



# NEWSLETTER

A Publication of McMinnville Rural Fire Protection District

## Outdoor Burning

### BACKYARD BURNING

The burning of yard debris, trimmings and clippings at a private home.

#### WHO DOES BACKYARD BURNING APPLY TO:

Backyard burning applies to all residents burning at a private home within McMinnville Fire District regardless of whether they are located within city limits or not.

#### WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO BURN:

Yard Debris - Including wood, needle or leaf materials from trees, shrubs, plants from the property immediately adjacent to a dwelling of not more than four family living units.

#### WHAT IS ILLEGAL TO BURN:

Burning the following materials is illegal at any time:

- Asbestos
- Asphalt or industrial waste
- Automotive parts (including frames)
- Dead animals
- Plastic
- Rubber products
- Tires
- Waste oil, petroleum treated and related materials
- Wet garbage and food waste
- Any material creating dense smoke or noxious odors

#### WHEN CAN YOU BURN:

##### Designated Burn Seasons

Fall - October 1 through December 15

Spring - March 1 through June 15

### AGRICULTURAL BURNING

An agricultural operation is defined as an activity that involves the raising, harvesting, or selling of crops, livestock, or poultry or their products. The activity must either show a profit or intend to show a profit to qualify.

#### WHO DOES AGRICULTURAL BURNING APPLY TO:

Agricultural burning applies to all residents within the McMinnville Fire District regardless of their distance from city limits. It is important to know that simply residing in the rural area does not place you into the agricultural classification. You must be burning by-products of a legitimate agricultural operation as defined above.

#### WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE TO BURN:

By-products generated by an agricultural operation only. This does not include waste generated by the home of the farmer or farm workers' homes.

#### WHEN CAN YOU BURN:

Agricultural burning is allowed on approved burn days throughout the year. To ascertain if burning is allowed on a particular day, call the burn number. Remember DEQ cannot determine acceptable burn days in advance due to constant weather changes.

*Even during the designated burn season, it is necessary to phone the burn number each day you wish to burn to confirm that burning is allowed that particular day.*



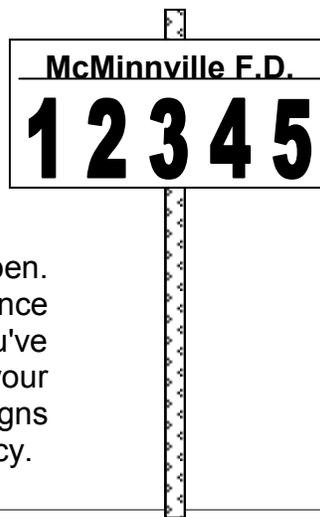
For more information about burning, contact McMinnville Fire Department at 503-435-5800

# Is Your Home A Mystery To Find?

Can your home be found quickly...

- In an emergency?
- When every second counts?
- Especially at night?

Unfortunately, emergencies can, and do, happen. When precious seconds can mean the difference between life and death, you want to be sure you've done everything you can to put the odds in your favor. For only \$20.00, our reflective address signs can help ensure we can find you in an emergency.



**FEE: \$20** (Please make checks payable to McMinnville Fire Department Volunteers)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address Numbers:      Street Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any special sign posting instructions you may have: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT USE ONLY

Paid

Form of Payment: Check

Cash

Person Taking Order: \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Submit form with payment to: McMinnville Fire Department 175 NE First Street McMinnville, OR 97128

**MCMINNVILLE FIREMED MEMBERSHIP!  
SIGN UP TODAY!!**

For only \$90.00/yr your household can be covered for an entire year!! Questions?

McMinnville FireMed, 175 NE 1st Street,  
McMinnville, OR 97128

503-435-5800

[firemed@ci.mcminnville.or.us](mailto:firemed@ci.mcminnville.or.us)



# Is Your Home Safe From *Wildfire*?

## Creating an Effective Defensible Space

As the number of people living in and adjacent to wildland areas grows, the likelihood of homes being threatened by wildfire also grows. A critical factor in determining whether or not a home will survive a wildfire is the type, amount, and maintenance of vegetation surrounding the house. Defensible space, sometimes referred to as "Survivable Space," refers to the area between buildings and an oncoming wildfire where the fuels have been modified enough to reduce wildfire threat and to provide an area where firefighters can safely work to defend the structures. With enough fuel reduction in the defensible space, your home may be able to survive a wildfire without firefighter assistance.

The first three to five feet around structures should be a fuel-free zone. Avoid planting anything in this area or storing any materials that will burn. Better yet, fill in this area with something completely non-flammable, such as decorative stone or gravel. Regularly clean the area to keep it free of any fallen leaves, branches, or pine needles.

For the next 30 feet, keep the grass cut short, well watered, and free of accumulated flammable debris. Trees and shrubs in this area should be well spaced and preferably restricted to deciduous species (those with leaves that drop in the fall). Look for potential "fuses" like wooden walkways, fences, and weedy gardens that reach from the woods to your buildings. Break these up with patios or green lawn. Keep flammables such as lumber and firewood piles out of this area.

As a final check, take a stroll around this area with an imaginary match in your hand. If you see a place where you would not feel comfortable lighting that match, throwing it down and walking away, you still have some work to do.

Continue to keep trees and shrubs well spaced in the area 30 to 100 feet around buildings. This is especially important if the area is predominantly evergreens. Thin trees and shrubs so that they are at least 10 feet apart. Prune branches off the remaining trees six to 10 feet up the trunk. This process reduces the "ladder fuels" that would allow a fire to move from the ground to the treetops and from tree to tree, resulting in an uncontrollable crown fire.



For more information or to schedule a free assessment of your property's ability to survive a wildfire, contact McMinnville Fire Department at 503-435-5800

- ✓ Chiefs Corner
  - ✓ Creating a Defensible Space
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  - ✓ Outdoor Burning
- June 2015 - in this issue...*

# McMinnville Rural Fire Protection District Annual Newsletter



McMinnville, OR 97128  
175 NE First Street  
McMinnville Rural Fire Protection District

PRESORTED  
US POSTAGE  
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MCMINNVILLE, OR  
PERMIT NO. 145

## Chief's Corner

**The McMinnville Rural Fire Protection District (MRFPD) is an important component in the overall Fire Department's ability to provide service to our citizens. This year the MRFPD contributed a portion towards the purchase of a refurbished water tender. The joint effort of the two agencies (city and rural) is vital to the Fire Department's ability to provide adequate initial water supply to fires in the rural district. The 2005 Freightliner chassis will have a new 2450 gallon water tank similar to the photo shown on the right.**

**The anticipated delivery date is September**



**Chief Rich Leipfert**