

# HOT TOPIC

## Message From the Chief

Hello,

My name is Ben Janes and I am the new Fire Chief for the City of Corvallis. Before sharing exciting news taking place in the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District (CRFPD), I wanted to take a quick moment to introduce myself to you as the new Fire Chief for the City of Corvallis.

I currently reside in the City of Corvallis with my wife, who is an outstanding IC nurse, and our two pomsy pups Louis and Luna. I was born and raised in the City of Corvallis and never left. I am what many refer to as a "townie". I attended school in the Corvallis School District system and graduated from Oregon State University. Go Beavs! I have been with the Corvallis Fire Department (CFD) for more than 20 years. I started as a Volunteer Firefighter in 2001 and have worked my way up through the ranks. In addition to serving as the Local's Union President for more than eight years, I have held the positions of Fire Prevention Assistant, Firefighter, Lieutenant, Battalion Chief, Deputy Chief and now the Fire Chief. I was named Interim Fire Chief at the end of October 2021 and appointed to the fulltime position February 16, 2022. I am honored to be the Fire Chief for the City of Corvallis and excited to continue to work with the CRFPD to provide Fire Protection and Emergency Services to the CRFPD.

As I have been in the fulltime Fire Chief position for less than six weeks at the time of writing this, I am still working towards finalizing a Strategic Plan. I look forward to sharing that when it has been fully developed.

I am happy to report that the CRFPD board and the City have come to a tentative agreement on a contract for Fire Protection and Emergency Services between the City of Corvallis and the CRFPD for another six years. Currently, the new agreement is being reviewed by the attorneys for each party prior to the signing of the new contract. The signing of the new contract should take place in the next couple of months.

There are a lot of good things happening in the CRFPD and the board has been doing very good work to improve fire protection in the CRFPD. The board has approved and installed a new 30,000 gallon water tank near Fawnee Drive in the Oak Creek area. This will allow our fire-fighters to fill water tenders in the event of a fire in the upper Oak Creek community, without having to come back down to the draft site on Oak Creek Dr. The project is nearly complete, we are setting up training for the CFD staff, and it should be up and running well before the start of this year's fire season.



News and Information for Rural District Residents

**Our mission** is to provide fire prevention/suppression and first responder services that protect life, property and the environment in a wild-land/urban interface.

**Our vision** is to support the delivery of emergency response services in an ongoing partnership with the Corvallis Fire Department. To build fire service facilities, purchase fire apparatus, tenders and equipment. To expand and maintain an alternative water supply system through the addition of cisterns and draft sites. To be fiscally responsible and financially sound.



Fire Chief Ben Janes and wife Candace

## Message From the Chief cont.

In addition to the new water tank, the board has approved the purchase of two new Model 34 Type 3 wildland engines. These engines are based off of the Cal Fire specification but slightly modified to fight fire in the Northwest. These two units will replace two of the three current Type 3 wildland engines that are from the 1980's. The upgraded abilities of these new units will give CFD a greater ability to fight fire, protect property, and possibly save lives in the CRFPD. Due to manufacturing delays, these units will not arrive this fire season but should arrive prior



to fire season in 2023. Here is a picture of a unit similar to ones that are on order.

I am happy that the Fire Department Emergency Planning Manager was able to conduct another evacuation exercise that took place on May 14th. This is the second straight year that the Emergency Planning Manager organized and conducted an evacuation exercise.

These exercises are vital to help all members of the CRFPD, pets and people alike, to be prepared in the event of an evacuation. When thinking of evacuations, most community members think of

wildfire, but an evacuation order could come from numerous other events such as floods, landslides, winter storms and the like.

### Know the three evacuations levels:

1. **Be Ready! Prepare to evacuate; have your plan and go kit ready.**
2. **Be Set! Be set to evacuate at a moment's notice.**
3. **Go! Leave immediately without delay.**

There will be an evacuation focused community wide webinar June 28th from 6:30-8pm to review the exercise and talk more about evacuations. If you would like to register for this webinar or would like more information on evacuations and emergency preparedness, please contact our Emergency Planning Manager Dave Busby at CFD.

Additionally, CFD will be partnering with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Fire Marshals Office to address the recent passage of SB 762 that outlines new mitigation guidelines in the wildland urban interface. More to come on the impacts of this new legislation in the near future.

Again, I would like to express my excitement in being the new Fire Chief for the City of Corvallis and let you know that myself and all of the members at CFD are looking forward to carrying out our mission in the CRFPD.

**Mission** "Protect the lives, property and environment of the communities we serve with Professionalism, Integrity and Compassion."

**Ben Janes**

"One team, one mission"

## Meet Your Rural Fire Protection Board of Directors

### CHAIRMAN-BOB CONDER

After returning from the Air Force having served our country in Vietnam and Korea, I completed an Electrical Engineering degree and joined HP who moved me to Corvallis where I spent 30 years raising a family and enjoying the great Northwest. Upon my retirement I looked for other opportunities to be of service to our community. I ran for state office and lost out to Sara Gelser-Blouin, the by-far-better candidate. I became chairman of our local water association and navigated it through a legal challenge to a successful resolution with neighbors.

Then, in 2001 we had a fire in the field in front of my house and my attention was drawn to the fire services that came from the Locke Fire Station. Shortly after that I started attending the CRFPD Board meetings as a public citizen sitting in and listening to what they were doing. A major project at the time was installing a water cistern in the Oak Creek area.

