (or "post") and beam (unless a perimeter skirting has been installed, this one will be open underneath). An "open underneath" foundation will be vulnerable if combustible materials or vegetation and debris has accumulated or has been stored there. Raised floor and slab-on-grade foundations can be vulnerable if the distance from the ground to the siding is much less than 6 in., or, in the case of a crawl space, ember entry occurs through a foundation vent. Combustible siding will be more vulnerable if the ground-to-siding clearance is less

than 6-in. if embers can accumulate at the base of the wall. The use of combustible mulch and woody vegetation will make this area even more susceptible to ignition from wind-blown embers. Untreated wood shingle and vinyl siding are relatively more vulnerable to flame contact and radiant heat exposures that would result from an ember ignition of near-home debris or other combustible items.

## Wildfire home assessment and checklist

Wildfire home assessment and checklist from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety: [https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/42278/wildfire-checklist\\_IBHS](https://www.eugene-or.gov/DocumentCenter/View/42278/wildfire-checklist_IBHS).

An interactive online version is available from neighborhood websites, such as [SoutheastNeighbors.org](http://SoutheastNeighbors.org).

## UNDER-EAVE CONSTRUCTION

Under-eave construction consists of either "open-eave framing" or is enclosed with a "soffit" material (also called "boxing-in"). Vent openings are often found in this area. Vents in open-eave construction can be vulnerable to the entry of embers, and are more vulnerable to ember entry than vents located in a soffit eave. Open-eave construction can also trap heat if subjected to flames, resulting in more rapid ignition of combustible construction materials and lateral flame spread. Flames reaching the under-eave area would be more likely if combustible vegetation and mulch were included in the 0-5 ft. "near-home" zone and similarly, if combustible siding were used.

## EXTERIOR WALL - MATERIAL

Siding is vulnerable when it ignites and flames or embers get into the cavity behind it or if the flames spread vertically, impinging on windows and the eave. With inadequate ground-to-siding clearance, accumulated embers can ignite combustible siding directly. Ignition is more likely if combustible siding is exposed to a direct flame contact or extended radiant heat exposure. The chance of direct flame contact is greater if you haven't created and maintained a 0-5 ft. noncombustible zone around your home. An extended radiant heat exposure is possible if nearby combustible materials (for example, a firewood pile) or a nearby building ignite. Untreated wood shingle and vinyl siding are relatively more vulnerable to flame contact and radiant heat exposures.

## RE-ENTRANT (INTERIOR) CORNER

An interior corner that is constructed using combustible siding and trim will be more vulnerable to flames. If ignited, flames will spread vertically more quickly.

## WALL VENTS AND OPENINGS

Vents located on a vertical wall, including crawl space vents (also called foundation vents), gable end vents, and

other openings such as a dryer vent, will be very vulnerable to the entry of wind-blown embers.

## WINDOWS

An open window is the most vulnerable window when a wildfire threatens - embers can easily enter the home. Closed windows are vulnerable to radiant heat and direct flame contact exposures. If the frame ignites or melts, the fire may burn into the stud cavity and into the living space of the home. If glass breaks, embers and flame can easily enter the home. Of these, the glass is the most vulnerable component.

## GARAGE

Most people store combustible materials in their garage. Garage (vehicle access) doors, particularly on older garages, can have small gaps at the top, sides and bottom that can allow embers to enter. These embers can ignite combustible materials stored in the garage.

## DECK

Your deck is a vulnerable part of your home when it ignites. A burning deck will expose the building to radiant heat and flames, potentially igniting combustible siding and breaking glass in windows and doors. The materials used to build the deck, combustible materials you store under your deck, vegetation around it and the location of your deck relative to the slope around your house all contribute to how vulnerable your deck will be. Debris that accumulates between deck boards and at deck-to-wall intersections can be ignited by embers. Rotted wood deck boards and structural support members are more easily ignited when they are dry.

# City bans all fireworks in South Eugene

by Eugene Springfield Fire Department

Due to the severe drought conditions and the upcoming 4th of July holiday, an emergency is declared to exist and on Monday, June 21, 2021, Eugene City Council voted unanimously to temporarily ban all fireworks in the south hills (south from 18th Avenue or east from Agate Street) through 2021 and 2022.

This ban, effective immediately, was a **necessary step for public health and safety**.

The ban also includes legal fireworks like fountains, glitter sparklers, ground spinners and wheels.

