

Colestin Rural Fire Department

UPDATER

September 28, 2020

Dear Colestin Rural Fire District Residents,

The destructive and tragic fires in our own Rogue Valley, all across Oregon, and throughout the West really bring home the importance of improving our readiness in case of emergency.

Our all-volunteer emergency preparedness group consists of:

- Public Information Officer with a dedicated phone 541-880-8350
- A social media team to get the word out on the CRFD website, Facebook, and Twitter
- 13 Neighborhood Blocks each with 2 co-leaders connected by a phone tree

In the event of a major emergency requiring immediate action (such as evacuation), the Public Information Officer (PIO) will send an Alert Text to every resident participating in our emergency preparedness phone tree. The Alert will describe What Where Who How When about the emergency. Example: "A wildfire started on I5 is moving westward and southward into the valley near Goat Ranch Rd. All residents from Goat Ranch Rd south must evacuate immediately to the south. This is a #3 GO evacuation. Residents to the north are in evacuation level #2 BE READY."

Whether an urgent emergency or more slowly evolving emergency (such as earthquake response), as soon as practical, please contact your Neighborhood Leader/s with your status. Example: "Judith and Douglas Smith evacuating" or "Judith Smith sheltering in place, minor injuries." In all cases, if you are injured or trapped or need assistance call 9-1-1 first, then contact your Neighborhood Leader/s.

Our recent test of the Public Information Officer (PIO) Emergency Alert Text system went well. Next fire season we plan to hone our skills with regular tests of the system. Here is some follow up...

- If you don't know your Neighborhood Block Leaders, please call Lisa Buttrey 541-821-5479.
- Learn what neighbors comprise your Neighborhood Block.
- During fire season, please BE READY at all times with your Go-Bag. Information on readiness can be found online or if you do not use the internet and need information, call Lisa. Household readiness is the bottom line. Managing your household safely and efficiently frees official responders to do critical fire control work.
- NOW - Add the CRFD PIO phone to your contacts 541-880-8350
- NOW - Bookmark CRFD website: www.crfd.org, Facebook: Colestin Rural Fire District, and Twitter: @ColestinD
- If you have opted out in the past and would like to be included now, please call Lisa.
- Familiarize yourself with our District geography and road names.
- Maintain defensible space around your home, buildings, and driveway.

We are very fortunate as a Fire District to have so many community members who are willing to volunteer their time in so many different capacities - helping protect our lives and homes, preparing for emergency - all the while hoping our preparations are never tested.