Around 2005 a seat on the Board opened up and I saw an opportunity to serve my community again. I ran and was elected and by 2010 became the Secretary of the Board, mostly due to my abilities on the computer. Then in July of 2015 I was elected by the Board to serve as its Chairman. (Continued)



## Meet Your Rural Fire Protection Board of Directors cont.

In my time on the Board, I have overseen the construction of a fire suppression/sprinkler system at the Locke Fire Station, managed the RRV Scholarship program, promoted the installation of a second water source for the Oak Creek area at the top of Fawnee drive, and negotiated 3 contracts with the CFD on behalf of the District. I also update our website (CorvallisRFPD.com) and create pages of interest for the District. In addition, I kept track of our Apparatus Replacement Schedule which included the purchase of three used Cal Fire Brush rigs, a new F550 Type VI Brush Rig, and the sale of an old Pumper/Tanker to make room for the New F550. Recently, working with Benton County Fleet Maintenance, we've put two new Type III Brush Rigs on order to further enhance the safety of our communities in the Wild Land Urban Interface.

My father once told me we were the lucky ones to live in such a wonderful country and as such we have a duty to give back to the community that supports us. ~ **Bob Conder**



### VICE CHAIRMAN-DON BARTON

I received my bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics at Oregon State University in 1975. I then moved to Richland, Washington to work on my Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering and to work on a program to develop low cost solar cells. I continued to work on the solar cell program after receiving my Master's Degree from Washington State University in 1977. In 1980 I moved back to Corvallis and got a job at Hewlett Packard as an R&D process engineer. Over the years I moved into management and eventually became the manager for the cleanroom operations at the site. The operation developed new technologies and manufactured products, initially for integrated circuits, and then for inkjet printheads. I was also active with Sematech, initially with its' Manufacturing Methods Council, and then as a member of the Board of Directors. Sematech is a consortium of semiconductor chip manufacturers to advance new technology development and manufacturing. The consortium member companies included AMD, IBM, Intel, TI and several other semiconductor companies.

I retired from HP in 2007. The next four years I consulted on a Defense Advanced Projects Agency (DARPA) program to develop very high efficiency solar cells.

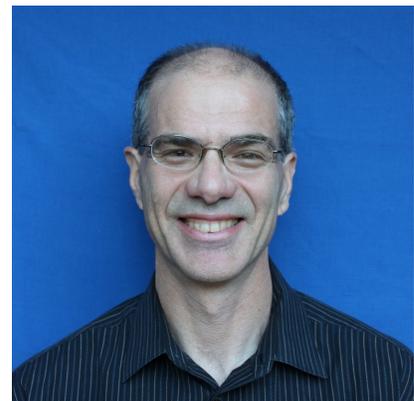
In 2016 I realized that all of my neighbors were in the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District (CRFPD) but my property was in the Philomath Fire District. I petitioned to change districts and in 2017 my property was annexed into the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District. This was my first introduction to the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District and its' board. Bob Conder, the CRFPD Chair, encouraged me to attend some of the board meetings to learn more about the CRFPD. When a board position opened up in 2020 I ran for the position and became a board member.

In my second year as a board member, I learned that the Corvallis Fire Department's needed new water sources in rural areas and that their number one priority was to add a water cistern in the Oak Creek area. I thought that this was something I could help move forward, so with the board's approval, I took on this project. After several months of planning, construction on the project began in May, 2021. The project has taken longer than planned, in part, because of a shortage in contractors and materials caused by the COVID pandemic. The initial startup and testing will be March 31, 2022 and should be fully operational very soon. ~ **Don Barton**

### SECRETARY-ALEX POLIKOFF

After growing up on both coasts, I graduated with a degree in electrical engineering from UC/Berkeley. Recently retired, I have worked as an electrician, power system engineer, power plant operator, consultant, and field application engineer.

I have run for State Representative in Oregon as well as US Congress, and have always volunteered to serve the communities I have lived in. I have been a mentor at Jackson Street Youth Shelter and CASA advocate, and served as a volunteer firefighter for the Rural Fire District in Gates, OR when I lived there. After moving to Corvallis, I served as a volunteer firefighter with Corvallis Fire Department for a short time but then realized my fire-fighting days were over. Wanting to still contribute to the Rural Fire District I lived in, I began attending Board meetings for the CRFPD. I was first elected as a Director in 2013, and have served on the Board since then. I am currently Secretary of the CRFPD, and am concentrating on projects to increase the resilience of Locke Fire Station in the event of natural disasters. ~ **Alex Polikoff**



# Meet Your Rural Fire Protection Board of Directors cont.

## TREASURER-TONY O'DONAHUE

The first part of my life was spent in the UK, where I obtained a MBA (Masters in Business Administration) and moved into a career in Business Computer and Data Analysis. In 1995 I moved to Minneapolis to take on a consulting job in Business Computing. I met my wife in 1999 and subsequently set up home with two dogs, and then soon a third. After a few years, the enjoyment of flying throughout the country, even internationally, for my job diminished and we were in a very fortunate position where I could give it up and focus on remodeling our home and supporting my wife in her profession.

It was at this time that a neighbor insisted I try out to be a volunteer firefighter. I found something that I enjoyed, was rewarding and supported the community.

We subsequently relocated to the PNW, where again I focused on remodeling our new home, caroling dogs and supporting my wife's effort in her profession. Then one day my wife comes home, having met



one of the CFD chiefs at the time, saying that volunteer recruitment for CFD was happening in a few days and I should go and try out the physical requirements tests - having just recovered from extensive knee surgery and not having trained for the exertion of the test, I thought it was a stretch, but I passed both the test and interviews and soon became a Community Volunteer Firefighter/EMT for CFD, predominately doing my shifts at the CRFPD Fire Station just north of the City (very close to where we live).