The temporary ban penalty is a fine not to exceed \$500. The presumptive fine is \$250. Please see the attached map.

## CITY ORDINANCE (APPLYING TO ALL EUGENE CITY LOCATIONS)

Fireworks went on sale June 23 and can be sold through July 6. Consumer fireworks discharges within the Eugene city limits are restricted to July 3 and 4, and December 31 and January 1. Commercial public displays with the Eugene city limits are restricted to July 3-5.

## OREGON LAW APPLYING TO FIREWORKS

Oregon law prohibits illegal fireworks, which include any firework that flies into the air, explodes, or travels more than 12 feet horizontally on the ground, throughout the entire city, without a permit. Fireworks commonly called bottle rockets, Roman Candles, and firecrackers are illegal in Oregon.

## EUGENE AND SPRINGFIELD ILLEGAL FIREWORKS AMNESTY TURN-IN DAY

If you have illegal fireworks at your home, there is an opportunity for you to get rid of them without getting cited. Illegal Fireworks Amnesty Turn-in Day will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Friday, July 2 in Eugene (2 and Chambers) and Saturday, July 3, in Springfield at Eugene Springfield Fire Station 3, (1225 28th Street). The event is only open to private individuals, not commercial parties. Do NOT take fireworks to a police or fire station.

## FIREWORKS REPORTING APP

Eugene Springfield Fire has a Fireworks App (Fireworks Alert) – <https://www.eugene-or.gov/120/Fire-and-Emergency-Medical-Services>.

Look for the article “Download New App to Report Illegal Fireworks Use”.

Effective Immediately



City officials receive the information along with the geo location from where the picture was taken. Reports will not result in immediate action. Information will be gathered and analyzed to identify areas of the community to target future education and enforcement efforts.

Fireworks are a traditional way to celebrate some holidays, but they can be noisy and an extreme fire hazard. Please be mindful of people in your neighborhood who may be sensitive to loud noises, due to PTSD or other conditions. Especially combat veterans, who deserve our every comfort after their service, can be impacted by the sounds and sights of illegal fireworks. Also many pets are lost each year due to reactions to fireworks.

**To report illegal fireworks within the Eugene city limits, call 541.682.5111.** To report within the Springfield city limits call 541.726.3714.

**The Eugene base fine for illegal fireworks is \$250.**

The social host ordinance in Eugene also applies to fireworks. The social host, or ordinance on unruly gatherings, holds individuals criminally responsible for hosting, organizing and allowing an unruly event or social gathering. Eugene property owners where the event is hosted will also be penalized if there are multiple violations of this ordinance at the same property. The Eugene Municipal Court has assigned a base fine of \$375 for criminal violations of this ordinance. Both hosts and property owners could be civilly liable for police, fire and public works response to repeated illegal gatherings that fall under this ordinance.

We are OK and have evacuated. Contact us at:

**OK**

**HELP**

Map Your Neighborhood materials courtesy Office of Emergency Management, Oregon and Washington State. For more:  
CERT program: <https://eugene-cert.com>  
City of Eugene Neighborhoods: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/535/Neighborhood-Associations>  
City of Eugene Emergency Management: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/255/Emergency-Management>

# Neighbors support local fire agencies

Our multi-neighborhood outreach for free wildfire home assessments drew over 500 responses, mostly from South Eugene and rural Lane County. With local wildfire agencies facing high demand for fuel mitigation after a century of fire suppression, and with governments facing uncertain funding



during the pandemic, neighbors are stepping up to help.

Tim Ingalsbee, Michael Beasley, and other neighbors with wildland firefighting experience are volunteering to help train nearby neighbors in wildfire awareness. These volunteers will be out in the community throughout the summer to pass along recommendations that are promoted by our Eugene Springfield Fire Department.

The 11-page “Wildfire Home Assessment and Checklist” from the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety can be found on the City of Eugene website.

Residents who would like to get started as soon as possible with a self-service online version can visit <https://www.southeastneighbors.org/get-involved/emergency-preparedness/>

The guidance suggests ways that homes can best prepare to survive the wind-carried embers that are now characteristic of western mega-fires.

## Evacuation ‘tabletops’ lead to Sept. 12 exercise

This month, Eugene neighborhoods will start conducting tabletop exercises. Nearby neighbors can gather to discuss evacuating from our homes during a wildfire.

