

# Hot Topic

Spring 2018



## The Corvallis Fire Department ISO Rating Improves from Class 3 to Class 2

### What is ISO?

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) is a leading source of information about property/casualty insurance risk. Through the Public Protection Classification (PPC) program, ISO evaluates municipal fire-protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. A community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. Insurance companies use PPC information to help establish fair premiums for fire insurance — generally offering lower premiums in communities with better protection.

ISO collects information on 47,000 municipal fire-response jurisdictions in communities throughout the United States. In each of those communities, ISO analyzes the relevant data using the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS). The FSRS is used to evaluate elements of a community's fire protection measures and results of the FSRS

establishes a Public Protection Classification from 1 to 10. Class 1 generally represents superior property fire protection, and Class 10 indicates that the area's fire-suppression program does not meet ISO's minimum criteria.

The program provides a countrywide standard that helps fire departments in planning and budgeting for facilities, equipment, and training. By securing lower fire insurance premiums for communities with better public protection, the PPC program provides incentives and rewards for communities that choose to improve their firefighting services.

The 2009 ISO rating for the City of Corvallis was a Class 3. In the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District (CRFPD), properties within five road miles of a recognized fire station were rated as a Class 8b. Class 8b was a special rating designating areas with a superior fire department and dispatch system, but lacked municipal water supplies. Properties located more than

five road miles from a recognized fire station were previously rated as a Class 10. In 2017, the ISO reviewed the Corvallis Fire Department and upgraded the ISO Rating to a Class 2 for the City of Corvallis and all CRFPD properties previously rated as a Class 8b. This article will discuss the ISO rating system, the new ISO classification and how it reflects the capabilities and activities of your Corvallis Fire Department, and what it could mean to property owners within the CRFPD.

### Special points of interest:

- Corvallis Fire Department new ISO Rating of Class 2.
- Wildland Urban Interface will help protect your home.
- OSU has multiple facilities within the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District.

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Protecting the lives, safety, property, and environment of all persons in the community and the surrounding areas we serve.

# What does ISO Evaluate?

ISO's Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), considers three main areas of a community's fire suppression system: emergency communications (10%), fire department (50%), and water supply (40%). In addition, the FSRS now includes a Community Risk Reduction section that recognizes community efforts to reduce losses through fire prevention, public fire safety education, and fire investigation (up to 5.5% extra points).

## Fire Department

Fifty percent of the FSRS overall score is based on the capabilities of the fire department. ISO reviewed the Corvallis Fire Department records to determine factors such as:

- Type and extent of training provided to fire company personnel
- Number of people who participate in training

- Number of firefighters that respond to a fire
- Maintenance and testing of the fire department's equipment
- Distribution of fire companies throughout the area
- Capability of the Fire Department to deliver water to a rural property

## Community Risk Reduction

The Community Risk Reduction section of the FSRS allows recognition for those communities that employ effective fire prevention practices, without unduly affecting those who have not yet adopted such measures. The addition of up to 5.5% Community Risk Reduction points gives incentives to those communities who strive proactively to reduce fire severity through a structured program of fire prevention activities. The areas of community risk reduction for the CRFPD evaluated in this section, and prevention activities provided by the CFD, include:

### Fire Prevention

- The adoption and enforcement of the Oregon Fire Code, which is predicated on the nationally recognized International Fire Code.
- Fire and life safety inspections of all commercial occupancies within the CRFPD, including permitting and code enforcement.
- Development and fire plan review for all new construction projects within the CRFPD.
- Wildland Urban Interface property evaluations when requested.
- Annual flow testing and maintenance of all City owned hydrants
- Maintenance validation of private water systems.