However you can only fight time for so long and approaching 60 I considered it prudent to retire from Firefighting and leave it to younger bodies. But my desire to be involved and give back to the community is still here, so I started to attend CRFPD Board meeting and see what assistance I could be to the District. I found the role and responsibilities of the Board engaging and when a seat became free I ran for it and was privileged to be voted on as a Board member. I'm the newest Board member, still learning my way but have taken up the role of Treasurer for the CRFPD. ~ Tony O'Donahue

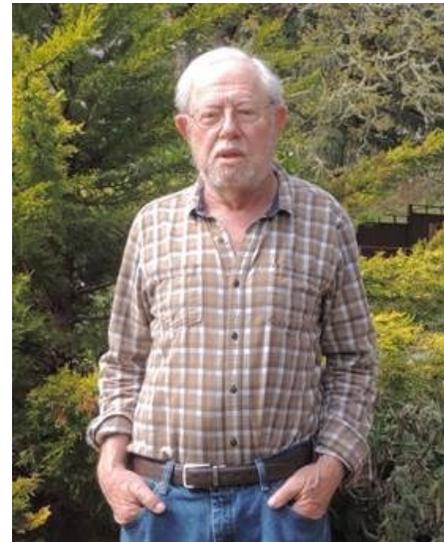


## BOARD MEMBER-PHILLIP SOLLINS

I grew up in Puerto Rico, exploring coral reefs and rain forests and watching spell-bound from our porch as enormous grass fires raced down-wind in the dry season. I moved to Corvallis in 1972 for my first job after finishing grad school: OSU College of Forestry faculty. Never left, except for two years at Yale School of Forestry as a visiting professor. My research has revolved around ecosystem science. I was fortunate to begin my involvement at a time when the leading people world-wide could (and did) fit in one large room, first in Tennessee (1969), then in Germany (1972) and Sweden (two years later). I took early retirement in 2002 but was able to continue my research until about 2008 when my access to laboratory facilities at OSU ended.

Upon my return from Yale, in 1988, I bought a house with over an acre of mature second-growth forest at the base of Vineyard Mtn. By about 2018, it became clear to me that a wildfire was a question of "when", not "if" and that I had to step up my efforts to harden my home and surrounding landscape against wildfire. I had by then replaced the cedar shake roof with 3-tab, cedar siding with Hardie board, and a wooden deck and patio with masonry. About the time I retired, I began reducing the fuel load and amount of understory vegetation in my HIZ (home ignition zone). That project has known no end.

I ran for CRFPD Board office about 3 years ago, having agreed to serve a term as Treasurer. My goals were, and still are, to increase both the transparency of our financial position and the District's commitment to the safety of people and property in the face of wildfire. We've made progress on both and I look forward to helping us do more. ~Phil Sollins



# What is Senate Bill 762?

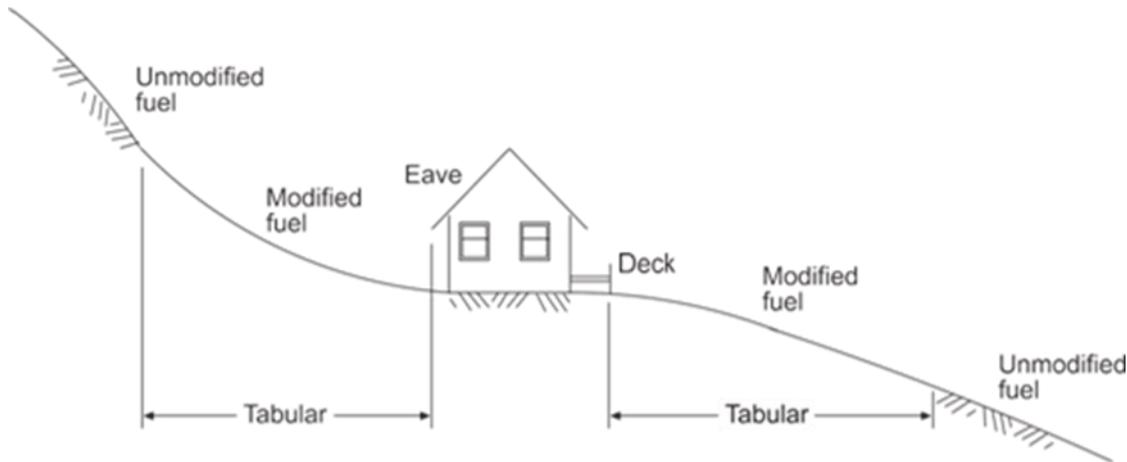
[Senate Bill 762](#) is comprehensive legislation that will provide more than \$220 million to help Oregon modernize and improve wildfire preparedness through three key strategies: creating fire-adapted communities, developing safe and effective response, and increasing the resiliency of Oregon's landscapes. The bill is the product of years of hard work by the Governor's Wildfire Council, the Legislature, and state agencies.

The legislation provides direction and investment to many state agencies. For the Board of Forestry and the Department of Forestry the bill, among other things, provides legislative direction regarding the wildland-urban interface; statewide fire risk mapping; prescribed fire; directed the Department to review and clarify the enforcement of rules pertaining to forestland; baseline standards for unprotected and under-protected lands in Oregon; and establishes grant programs to improve forest restoration and resiliency.