These *tabletops* will use Eugene Springfield Fire’s latest maps showing evacuation zones, evacuation routes, and public assembly points.

We cannot know in advance exactly when or where the next wildfire will arrive. But we can consider our best evacuation routes in case of a wildfire approaching from the north, south, east, or west.

During an actual emergency, public safety personnel will direct citizens along evacuation routes based on the latest information about the wildfire.

The discussion also asks neighbors to imagine that one of the usual routes leading away from their homes is blocked. This will help neighbors consider other alternate routes in advance.

Eugene resident **Charlsey Cartwright** evacuated from the 2018

Camp Fire, which destroyed Paradise, California. She credits even a small amount of practice with saving her life. “Even though I don’t feel like I rehearsed a lot, the little bit I did, having thought through the process so many times, I went into a zone and I

choose which neighbors and friends they wish to trust with information about special needs during an emergency.

The smaller tabletop exercises will be conducted in advance of a large event on Sept. 12 at Amazon Park.

<b>10:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b>	<b>Neighborhood Response Team Basics:</b> Learn how to organize your neighborhood response team after a major event so you can do the most good for your community
<b>11:00 AM - 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Neighborhood Survey:</b> Learn about what information is useful to first responders and how to assess your neighborhood for those who need help soonest
<b>12:00 PM - 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch</b> is provided by PathfinderEX! Relax and get to know your neighbors.
<b>1:00 PM - 2:00 PM</b>	<b>Neighborhood Communication:</b> Learn how to use everyday communication equipment to organize, compile, and track your community needs for first responders
<b>2:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Eugene Ready! Neighborhood Preparedness Exercise:</b> Exercise the skills you just learned in a disaster scenario

was able to do it on automatic when I needed to.”

The tabletop exercises build on the small groups of nearby neighbors as in the **Map Your Neighborhood** program. Due to the high demand during a disaster, emergency personnel will not be available to respond to every request. Until help arrives, we are the help. Nearby neighbors are encouraged to meet in person. They can

The non-profit training organization PathFinderEX will offer a series of training courses.

Come learn basic skills to help organize, prepare, and survive crisis events as a community. Registration ASAP is recommended as there may be a cutoff number of lunches and “Ready Eugene!” T-shirts provided for free by PathFinderEX and other sponsors.





**Southeast Neighbors News**  
 c/o City of Eugene Neighborhood Program  
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The SEN News is the official newsletter of the Southeast Neighbors Association (SEN) and funded in part by the Eugene Human Rights & Neighborhood Involvement office. Newsletters are produced by neighborhood volunteers and are free to residents and businesses of the neighborhood. Space is available for letters to the editor or articles from neighbors, and published as space permits. The information provided and views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the position of the City of Eugene or Southeast Neighbors.

*Fireworks ignited the Eagle Creek Fire*

# Teenager ordered to pay \$36.6 million

The teenager whose smoke bomb ignited Oregon's Eagle Creek Fire in 2017 will be paying for those fireworks until at least 2028.

An Oregon judge tallied up the wildfire costs for which the young man can be held responsible. Those damages include \$1 million to Union Pacific Railroad, \$1.6 million to the Oregon State Fire Marshal, \$12.5 million to ODOT, and \$21.1 million to the U.S. Forest Service.

The 15-year-old high school freshman, a church-going snowboarder from the greater Portland area, apparently did not understand that fireworks in the forest can ignite a catastrophic wildfire. In his case, the Eagle Creek Fire would destroy four homes and

almost **50,000 acres** of forest land; force the evacuation of hundreds from Hood River to Portland; close the interstate for 10 days; start spot fires on the other side of the Columbia River in Washington State; and threaten 5,000 structures.

The young man may never actually have to pay back the full \$36.6 million. In 2028, ten years after his 2018 trial, the

court can grant "a full or partial satisfaction of the restitution judgment," as long as he completes probation, does not commit additional offenses, and complies with all payment plans.

But even if he is released from further payments at that time, the young man might agree that lighting fireworks in the forest is NOT worth 10 years of payments towards a \$36.6 million judgment.

Please spread the word: Fire in the forestlands in and around Eugene can quickly spread to homes in the urban area, and cause catastrophic loss of life and property. If you ignite a wildfire with fireworks, you can be held responsible for the costs of damages. **Don't light fireworks in Oregon's forested areas.**