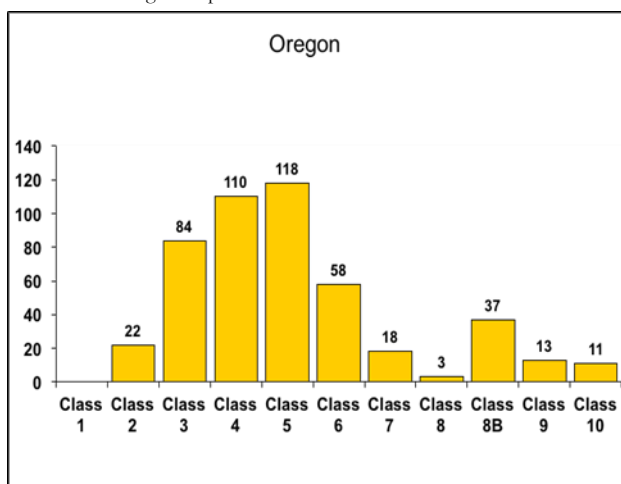
### Fire & Life Safety Education

- Annual public education at the Fire Station 6 Open House and the Benton County Fair
- School visits and station tours.
- WUI Fire Wise training for communities upon request.

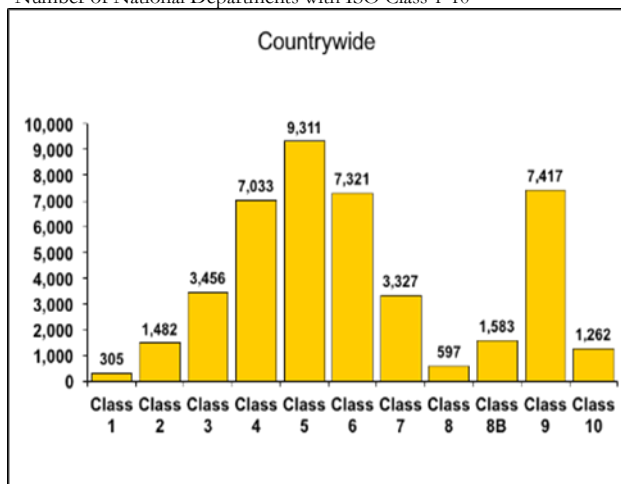
### Fire Investigation

- Origin and cause investigations for all fires that occur within the City and CRFPD.
- Juvenile firesetter interventions when requested.

Number of Oregon Departments with ISO Class 1-10



Number of National Departments with ISO Class 1-10




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## Special ISO Classification

ISO has created a new water class (10W) within the Public Protection Classification (PPC) program. The ISO data shows that risks located between five and seven road miles from a recognized fire station with a creditable water source had better loss experience than those with no creditable water source. A creditable water source includes hauled water. The new classification — 10W — is reflective of the potential for reduced property insurance premiums.

Effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the Corvallis Fire Department has earned an ISO Rating of Class 2 within the City, and for properties in the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District that are located within five road miles of a recognized fire station. This new rating means that most of the CRFPD properties have improved from a Class 8b to a Class 2. The handful of properties that are located five to seven road miles from a recognized fire station now hold an ISO Rating of Class 10W, upgraded from a Class 10. This new Class 2 rating places the Corvallis Fire Department within the top 5% in the nation.



*“...new Class 2 rating places the Corvallis Fire Department within the top 5% in the nation.”*

## Burning Regulations within the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District

Air pollution created by open burning can irritate eyes and lungs, obscure visibility, soil nearby surfaces, create annoying odors or pose other nuisance and health threats. Because of problems created by this activity, open burning is restricted in selected parts of the state based on population growth and availability of alternatives. If you choose to burn, you are responsible for any fire, smoke or odors created from open burning and for any damage that results from your fire.

As it relates to Open Burning regulations, the term "nuisance" means a substantial and unreasonable interference with another's use and enjoyment of real property, or the substantial and unreasonable invasion of a right common to members of the general public. If an open burning activity creates a nuisance in the form of odor or smoke to a neighboring property, you may be ordered to extinguish the fire.

## Burning Regulations Specific to the Benton County-Corvallis Open Burn Control Area

This area is defined by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) as any property within 6-miles of the City of Corvallis boundary. Yard debris are the only materials authorized for unpermitted open burning within the Benton County-Corvallis Open Burn Control Area.