## The following is provided for the members of the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District in regards to the section of WUI as it pertains to Senate Bill 762

With the passage of Senate bill 762 (SB762) many residents of both the city and the surrounding rural areas of Corvallis have questions about how the new Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) affects their property and the properties surrounding them. BELOW are SECTIONS 603 & 604. These are currently the only sections adopted by the state of Oregon (Section 605 was included to answer a popular question from the community regarding "spark arresters" for chimneys). Please reach out to your district Deputy Fire Marshals for any questions or updates for your area.

### 2021 IWUIC - SECTION 603 DEFENSIBLE SPACE



“Explanations are in BLUE”

## SECTION 603 DEFENSIBLE SPACE

**603.1 Objective.** Provisions of this section are intended to modify the fuel load in areas adjacent to structures to create a *defensible space*.

Development and maintenance of a defensible space are critical to the survivability of a structure during a wildland fire. The defensible space is an area where the natural vegetation is modified either through thinning and maintenance or removal. The removal does not necessarily mean it is bare dirt. An asphalt or gravel driveway creates a space that is usable, but also creates a buffer to the wildfire as it approaches the structure. A similar buffer can be created by mowing or removing some of the vegetation.

**603.2 Fuel modification.** Buildings or structures, constructed in compliance with the conforming *defensible space* category of IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION Table 503.1 shall comply with the *fuel modification* distances contained in Table 603.2. For all other purposes the *fuel modification* distance shall be not less than 30 feet (9144 mm) or to the lot line, whichever is less. Distances specified in Table 603.2 shall be measured on a horizontal plane from the perimeter or projection of the building or structure as shown in Figure 603.2. Distances specified in Table 603.2 are allowed to be increased by the code official because of a site-specific analysis based on local conditions and the fire protection plan.

**TABLE 503.1  
IGNITION-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION<sup>a</sup>**

DEFENSIBLE SPACE <sup>c</sup>	FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY					
	Moderate Hazard		High Hazard		Extreme Hazard	
	Water Supply <sup>b</sup>		Water Supply <sup>b</sup>		Water Supply <sup>b</sup>	
	Conforming <sup>d</sup>	Nonconforming <sup>e</sup>	Conforming <sup>d</sup>	Nonconforming <sup>e</sup>	Conforming <sup>d</sup>	Nonconforming <sup>e</sup>
Nonconforming	IR 2	IR 1	IR 1	IR 1 N.C.	IR 1 N.C.	Not Permitted
Conforming	IR 3	IR 2	IR 2	IR 1	IR 1	IR 1 N.C.
1.5 × Conforming	Not Required	IR 3	IR 3	IR 2	IR 2	IR 1

a. Access shall be in accordance with Section 403.

b. Subdivisions shall have a conforming water supply in accordance with Section 402.1.

IR 1 = Ignition-resistant construction in accordance with Section 504.

IR 2 = Ignition-resistant construction in accordance with Section 505.

IR 3 = Ignition-resistant construction in accordance with Section 506.

N.C. = Exterior walls shall have a fire-resistance rating of not less than 1 hour and the exterior surfaces of such walls shall be noncombustible. Usage of log wall construction is allowed.

c. Conformance based on Section 603.

d. Conformance based on Section 404.

e. A nonconforming water supply is any water system or source that does not comply with Section 404, including situations where there is no water supply for structure protection or fire suppression.

The intent of fuel modification is to create a defensible space so that an approaching wildland fire cannot easily move through the defensible space and ignite the structure. The defensible space also provides fire fighters an area to set up hose lines between the structure and the approaching fire. A continuous path of fuel will carry the fire right up to the structure. Reducing the density of brush and undergrowth is necessary to reduce the intensity of the fire, reduce flame lengths and reduce radiant heat. Flame length is the length of the flame above the material that is burning. Imagine a lit match. The flame extends up and beyond the top of the match head. This is the flame length. Flame length is affected by a number of factors, such as temperature and fuel moisture, but it is most influenced by wind and slope. As wind pushes the fire, the flames no longer move directly upward; the flames are pushed in the direction the wind is blowing. Additionally, the heat and flame rise, which allows the fire to spread uphill naturally. As the slope of the terrain increases, the flames impact the unburned fuel ahead of the fire. This unburned fuel is preheated, and when it finally ignites, it has been conditioned to burn extremely fast and hot, which increases the flames and heat pushed ahead of the fire.

Fuel modification distances are minimum distances necessary to provide a defensible space to protect the structure and to allow fire fighters an area to provide additional protection to the structure as the fire approaches. The minimum distance of fuel modification is based on the relative fire hazard severity for the site, which is determined using Table 502.1. See the commentary to Section 502.1 for additional information. The fuel modification distances increase as the fire hazard severity increases, with a minimum distance of 30 feet. In all situations, the fuel modification is based on the requirements in Table 603.2 or the distance to the property line, whichever is less. For example, the size of the property may not allow a fuel modification distance of 100 feet when located in an extreme fire hazard area. The property owner only has control over his or her individual property to protect his or her own structure. See Commentary Figure 603.2.

**TABLE 603.2  
REQUIRED DEFENSIBLE SPACE**

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE AREA	FUEL MODIFICATION DISTANCE (feet) <sup>a</sup>
Moderate hazard	30
High hazard	50
Extreme hazard	100

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

*a. Distances are allowed to be increased due to site-specific analysis based on local conditions and the fire protection plan.*

The effect of slope on the intensity of the fire is the reason that the downslope side of structure is naturally the most vulnerable exposure. For this reason, Footnote a in Table 603.2 and the last sentence in Section 603.2 state that the fuel modification can be increased by the code official. It may be that the downslope side of the structure in a high hazard area should be increased beyond 50 feet because on that downslope side, the fire is coming up a canyon. The canyon presents a higher-risk fire behavior than rolling hills.

