



News Release

Oregon Department of Forestry Southwest Oregon District

October 29, 2018

Oregon Department of Forestry
Southwest Oregon District
5286 Table Rock Rd.
Central Point, OR 97502

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fire Season Ends Today, but Fire Prevention Continues

After 151 days of being ramped up and ready to fight wildland fires, the 2018 fire season ends today, Monday, October 29, at 9:00 a.m. on lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry's Southwest Oregon District. Lands affected by this declaration include state, private, city and county forestlands in Jackson and Josephine counties.

Fire season proved to be challenging throughout the District due to high temperatures and, in particular, a lightning storm that rolled through the area on July 15. The preliminary totals for the season show ODF firefighters tackling 348 wildland fires totaling roughly 50,000 acres. Of those fires, 106 are directly linked to lightning. This total fire count does not even include the number of alarms firefighters responded to related to fire restriction violations, assisting our local partners, and smoke chases throughout Jackson and Josephine Counties.

The termination of fire season removes fire prevention regulations on equipment use and the use of fire for debris burning. This applies to the public and industrial operations on forestlands. However, many structural fire agencies require permits for debris burning; please check with your local fire department to obtain any necessary permits before burning.



This is a great reminder; while fire season is over, fire prevention must continue. Please be vigilant while burning debris making sure that a burn pile is never left unattended. Also, please use caution while using machinery that could produce a spark. Fall weather in Southern Oregon can vary greatly.

While fire season has officially come to a close, we are still here to help. Fire prevention tips and additional information is available online at www.swofire.com, our Facebook page: @ODFSouthwest, or you can call/visit the Southwest Oregon District office nearest to you:

- Medford Unit, 5286 Table Rock Rd., Central Point. (541) 664-3328
- Grants Pass Unit, 5375 Monument Dr., Grants Pass. (541) 474-3152

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