**Yard Debris** - Includes wood, needle or leaf materials from trees, shrubs or plants from the real property immediately adjacent to a dwelling of not more than four family living units so long as such debris remains on the property of origin. Once yard debris is removed from the property of origin, it becomes commercial waste. **The burning of trees, logs, and stumps is considered demolition waste, and requires a DEQ letter permit.**

Yard debris may only be open burned on "burn days" which are authorized by DEQ during the spring (March 1st through June 15th) and fall (October 1st through December 15th). You do not need a DEQ letter permit but must receive permission from the Corvallis Fire Department.

If a homeowner would like to burn any materials other than yard debris as defined above, they must obtain a DEQ letter permit. A DEQ "letter permit" means an authorization issued pursuant to OAR 340-264-0180 to burn select materials at a defined site and under certain conditions.

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## A DEQ letter permit is required to burn the following types of material:

**Industrial** - Includes the burning of waste, including process waste, produced as the direct result of any manufacturing or industrial process.

**Commercial** - Includes the burning of any waste like:

Waste material from offices, wholesale or retail yards and outlets, warehouses, restaurants, mobile home parks and dwellings containing more than four dwelling units, for example apartments, condominiums, hotels, motels or dormitories

Any material not otherwise covered under other the other waste classifications

**Construction Waste** - Includes the burning of waste material generally used for, resulting from or produced by a building or construction project. This could include wood, lumber, paper, crating and packing materials processed for or used during cleanup of a construction site.

**Demolition Waste** - Includes the burning of waste material resulting from or produced by the complete or partial destruction or tearing down of any man-made structure, or the clearing of any site for land improvement or cleanup *including trees, logs, and stumps*. Land clearing waste is typically considered demolition waste except when it is included in the definitions of agricultural waste, yard debris or slash.

Examples of land clearing waste include the removal of trees, brush, logs, stumps, debris or man-made structures for the purpose of site clean up or site preparation.

**Domestic** - Includes household waste material such as paper, cardboard, clothing, yard debris (wood, needle or leaf materials from trees, shrubs or plants) or other material generated in or around a dwelling of four-or-fewer family living units, or on the property immediately adjacent to the dwelling.

**Slash** - Includes forest debris or woody vegetation to be burned that is related to the management of forestland used for growing and harvesting timber, not otherwise regulated by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Slash burning is defined as the burning of debris from logging, and is limited to burning on forest lands for forest management. Slash burning requires a Notification of Operation, Slash Registration (with fees), and a Burn Plan prior to burning. Contact the ODF for information and slash burning permits.

**Agricultural Burning** - Agricultural burning is limited to genuine agricultural waste. Agricultural waste is material generated by an agricultural operation that uses, or intends to use, land primarily for the purpose of obtaining a profit by raising, harvesting and selling crops or raising and selling animals (including poultry), or the products of animal husbandry. Prohibited materials cannot be burned, even in an agricultural setting. The agricultural activity might include clearing of land, but does not include the construction and use of dwellings. Burning associated with a dwelling is considered domestic burning, backyard burning, or burning of yard debris and is not part of the farming operation.

[OAR 340-264-0180](#) provides the Rules for Open Burning.

## Recreational Burning

A recreational fire is defined in the Oregon Fire Code as “an outdoor fire burning materials other than rubbish where the fuel being burned is not contained in an incinerator, outdoor fireplace, portable outdoor fireplace, barbeque grill or barbeque pit, and has a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. A recreational fire is used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.” The Oregon DEQ does not allow burning of materials other than dry natural wood in a recreational fire.

## Burning the following materials is illegal anytime, anywhere in Oregon

- Asbestos, asphalt
- Painted wood and wood treated with creosote or pentachlorophenol
- Automotive parts
- Dead animals
- Plastic & rubber products including tires
- Waste oil and petroleum treated and related materials
- Wet garbage & food waste
- Any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors
- Industrial, construction, and demolition waste (A special DEQ letter permit is required to burn these materials)

## Remember to...

**Get the required permits.** Contact the authority having jurisdiction for the category of open burning you would like to undertake, and obtain the proper permits and associated conditions prior to any open burning.