**603.2.1 Responsible party.** Persons owning, leasing, controlling, operating or maintaining buildings or structures requiring defensible spaces are responsible for modifying or removing non fire-resistive vegetation on the property owned, leased or controlled by said person.

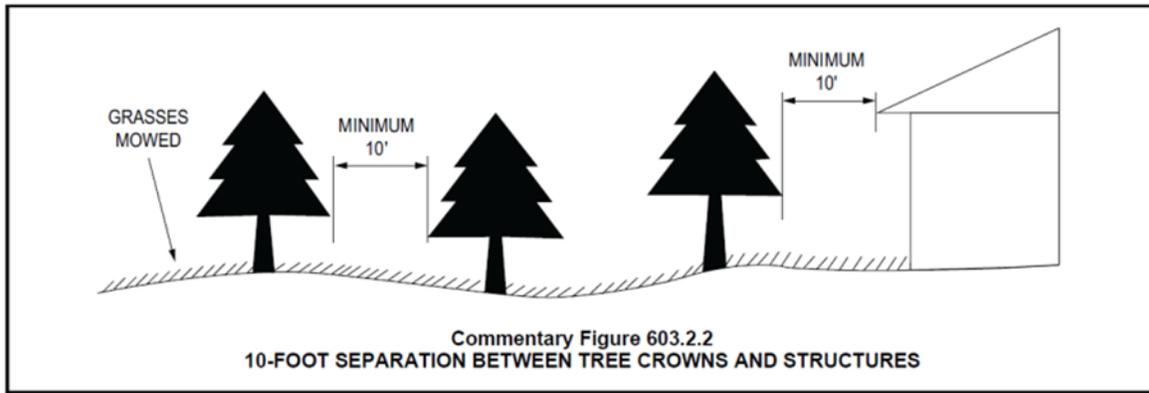
The code official cannot require the adjacent property owner to provide fuel modification based on the fuel modification distance for a structure on property he or she is not responsible for. However, if there is a fire protection plan that addresses the community, subdivision or area as whole, then each property owner must do his or her part to maintain that plan, which may include providing a defensible space around the perimeter of the subdivision for the protection of the area as a whole. See the commentary to Section 405 for additional information on fire protection plans.

**603.2.2 Trees.** Trees are allowed within the *defensible space*, provided that the horizontal distance between crowns of adjacent trees and crowns of trees and structures, overhead electrical facilities or unmodified fuel is not less than 10 feet (3048 mm).

It is not the intent for the defensible space to be void of vegetation; the vegetation must be thinned and maintained. Trees are allowed within the defensible space but they are to be removed or trimmed to provide a clear separation of 10 feet from the tree crown to other trees and to the structure. See Commentary Figure 603.2.2.

**603.2.3 Groundcover.** Deadwood and litter shall be regularly removed from trees. Where ornamental vegetative fuels or cultivated ground cover, such as green grass, ivy, succulents or similar plants are used as ground cover, they are allowed to be within the designated *defensible space*, provided that they do not form a means of transmitting fire from the native growth to any structure.

Dead material is easily ignited. This would include any dead branches that have not yet fallen, pine needles, leaves and any other combustible material. These dead materials, even pine needles, can carry fire to a structure. A common practice in many areas is to rake the pine needles, or pine straw, together and use them as a type of mulch. This is often placed around the trunk of a tree or along the exterior wall of the building. This practice is not in concert with creating a defensible space. Pine needles will carry a fire to the structure. Many structures have been ignited simply from a cigarette discarded into this pine straw. The pine straw smolders and ignites, then ignites the structure itself. In a wildland fire situation, an ember can land in the pine straw and smolder even after the fire has passed, later igniting and consuming the structure. See Commentary Figure 603.2.3.



## SECTION 604 MAINTENANCE OF DEFENSIBLE SPACE

**604.1 General.** Defensible spaces required by Section 603 shall be maintained in accordance with Section 604.

After a defensible space has been established in accordance with Section 603, it must then be maintained for the life of the building.

**604.2 Modified area.** Nonfire-resistive vegetation or growth shall be kept clear of buildings or structures, in accordance with Section 603, in such a manner as to provide a clear area for fire suppression operations.

Vegetation within the defensible space must be maintained. This is the routine action of trimming shrubs, removing dead branches or plants, mowing grasses, gathering pine needles and leaves, removing volunteer plants and properly disposing of the material. Often the owner may want to compost this material. This is an acceptable solution; however, the compost pile may create a large fire exposure if ignited. The compost pile must be located outside of the defensible space or comply with the separation requirements of Section 607.1 for combustible materials. The section specifies that nonfire-resistive vegetation shall be kept clear of buildings. There are some plants that are fire resistive. According to *Sunset* magazine, the top nine fire-resistant plants are:

1. California Lilac
2. Columbia Lily
3. Fireweed
4. Bear Grass
5. Camassia
6. Manzanita
7. Ocotillo
8. San Diego Sunflower
9. Yucca

These hardy plants are full of color and resistant to ignition. Several of these plants will survive the fire as it passes through, such as manzanita and yucca. Some of the plants, such as fireweed, are the first to sprout and grow in burned-out areas after a fire. In fact, that is how fireweed gets its name. Fire-resistive plants do not need to be removed since they do not add to the vegetative fire load. These plants can also be used to provide safe vegetation within the defensible space. Additional species can be found on the Cal Fire website at [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org) and *Fire resistant Plants for Home Landscapes—Selecting Plants That May Reduce Your Risk from Wildfire* published by the Oregon State University.

