

FIRE RISK & WILDFIRE PREPARATIONS

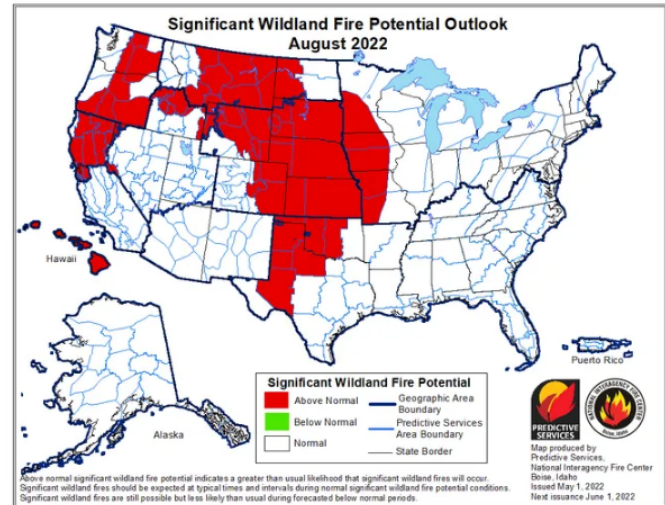
Prepared for: City Manager Will Worthey
Prepared by: TVF&R Division Chief Cassandra Ulven
Last updated: May 25, 2022



TVF&R does not make fire risk predictions, but compiles data to inform deployment based on expert opinions, including the National Interagency Fire Center, the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center, and the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

OVERVIEW

While there is significant wildfire potential in portions of Oregon, the outlook for the Willamette Valley -including Newberg and the surrounding area- looks far better than a year ago thanks to a wet Spring. Wildfire danger is projected to be above normal east of the Cascade Range and eventually across the length of southern Oregon, according to the latest forecast issued by the National Interagency Fire Center.



Wildfire projections for the 2022 season across the United States. National Interagency Fire Center

TVF&R PREPARATIONS



Firefighters and command staff have been engaged in refresher training since April on wildland operations, tactical strategies, and communications.

Every engine company has equipment used for fighting brush and vegetation fires. Gear includes special hose bundles that can be progressively laid, packs worn by firefighters to traverse rough terrain, and fire shelters. Firefighters are cross-trained to operate 4-wheel-drive brush vehicles and water tenders to perform shuttle operations in areas without fire hydrants.

WILDFIRE DEPLOYMENTS AND STATE ASSISTANCE

There are instances when large wildfires occur that overwhelm local resources. The Conflagration Act allows the Oregon State Fire Marshal -when authorized by the governor - to mobilize firefighters and equipment from around the state. OSFMO will oversee a coordinated response and request task forces from counties. If support is requested by the State from Yamhill County, the Yamhill Fire Defense Board will solicit all districts and departments in the county to see if they can provide support. Currently, TVF&R Division Chief Patrick Fale is a member of the Yamhill Fire Defense Board.

TVF&R has a group of firefighters with specialized training on a “wildland roster” prepared to deploy on conflagrations. TVF&R will not send firefighters out of District if local staffing cannot be maintained.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TVF&R's risk reduction staff have been busy hosting "Ready, Set, Go!" webinars, providing many in-person presentations (with more on the books), hosting tables at community events, conducting defensible space site visits, and posting information on social media. From May 24-June 15, a TVF&R public service announcement about wildfire prevention will air on KGW, KATU, and streaming platforms.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NW Interagency Coordination Center weather information and fire maps:

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/predict/weather.aspx>

Oregon State Fire Marshal: <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/programs/sfm/pages/default.aspx>

National Interagency Fire Center: <https://www.nifc.gov/>