**Check weather conditions.** Prior to igniting your burn pile, call the Corvallis Fire Department Burn Advisory Line (541-757-6971) to determine if it is an authorized burn day.

**Constantly attend your fire.** A responsible person must constantly attend all open burnings until the fire is extinguished.

**Daylight Hours.** Open Burning is only allowed during “daylight hours”, Defined by OAR 340-264-0030 as “the time between 7:30 a.m. and two hours before sunset”.

## Wiki-Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Refresher



### Defensible Space

A 30-50 foot space around a structure consisting of green and/or non-flammable plants and landscaping. There should be no vegetation touching the structure that can act as a ladder fuel for a wildland fire. Outside of the 50-foot radius, keep the underbrush cut below 10” and remove any deadfall. The OSU Extension Services has created a free fire resistant plants app, which provides a diverse list of plants by category: groundcovers, perennials, woody shrubs and vines, and trees. The fire resistant plants app can be found at: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9103>.

For specific questions regarding the Fire Department vehicular access requirements to your rural property, please contact the Corvallis Fire Prevention Division at 541-766-6961.

The Corvallis Fire Department and Oregon Department of Forestry offer Wildland Urban Interface property surveys upon request between June 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> annually. Please contact [CFD WUI Survey](#) or call the Corvallis Fire Department at 541-766-6973, to request a WUI property survey. Survey appointments will be made on a first come first serve basis as CFD/ODF staffing levels permit.

## Personal Pre-Fire Planning

Things happen in a hurry, and you may have to evacuate with little or no warning. A “To-Go Bag” is not something you want to be packing as the fire is bearing down on your house.

### Essentials for a To-Go Bag

The to-go bag should be easily accessible and filled with items needed to help you quickly and safely evacuate your home. The to-go bag should supply your family for three to seven days. Stocking up on emergency supplies now can add to your family's safety and comfort during and after a disaster.

- Clothing and personal toiletries.
- Medication list and copies of prescriptions.
- Inventory of home contents and photographs/ videotape of the house and landscape.
- Flashlight, portable radio tuned to an emergency radio station and extra batteries.
- Extra set of car and house keys.
- Extra pair of eyeglasses.
- Contact information for family, friends and physicians.
- Have a plan to evacuate your household pets and livestock.

### Essentials for a Disaster Supplies Kit

If you anticipate an extended evacuation at an emergency shelter, or your family is returning to a home without functioning electricity and water, these items will prove helpful:

- One gallon of water per person, per day stored in unbreakable containers and labeled with the storage date.
- Supply of non-perishable packaged or canned foods with a hand-operated can opener.
- Anti-bacterial hand wipes or gel.
- First aid kit, including a first aid book.
- At least one blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- ABC-type fire extinguisher.
- Special items for infants, elderly or disabled family members.
- Pet food
- Large plastic trash bags, tarps and rain ponchos.
- A large trash can.
- Bar soap, liquid detergent and household bleach.
- Rubber gloves and duct tape.

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## Did You Know?

### Oregon State University Facilities within the CRFPD

There are a number of Oregon State University (OSU) properties located within the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District. We have highlighted a few of the OSU properties, including some farms, ranches, fisheries and research stations. All of these CRFPD properties are inspected by the Corvallis Fire Department on a regular basis, under a contract for Fire Prevention services with OSU.

#### Soap Creek & Berry Creek Ranch



The Department of Animal Sciences operates two beef ranches near Corvallis. The Soap Creek Ranch (1,880 acres) is eleven miles north of the OSU campus, while the Berry Creek Ranch (1,000 acres) is fifteen miles north of campus. The cattle herds and the property itself are used to conduct research (both cattle and forage), classes, student projects, extension activities, and to maintain the herds. The ranches include scales, covered processing areas, and hay barns.