It is important to understand that “fire-resistant” does not mean “fireproof.” Even fire-resistant plants will burn if not well maintained. All vegetation and landscape plants must be kept healthy with adequate water and proper pruning.

**604.3 Responsibility.** Persons owning, leasing, controlling, operating or maintaining buildings or structures are responsible for maintenance of *defensible spaces*. Maintenance of the *defensible space* shall include modifying or removing non-fire-resistive vegetation and keeping leaves, needles and other dead vegetative material regularly removed from roofs of buildings and structures.

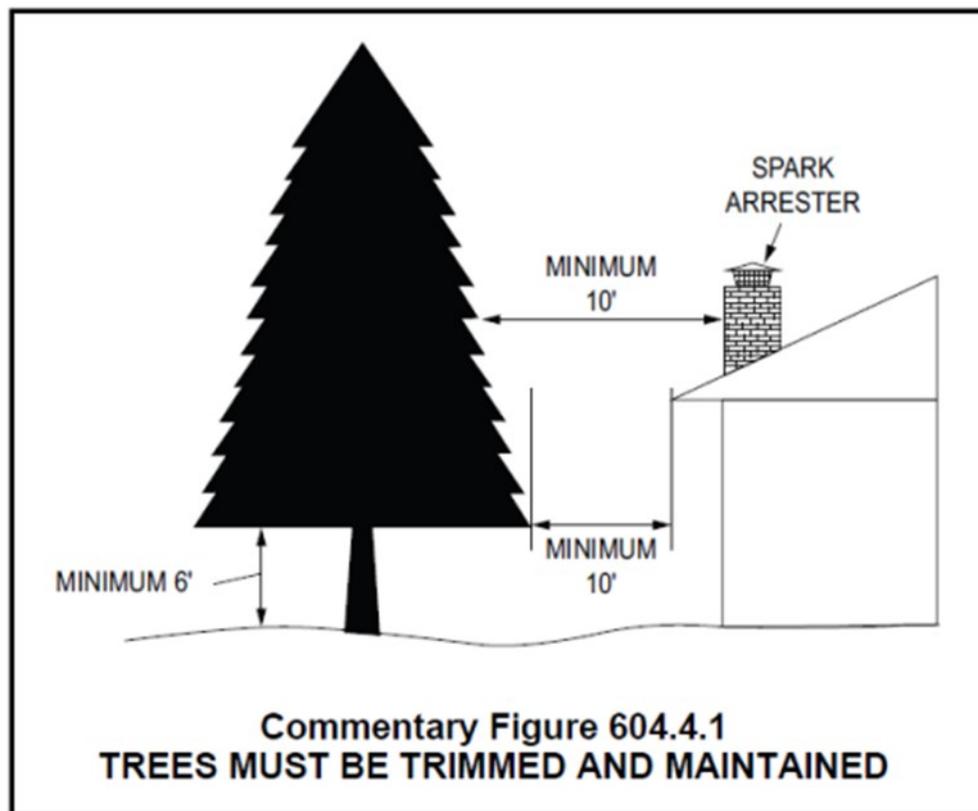
Similar to the requirement in Section 603.2.1 that the property owner must create the defensible space for the structure on his or her property, the property owner is also required to maintain the defensible space. The vegetation will continuously grow and needs maintenance to ensure that ground cover remains low, trees remain separated and dead material is removed. Pine needles and leaves can fall and gather on roof surfaces. These materials tend to accumulate in roof valleys or in rain gutters along the eave's edge. All of this debris creates a fire load and as the depth of materials increases, the fire load affecting the roof at that particular location increases dramatically.

**604.4 Trees.** Tree crowns extending to within 10 feet (3048mm) of any structure shall be pruned to maintain a minimum horizontal clearance of 10 feet (3048 mm). Tree crowns within the *defensible space* shall be pruned to remove limbs located less than 6 feet (1829 mm) above the ground surface adjacent to the trees.

Trees within the defensible space must be maintained. Section 603.2.2 requires a distance of 10 feet between tree crowns and between trees and structures. This separation between trees must be maintained for the life of the building. In addition to maintaining separation distances, tree branches and limbs must be trimmed up at least 6 feet above the ground. If these branches are not removed, a fire can travel along the ground until it reaches the low-hanging branches. It will then ignite the branch, which will carry the fire up into the tree crown. Removing these branches helps in keeping the fire at ground level.

**604.4.1 Chimney clearance.** Portions of tree crowns that extend to within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the outlet of a chimney shall be pruned to maintain a minimum horizontal clearance of 10 feet (3048 mm).

Tree crowns are required to be separated from structures by at least 10 feet. The intent of that separation is to protect the structure from a fire in the tree crown. This section requires all portions of the tree crown to be separated by at least 10 feet from chimney outlets. This requirement intends to protect the tree from a spark or ember being discharged from the chimney, settling on a tree branch and igniting the tree. This separation is required in addition to the requirement in Section 605.1 for a spark arrester on the chimney outlet. See Commentary Figure 604.4.1.



**604.4.2 Deadwood removed.** Deadwood and litter shall be regularly removed from trees.

This section uses the term “litter.” It is not referring to discarded trash; rather, it is referring to naturally occurring vegetative litter, such as fallen leaves and pine needles, broken branches, dislodged pine cones and diseased or dying branches. Dead branches, leaves and bark are easily ignitable. These materials need to be removed from trees on a routine basis to limit the fire load that the tree represents.

