

That said, it is spring and time to clean up around our homes in preparation for fire season. Being outside cleaning up and creating defensible space is a healthy and productive way to spend some time off. It may seem like there is no fire danger now and some days there isn't but every spring we have wildfires. Many aren't big but some are destructive. Last year we lost two homes in the district. One home burnt in April caused by an ember from a burn pile and one home burnt in May from a wildfire.

If you do burn, clear the area around the burn of flammable material, have water, fire tools and a plan to handle problems immediately available. **Stay in attendance** and keep your burn small and make sure it is out. Remember to check with Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) to insure it is a burn day. Some Fire districts require a burn permit year round and Logging slash always requires a burn permit from Oregon Department of Forestry in addition to the notification given when taking out a logging permit.

Some things most spring fires have in common: area open to the sun, wind, blackberry bushes, dead ferns or grass from last year, moss on trees, the pile stays hot long after landowner thought it was out or saw the last wisp of smoke (days are common and months are possible with large or dirty piles). The number one thing spring fire have in common, a very surprised and regretful landowner.