#### Hyslop Farm: 3455 NE Granger

The Hyslop Crop Science Field Research Laboratory is associated with the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station and the College of Agricultural Sciences of Oregon State University. This outdoor laboratory consists of 268.3 total acres, laboratory and support buildings, and a variety of machinery and equipment for agricultural research.



#### Sinnhuber Aquatic Research Laboratory: 28645 E Hwy 34



The core facility provides study design assistance, research animals, tank space, complete fish husbandry services, standard and custom diets, morpholino design, microinjections, chemical exposures, transgenic production, data collection and data analysis assistance. These services are provided to researchers at OSU, other US institutions, and international research groups.

#### OSU Horse Center: 5501 NW Walnut Blvd

The OSU Horse Center is located on approximately 250 acres just two miles west of campus on Walnut Boulevard. The facilities include indoor and outdoor arenas, a 35-stall main barn, 7-stall staff barn, 5-stall research/foaling barn, turnout pastures and paddocks, hay fields, and a hay barn. Approximately 15 horses are owned by OSU, and other privately owned horses are boarded there by OSU students. Approximately 100 students take a class at the Horse Center annually and a few hundred more participate in the classes that tour the horse center or utilize the facility for teaching



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## Sheep Research Facility: 7565 NW Oak Creek Dr



The Sheep Center provides hands on experience and education for students majoring in Animal Science at Oregon State University. Located on 600 acres of hillside pastures, the center maintains a 60-ewe breeding flock for research and education projects.

The sheep barn has facilities for animal handling, lambing, and group feeding trials. The OSU Animal Sciences Department, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Linn-Benton Community College utilize the sheep center to teach various labs, livestock evaluation, and judging classes.

## Get to Know a Locke Station Firefighter

The Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District (CRFPD) Locke Fire Station/Corvallis Fire Station 6 has accommodations for up to 12 Rural Resident Volunteer Firefighters (RRVs). Additionally, Rural Community Volunteer Firefighters (RCVs) can supplement those ranks. The priorities of the Station and its staff are:

1. Response to calls for emergency services,
2. Readiness of apparatus, equipment, and personnel (Training)
3. Stewardship of the Locke Fire Station facility and grounds.

RRVs commit to working on shift a minimum of 168 hours per month, scheduling those hours around their classes and coordinating with the Station 6 Lieutenant to ensure optimal station coverage. The RRVs maintain the Locke Station as their Primary Residence, meaning that on a given night the CRFPD can have a “standing army” of firefighters at its disposal.

After the completion of the initial Firefighter Recruit Academy, a grueling 10 day, 140 hour course typically offered twice per year, RRVs can begin responding on calls. The RRVs are organized into four shifts, working 24 hours on, and 72 hours off. All must enroll in the Apparatus Operator Training Program, where they learn to safely drive and operate the Fire Engine and Wildland Brush Rig. This training program involves hours of study and hands on training, followed by practical skills evaluation and written exams. After successful completion, the RRV becomes an Apparatus Operator (AO). Our AOs next learn to drive and operate the 3000 gallon Water Tender truck.

Most of the RRVs remain in the program long enough to advance to the Crew Leader level. Our RRV Crew Leaders act as the “Team Captains” around the Station. Each leads one of the 4 shifts, working closely under the supervision of the City of Corvallis Fire Battalion Chief when the Station 6 Lieutenant is not on duty. Crew Leaders complete a mentoring program where they become well versed in Department Operating Guidelines, Response Procedures, safety practices, and leadership. For many of our RRVs, the Crew Leader position is a springboard from which they leap into careers as professional Firefighter-EMTs.

In the past year, four of our RRVs have gained career Firefighter positions; two here with Corvallis Fire, one with Albany, and the fourth with Gresham. In a highly competitive field, our RRVs stand out for their breadth of training and experience in responding to actual emergencies at a level that demands proficiency and responsibility.

