



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Forestry

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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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"Stewardship in
Forestry"

FIRE SEASON IS DECLARED ON ODF PROTECTED LANDS

Beginning at 12:01 a.m., Thursday, May 28, 2009, forest and range lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry, John Day Unit, will go into fire season. This includes private, state, county, municipal, and tribal lands in six counties: Grant, Wheeler, and portions of Gilliam, Morrow, Harney, and Umatilla. In addition, Grant County Fire Defense Board and Wheeler County Fire Defense Board are implementing the same fire prevention measures for homeowners in the rural and city districts they protect. "This kind of cooperation is important to prevention of wildfire," stated Rick Shaeffer, Wheeler County Fire Defense Board Chief.

During this declared fire season:

- Open burning is not allowed. Burn permits are required for burn barrels on all private forest and range lands within the Forest Protection District for Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) - John Day Unit. Contact your local ODF office in John Day, Fossil, or Monument for a permit.
- Contact your local rural or city fire department to find out more about any additional restrictions related to burn barrels.
- Landowners who conducted burning of slash piles last fall and this past spring are encouraged to check these piles and ensure that they are completely out. It is not uncommon for recently burned slash piles to have heat remaining in them for several months after the actual burning of the piles. This has resulted in large fires later in the summer when the surrounding vegetation dries and weather becomes hot and dry.
- Logging and other industrial operations must meet requirements for fire prevention, such as fire tools, water supply, and watchman service when those operations are occurring on private lands protected by ODF. Contact your local Stewardship Forester at ODF-John Day for more information.
- Campfires must be DEAD OUT! Do not leave unattended. Get permission from the landowner before starting a campfire.

Escaped open burning has been the cause of several fires this spring. Burning restrictions are now in place due to the moderate fire danger in place for the John Day Unit. "Expected weather conditions do not warrant the continuation of open burning," states Angie Johnson, Unit Forester for ODF – John Day Unit. "We can't ignore the need for extra caution. Fire prevention is in everyone's best interest during this time of the year."

For further information, contact Oregon Department of Forestry at these local offices:

John Day Unit	(541) 575-1139
Fossil Sub-Unit	(541) 763-2575
Monument Guard Station	(541) 934-2300

To report a wildfire fire, call John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at (541) 575-1321.

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