**[NOT ADOPTED] SECTION 605  
SPARK ARRESTORS**

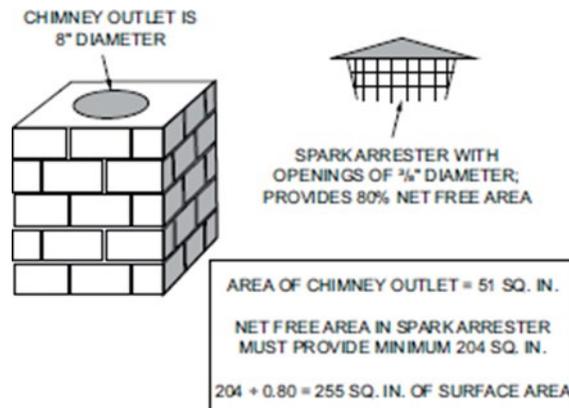
**605.1 General.** Chimneys serving fireplaces, barbecues, incinerators or decorative heating appliances in which solid or liquid fuel is used, shall be provided with a spark arrester. Spark arrestors shall be constructed of woven or welded wire screening of 12 USA standard gage wire (0.1046 inch) (2.66 mm) having openings not exceeding  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (12.7 mm).

A spark arrester is required for all chimneys and incinerators where a solid fuel or liquid fuel is used. The spark arrester is designed to prohibit the release of sparks and burning embers. The spark arrester must be noncombustible and the largest opening cannot exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. This will prohibit burning materials from freely escaping when they exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. Once they burn down to a smaller size, they may be able to pass through the spark arrester.

This section states that it only applies to solid fuel (wood-burning) and liquid fuel (kerosene or fuel-oil) equipment. However, building occupants will often use the fire to burn trash rather than discard it or carry it out to a proper collection facility. This practice of burning trash in a fireplace should be discouraged, and is prohibited by many air quality control districts. If it does occur, it would also necessitate a spark arrester on an appliance fired by gaseous fuel, such as propane. Trash and paper are easily ignited and lifted by the convection column passing through the chimney. If there is no spark arrester, the ignited paper can easily rise through the chimney and fall into a grass area before it is completely consumed and cooled.

**605.2 Net free area.** The net free area of the spark arrester shall be not less than four times the net free area of the outlet of the chimney.

For a chimney to work properly, it must allow a “draw” to occur in the appliance. To accomplish this, the opening at the chimney outlet cannot be obstructed or plugged. This section requires that the net free area of the spark arrester must be at least four times the area of the chimney outlet. The net free area is the aggregate area of the openings in the spark arrester. The net free area is often calculated as a percentage of the surface area. For example, a spark arrester may provide 80 percent net free area, meaning that the net free area is 80 percent of the exposed surface area. Many spark arresters will be fitted with a rain cap to prevent rain and debris from falling directly into the chimney. In this case, the aggregate openings in the sides of the spark arrester must exceed four times the area of the chimney outlet. See [Commentary Figure 605.2](#).



**Commentary Figure 605.2  
SPARK ARRESTER**

Please keep in mind that “EXISTING” chimneys serving fireplaces, barbecues, incinerators or decorative heating appliances in which solid or liquid fuel is used, both in private and commercial properties, may not be required to be made current until made to do so by sale or incident. There is no method in which CFD can demand the inspecting of private chimneys to verify if “spark arresters” are installed or functioning. In the event of an incident involving the chimney or appliance, or by law of sale, the need for a spark arrester may be enforced.

Highest Regards,  
Jonathon Jones - Fire Marshal  
My Office: 541-766-6970

# Meet The Corvallis Fire Prevention Division

## JONATHON JONES, FIRE MARSHAL

**A bit about me.** In July, it will be one year of my being invested as part of the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District. I am very pleased with how the administrative aspects of being the Fire Marshal is going. Most of what I have focused on achieving within 365 days is behind the scenes. Outwardly, it may not be noticed. I want to assure you that my job here is to promote the highest level of Fire & Life Safety measures that are realistically possible using your input, backed by Codes, Laws, Rules, and the most important – “consideration”. Your input comes to my desk by way of concerns, complaints, ideas, and hope regarding our community. If anyone has been able to get to know me, one would notice that my source in providing the answers to most questions, comes from the intelligence gained from asking a bunch more questions. Lots of them! By doing so, the research falls upon us all, and opens windows or doors into - you got it!, more questions. Having most of the intelligence (data) makes decisions and determinations more defensible. We at Corvallis Fire Department, when it comes to the life safety of our community, cannot afford to be wrong or unbalanced. This makes the role of the Fire Marshal to make decisions and determinations that are as close to “bullet-proof” as possible. Determinations that benefit the greatest majority of life within the valley and decisions that “apply to all” when it comes to the most basic form of fire and life safety that is guaranteed to all who live, visit, and recreate within our Fire District. I will always strive to raise our Fire & Life Safety levels above all others if possible. I am on your side and hopefully, the totality of the decisions being made on your behalf, outweighs the frustration of “due process”.



