

**Jackson & Josephine Counties Fire Plan
Outreach & Education Committee
May 19, 2011 Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Neil Benson, Sandy Shaffer, Ashley DuBrey, Rhianna Simes, Ali True, Robert Shoemaker, Brad Inman, Brian Ballou, John O'Connor, Lin Bernhardt

Survey: Reports of the survey results are being compiled. Sorting is being done by Zip code, size and type of land, and other common factors. Trends are being identified. Very high return rates; Ashland had 59%, the highest, attributed to the city's aggressive outreach program in conjunction with Firewise. The committee was impressed with the returns and the results. (Sandy had distributed preliminary results to committee members by e-mail prior to the meeting.) Discussion was held about target areas for surveys in 2011-12 budget cycle.

Fire-resistant plants: Rhianna reported on future/ongoing O&E efforts with landscaper/horticultural audiences. Existing curriculum is being expanded. Efforts are underway to integrate this training into Master Gardener and RCC landscaper training. The information may get included in as many as four segments of Scott's Garden on Channel 12. Plans are also underway into getting more information/instruction into local nurseries. Information is also being assembled for products focusing on privacy screen plant selection/placement. Ali developed a draft publication on this topic.

Fire-adapted communities/Ready Set Go: Informal discussions with local chiefs and ODF fire managers resulted in comments to not significantly increase education about survivable space. It is supported on case-by-case basis. The RSG brochure on being ember-aware was generally regarded as a good product. Copies of the publication can be ordered for \$0.42/ea. from Nevada Extension Service. Brian will order 5000 with O&E funds in current budget cycle.

Firewise: Ali briefed the committee on communities identified and evaluated. The city Firewise Commission is now in place. Training was held for local fuel reduction contractors. An Ashland Firewise Facebook page and a Twitter account have been established. Fuel reduction has been completed in the Oak Knoll area.

Shady Cove Firewise projects are continuing, but new developments will not significantly occur until after the Firewise coordinator is hired.

Animal evacuation: The plan development process in both counties continues. DART training was held in Josephine County (38 people) and the response was strong. Attendees included fire service and law enforcement staff, animal control staffs, and veterinarians. Private individuals expressed interest in providing sheltering areas for animals during emergencies. Jackson County will complete a plan and make it publicly available so individuals can develop personal or community animal evacuation plans. Public meetings on local defensible space/emergency planning were held this spring but were not well attended.

IV Fire Plan: The plan revision is in its third draft, and has been considerably revised and condensed. Final copy may be available in a couple of weeks.

Events: Jo County Home Show was well attended. John developed a model illustrating defensible space principles and it was a good display element for the show. An event is scheduled for Wildlife Images June 11-12.

Firebrand: Next issue scheduled for June. Topics include summer defensible space tips, fire season regulations, sprinkler systems, Ready Book, Firewise updates, fuel reduction projects' update, emergency generator system, driveway access, SB 360 certification form reminder, and some structure fire prevention tips.

Next meeting: June 16, 10:00 am, Rogue River FD