The RRVs and RCV are proud to serve this community and thank you, the Fire Chief, and the CRFPD Board for the opportunity and honor. Please feel free to stop by the Station or arrange a Tour – we would love to meet you!

## Rural Resident and Community Volunteers



**Tony O'Donahue**

AO Trainee O'Donahue is currently our sole RCV. Tony was previously a Volunteer in Golden Valley, Minnesota. He has since retired from a career in the IT industry, and makes his home in the Mountain View/Appaloosa Neighborhood. Tony completed our Recruit Academy in the Fall of 2017, and completed his EMT training this Winter.



**Kevin Larkin**

AO Trainee Larkin, who is from Sherwood, will graduate from Oregon State this Spring with a degree in Communications. Kevin successfully completed the Firefighter Recruit Academy this April and is our newest member. Kevin was encouraged to join this program on the personal recommendation of Station 6 alumni Michael Balfour, who is currently a Firefighter with Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue.



**Nick Pozzese**

AO (Crew Leader Trainee) Pozzese, a Crescent Valley High School graduate, joined Station 6 in the spring of 2017. Nick has completed both the AO and Tender Operator Training Programs. He is a State licensed EMT, and is currently working through the Crew Leader Training Program. Nick is currently enrolled in the Chemeketa Paramedic Program, and is enthusiastic about pursuing a career in Fire and EMS. In his spare time, he is a ceramics artist.



**Cole Schneider**

AO (Crew Leader Trainee) Schneider joined Station 6 in Spring of 2017. Cole has completed both the AO and Tender Operator Training Programs. He is a State Licensed EMT, and is working towards a Fall 2019 entry into Paramedic school. Cole was influenced to work towards a career in the fire service by Station 6 Alumni, Dylan Kidd, his cousin. Cole enjoys hunting and playing basketball in his free time.



# Rural Resident and Community Volunteers



**Michael Kienzle**

Crew Leader Kienzle joined Station 6 in Spring 2016 after graduating from the Chemeketa Fire Science Program. Michael is a state licensed EMT, working on pre-requisites for Paramedic School. He enjoys lifting weights with former RRVs Ty Symons (Gresham Fire) and Jacob Partney (Corvallis Fire) in his spare time.



**Keagan Sankovitz**

Crew Leader Sankovitz joined Station 6 in Spring of 2014. He is the longest serving member at Station 6. Keagan graduated from OSU in the Winter of 2018, with a Bachelor's Degree in Microbiology. He is a state licensed EMT, and is currently enrolled in Chemeketa's Paramedic Program. Keagan is an avid student and can be often found in OSU's Library.



**Andrew Ketelson**

Crew Leader Ketelson joined Station 6 in the Fall of 2016. Andrew recently completed a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health at OSU. He is a state licensed EMT and is also currently enrolled in Chemeketa's Paramedic Program. Andrew enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time on his boat.



**Mark Unrein**

Crew Leader Unrein joined Station 6 in the Fall 2016, after graduating from the Chemeketa Fire Science Program. Mark is a state licensed EMT and is working on finishing his degree. He enjoys playing basketball and spending time in his hometown of Mt. Angel.

## 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](mailto:Bob.Conder@corvallisrfd.com)

**George Mears, Vice Chairman**

[George.Mears@corvallisrfd.com](mailto:George.Mears@corvallisrfd.com)

**Steve Oda, Treasurer**

[Steve.Oda@corvallisrfd.com](mailto:Steve.Oda@corvallisrfd.com)

**Alex Polikoff, Secretary**

[Alex.Polikoff@corvallisrfd.com](mailto:Alex.Polikoff@corvallisrfd.com)

**Frank Perdicaro, Member at Large**

[Frank.Perdicaro@corvallisrfd.com](mailto:Frank.Perdicaro@corvallisrfd.com)

Open burning season  
ends June 15th

## 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.

## FireMed

FireMed is a way to defray or lessen costs of medically necessary ambulance transports. Learn more about the [FireMed](#) program and complete an application to become a member.

### 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

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