A founding member of Oregon Cold Case Investigators Association (OCCIA) through Polk County Sheriff's Office Cold Case Unit as a Reserve Deputy and as an Oregon State Marine Board Law Enforcement Officer & Boat Captain. My dedication is in all types of investigations, whether it be for Fire Code or Criminal and is supported by over 32+ years of continued Fire Service experience between the state of Oregon's City of Corvallis Fire Department, Oregon Department of State Police - Office of State Fire Marshal, Polk County Sheriff's Office, and from the state of Nevada's Clark County Fire Department and the US Department Of the Interior's - Bureau of Land Management. My long career has driven my focus into the investigation of fires, fire prevention and law enforcement. I am intimate in the areas of Arson, Fire & Life Safety Education, Interview & Interrogation, Polygraph examination, Code Enforcement, Marine Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical (former Paramedic 1999-2017), ARFF - Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting, structural firefighting, and wildland/forestry firefighting. I gained certification and education in the field of Post Blast & fire origin and cause investigations (ATF PBIT & CFEI), forensic photography, forensic evidence collection, Internal Administrative Affairs investigations and the Psychophysiological Detection of Deception. Professional Memberships through internationally recognized associations, e.g., International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), Oregon Chapter of IAAI (OR-IAAI), Taiwan Chapter (TW-IAAI), International Association of Bomb Technicians & Investigators (IABTI), International & National Association Fire Investigators (IAFI & NAFI), American Association Police Polygraphists (AAPP), Board Member of Oregon Peace Officers Association (OPOA), Oregon Cold Case Investigator's Association (OCCIA, Vice President 2019-2021).

Outside of my career and education, I am concentrated in volunteerism. I have volunteered over 29 years of my life; providing medical & nutritional services for volunteer/non-profit kids camps (Camp Anytown 1993-2015, ); helping under-housed persons through the organizations known as Project Homeless Connect, Help-Hope-Home (2009-2014); and currently for Salem Multicultural Institute (World Beat 2017 - 2022); and also currently coaching tournament and recreational baseball for youths.

I am married and have two children who are actively involved in tournament sports. Adria in Softball, age 13 (#12 - Catcher), and Christian, age 11 in Baseball (#21 - 2nd Base).

## EMILIE ANDERSON, DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL I

I have worked for the Corvallis Fire Department as a Deputy Fire Marshal for the last two and a half years. Prior to working for CFD, I was working full-time for the Oregon National Guard in the Joint Operations Center in an emergency management capacity. I also worked at Oregon State University for 6 years.

I have a Master's Degree in Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management from Arkansas State University. I am also an IAAI Certified Fire Investigation Technician, an NFPA Certified Fire Investigator, NFPA Fire Inspector I and II, and hold International Code Council Fire Inspector I and II certifications.

I am married with three kids, enjoy hiking, and riding horses in my free time.



## Meet The Corvallis Fire Prevention Division cont.

### JASON DENNIS, DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL II

Deputy fire Marshal Jason Dennis came to the Corvallis fire department in 1993 as a community volunteer after graduating from the University of California Riverside. Since joining the fire department, Jason has served as a firefighter, paramedic, engineer, and company officer. Jason has also worked for the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training as a survival skills instructor, Lane Community College, instructing new EMTs, and has served in the United States Army Reserve as a combat medic. In 2018 Jason had an opportunity to work in the fire marshal's office which reignited his lifelong passion of learning.

Since joining the Corvallis Fire Department's fire marshal's office full time in 2019, Jason has achieved certifications of NFPA Fire Inspector I and II, NFPA Fire Investigator and NFPA Fire Instructor I and II.

Jason's philosophy around community risk reduction recognizes the five 'E's as put forth by the National Fire Academy. Those 5 'E's are education, engineering, enforcement, emergency response, and economic incentives/disincentives.

Jason, in his current role as a Deputy Fire Marshal, now focuses on four of the five 'E's: education enforcement engineering and the economic incentives/disincentives.

In his off-time, Jason finds tremendous satisfaction in hanging out with his family, practicing in the art of fly fishing, and chasing a small round ball around green grass (sometimes referred to as golfing).



### CARMEN WESTFALL, DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL II

I have worked for the Corvallis Fire Department for 8.5 years. Prior to working for the Corvallis Fire Department, I was a Community Education Specialist with the Albany Police Department for 5 years. I am an NFPA Certified Fire Investigator, an International Code Council Fire Inspector I and II, Fire Instructor I, Fire and Life Safety Educator I, an NFPA Public Information Officer, and NFPA Fire Inspector I and II, and a Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist. In addition to my responsibilities at CFD, I also serve as a Public Information Officer on an Incident Management Team for the Oregon State Fire Marshal. I deploy to conflagrations throughout the state and assist with information management of the incident. I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Community Health Promotion from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

I live in Corvallis and enjoy gardening, hiking, cooking, and camping with my husband and daughter.



### Sign It So They See You!

Order an address marker to help visitors and emergency personnel locate your home. Signs will be placed as soon as ground conditions allow.



### Firedmed

FireMed is a way to defray or lessen costs of medically necessary ambulance transports. Learn more about the Firedmed program and complete an application to become a member online at:

[FireMed Membership | Corvallis](#)

## Who Are Your Board Members, and When Do They meet?

The Board generally meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Locke Station. The meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to come and learn more about your fire district.

The Board members are:

**Bob Conder, Chairman**

Bob.Conder@corvallisrfd.com

**Don Barton, Vice Chairman**

Don.Barton@corvallisrfd.com

**Alex Polikoff, Secretary**

Alex.Polikoff@corvallisrfd.com

**Anthony O'Donahue Treasurer**

Tony.ODonahue@corvallisrfd.com

**Phil Sollins,**

Phil.Sollins@corvallisrfd.com



Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District Station 6

Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District  
544 NW Lewisburg Ave, Corvallis, OR 97330  
541-766-6476

CRFPD Burn Advisory 541-757-6971

<http://www.corvallisrfd.com>

Corvallis Fire Department  
400 NW Harrison Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97330  
541-766-6961

<http://www.corvallisoregon.gov/fire>