



**DESCHUTES COUNTY RURAL  
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2**  
1212 SW SIMPSON AVE.  
BEND, OREGON 97702  
(541) 318-0459

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# HOT SPOTS

NEWS FROM DESCHUTES COUNTY  
RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2



## FIREFREE STARTS MAY 1!



**FIREFREE**

The 20+ year FireFree program in Central Oregon is going strong, and the next wildland fuel reduction event is about to start! Removing flammable vegetation (fuels) from your property reduces the chance that a fire will spread and buys the fire responders some time and safety to manage a wildfire incident. People are generally willing to put in the work to reduce the fuel load, but...how to dispose of the debris? Burning it increases the chance of an escaped fire, increases risk to your neighbors, and civil liability to you.

Fire agencies have created a partnership with Deschutes County, and annually blocks out 2 periods of time (Spring and Fall) to accept yard debris on a free or reduced rate basis.

This year, the Spring FireFree event runs from May 1 through May 16, at various locations around the county. There is no cost to drop off approved yard debris or dead wildland fuels. More information can be found at: [www.firefree.org/firefreeevents/](http://www.firefree.org/firefreeevents/).

So, get your neighbors together, with saws, shovels, and rakes, and help protect your homes from wildfire! The first line of wildfire defense starts with you!



*These fuels can carry a fire to ignite a house!*

## EVERYONE CAN HELP PROTECT FROM WILDFIRE

In Central Oregon, every structure built with wood is at some risk of wildfire, some more than others. The positive actions of residents, before a fire, can have a significant effect on fire behavior and intensity. Your proactive efforts can slow fire spread, buying time for firefighters to move in safely and protect lives and property.

In extreme fire weather conditions, a small ignition will lead to a large, fast-moving fire called a "Red Flag" warning. Typically, a wildfire spreads by embers blowing out ahead of the fire. The embers ignite fuels, starting spot fires out in front of the main blaze. Structures most often are ignited when embers land on the home and within the flammable material (duff, dead brush, bark dust) and smolder then turning into larger flames. Once a structure becomes involved, the fire increases in intensity and surrounding fuels (including other houses) are ignited.

Each person can take action to reduce this probability: removing brush around the house, pruning the lower hanging tree limbs, removing anything flammable for 5 feet around all combustible structures including the decks, fences, garages and removing the needles from the roof and gutters. We all have a part to play in protecting our homes and community from wildfire.

**We are all "Partners in Protection!"**



*Yard cleared of dead brush, trees limbed up.*



## SHORT SHOTS

- The District has an informative website, [www.dcrfpd2.com](http://www.dcrfpd2.com), which contains a lot of useful information about fuels reduction, open burning, address signs, and more, including:
- The District Fuel Reduction Small Grant Program! If you have a wildland fuels reduction project, click on Information and Programs and select the grant program. The application is short and simple, with preference given to projects benefiting the greatest number of people and becoming a Nationally Recognized Firewise Site. So, get your neighbors together and help protect your community!
- Fire Season is usually declared by the end of May. Once that happens, all debris burning will be prohibited until Fire Season is lifted in the fall.

Most healthcare insurance does not cover 100% of ambulance costs, so BendFire offers a FireMed membership for District residents to bridge the coverage gap. A membership costs \$50/year, covers all residents of a household, and covers unanticipated out of pocket expenses associated with an emergency ambulance call. For more information or to complete an online application, please visit [www.amncrep.com/Jeff-Martinez](http://www.amncrep.com/Jeff-Martinez). FireMed members will not receive a bill for emergency ambulance service.

## OPEN BURNING TIPS AND REMINDERS

This is the season when many District residents remove dead vegetation fuels and burn them. Because burning can be hazardous and can affect neighbors, we want to remind you of best practices and guidelines for open burning.



*Even a small brush fire can damage a house!*

Permits are required for certain types of fires. For those fires that do not require a permit, you DO need to have a copy of the Burn Regulations on hand. You can find all the information you need for your burn permit business and regulation downloads at the Fire District or City of Bend website:

[www.bendoregon.gov/government/departments/fire-rescue/fire-and-life-safety-information/burning-regulations-and-permits](http://www.bendoregon.gov/government/departments/fire-rescue/fire-and-life-safety-information/burning-regulations-and-permits).

- Within District boundaries, if you are using a burn barrel or a small pile (6' diameter, 4' in height, and at least 50' from structures, NO PERMIT is needed.
- Structures include anything built above ground, such as fences, decks, etc.
- Within District boundaries, agricultural and commercial burns, large piles and bonfires DO REQUIRE A PERMIT, which must be procured through the City of Bend Online Permit Center Portal (see below).
- Before lighting a fire (after following all safety procedures), call the recorded Burn Information Line (541-322-6335), to get the latest information on burning closures. Weather changes may cause the Fire Department to close burning on short notice.

To acquire a permit, you must use the City's On-Line Permit Center Portal, and there is a link to burn permits at the website (see above).

You may have questions, because this is a new procedure and the bugs are still getting worked out, so you can call Fire Prevention at 541-322-6386 for help with any questions and issues. Open burning can be hazardous, and if your fire escapes control, you may be liable for any damage to property.

## MAKE YOUR HOUSE EASY TO FIND FOR FIRE AND MEDICAL RESPONSE

When the Fire District was formed in 1952, there were far fewer people living here, and there was no addressing system as we know it today. Nowadays, with the district population at about 30,000 across 140 square miles, first responders need to be able to find every home without delay, as time is of the essence in a fire or medical emergency.

Any district resident can order a green address sign with reflective numbers from your fire district, and the district will install it where it will be most effective. Having a highly visible and easily legible sign will make it easier for responders to find you. To order a sign, simply go to this website link: [dcrfpd2.com](http://dcrfpd2.com) and follow the directions. The signs cost \$25, and Fire Department personnel will install it safely for you, including utility location so no damage is done.

If you have any questions about address signs, please call Executive Director Gary Marshall at 541-322-6377.



*Green signs with reflective numbers*

## QUICK FACTS

**Outdoor Burning**  
requires you have a copy of the burning regulations (available at any firestation or online at our website, [www.dcrfpd2.com](http://www.dcrfpd2.com)). You need to call the burning information number on the day you intend to burn.

**Burning Information**  
(541) 322-6335

**Deschutes County Rural Fire Protection District #2 Office**  
(541) 318-0459

**Bend Fire Department Business**  
(541) 322-6300

**Information**  
Fire inspections, plan review, hazardous materials and fire prevention.  
(541) 322-6300

**Address Sign Applications**  
Applications available online at [www.dcrfpd2.com](http://www.dcrfpd2.com)  
(541) 318-0459

**To report fires, including illegal outside burns, call 9-1-1.**

**Board Meeting Dates**  
Second Tuesday of 2nd full week of the month, 11:30 am  
1212 SW Simpson Ave  
Bend Fire Admin  
see website for agenda

**Address Sign Info**  
Our goal is to have VISIBLE and LEGIBLE addresses. The District produces 6" x13" reflective address signs for all interested property owners. Details are on the District website.

## INFORMATION ONLINE

**website: [www.dcrfpd2.com](http://www.dcrfpd2.com)**  
This site contains information on address signs, annexation to the District, open burning, neighborhood grant opportunities, and wildfire and fuels mitigation.

**Email:**  
[gmarshall@bendoregon.com](mailto:gmarshall@bendoregon.com)  
**Email:** [mgr@dcrfpd2.com](mailto:mgr@dcrfpd2.com)

**Facebook:** Deschutes Rural Fire District #2

## BOARD & ADMINISTRATION

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