

Situational Awareness

and Residential and Local Wildland Fires

Why it is in our best interest to increase our situational awareness about residential and local wildland fires:

- In early July Lincoln County declared a severe drought emergency (driest Jan-June period in 131 years, since records were kept)
- In mid July Governor Kotek declared a state of emergency for drought and fire danger in the state of Oregon
- Below average rainfall, extended period of above average temperatures, high volume of dry vegetation fuel, record low stream flow and soil moisture content

On July 23rd the LWC Incident Command System team conducted its 4th Table Top Exercise (TTX) led by Dave Dumas, resident and career fire captain. Based on a local wildfire scenario, we discussed strategies for fire prevention within our community, and the fire mitigation program developed by the Forest Management Committee. One of the key

takeaways from the session was the importance of increasing situational awareness among residents to support our common goal of protecting ourselves and LWC from the threat of fire.

Situational awareness is simply a matter of being aware of one's surroundings, assessing risks, determining options, developing plans and acquiring the resources to activate those plans as a situation evolves.

Situational awareness applied to the threat of a residential fire involves fireproofing the interior and exterior of your home as effectively as you can, and following best practices regarding using grills for cooking, keeping the chimney cleaned and maintained, storing fuel for generators, etc.

Monitoring fire watches and warnings and high risk weather conditions such as extended periods without rain, high temperatures, low humidity and hot, dry winds, especially from the east, will help you assess the risk of a wildland fire on an ongoing basis.

The LWC [Emergency Preparedness webpage](#) has a variety of resources to help residents become

more situationally aware of what we can do to help protect our homes and community from fire.

Preventing a fire from starting is the first and most effective line of defense.

Smoking in LWC is permitted only on a residential property with the consent of the owner. Smoking is not permitted on roads, paths, or in common areas. Homeowners are responsible for the actions of their guests and will be fined for violations they commit.

We can all contribute to keeping our homes and forest safe from the devastating effects of fire.

See something, say something!