



# The Hot Sheet



Volume IX-3

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## WELCOME NEWCOMERS

If you're new to the "Hot Sheet," welcome. This two-sided publication was developed by Douglas and Coos Forest Protective Associations nine years ago at the local level following the discontinued statewide Industrial Fire Prevention Bulletin. The opportunity presented itself to share it statewide in an effort to keep fire prevention at the forefront of the industrial operating community.

The Hot Sheet is published and distributed during fire season with helpful information and prevention guidelines to minimize human caused fires on operations and raise awareness to be fire ready.

Many of the articles come from your fellow Oregon Department of Forestry partners as well as landowners and operators that are taking those critical extra steps to prevent fires in operations. If you would like to share information for the Hot Sheet, please feel free to give us a call or shoot us an e-mail.

The Hot Sheet is distributed to ODF districts and protective associations and then forwarded to landowners and operators. Once delivered, it can then be printed and shared with workers on the ground...where the real prevention starts.

For more information or to submit articles and ideas, call Oregon Department of Forestry's Fire Prevention Coordinator, Tom Fields at (503) 945-7440 or e-mail at [tfields@odf.state.or.us](mailto:tfields@odf.state.or.us).



## WEATHER CAN BE MISLEADING



The weather west of the Cascades has cooled things off a bit, but to say that we're out of the woods can be a bit premature. As of October 3rd, many parts of central and eastern Oregon remained in extreme fire danger with a few scattered showers forecasted, but nothing of real significance.

East winds typically show up from mid-September through October. The most noticeable signs will be warmer temperatures and lower humidity on ridge tops.

While working on industrial operations, be sure to monitor the weather as often as possible and use common sense when the wind blows, temperature goes up and humidity goes down. These indicators are more than likely sending you a message that it's time to call it a day, no matter what fire restrictions are in place.

If the district you're working in is still in fire season, stay the course. Check fire equipment daily and follow all fire prevention measures in place. Above all, be fire ready. If fire season has ended where you are, stay on your toes and practice good fire prevention habits. It's still a good idea to keep blocks cleared and to avoid line rubs. Warming fires should be dead out before leaving and smoking should be done in cleared areas. Remember, the liability is still there whether we're in fire season or not (ORS 477.120).

## KEEP EQUIPMENT READY

We've already talked about the arrival of fall and that this is not the time to develop a false sense of security. Fire starts are still possible and the conditions on the ground will aid the spread of any fire.

Keep up daily checklists, especially auxiliary pump operation. In many cases, pumps and water supplies have not been used thanks in large part to other fire prevention measures. Take an extra minute each day before heading into the unit to start the pump and make sure that you have adequate water pressure. Be sure and keep equipment compartments clean and continue to run fire drills. Each crew member should know their duties if a fire should break.

While it's important to remain prepared for a fire, it's also time to begin thinking of proper care and storage of fire equipment this winter. Proper winterization and storage can help reduce some of the frustrations associated with getting equipment ready for the 2012 fire season. This will also be helpful should you need the equipment for early spring slash burns or fires.

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## SLASH CONSIDERATIONS

Heading into the off season, one tends to turn thoughts to slash. Reduce your risk with prescribed burns through pre-planning. Here are a few reminders.


- ◇ Slash burning permits are required year round. Register your units with your local ODF or Association representative.
- ◇ Construct fire lines ahead of time and locate piles away from property lines.
- ◇ Keep piles free of dirt and cover a small area with cardboard or other biodegradable material that will aid ignition at the time of the burn.
- ◇ Clean, covered piles can be burned with snow on the ground or after significant fall rains.
- ◇ **Early fall and late spring burns can increase costs through additional mop-up and patrol requirements. No matter when you burn, go back often and check old piles for heat and smoke, especially before fire season conditions return.**

Planning ahead will help prepare your ground for future planting and reduce the wildfire risk factor.





## WINTER CHECKLIST



- ◇ **Maintain or replace fire tools.**
- ◇ **Maintain level of OR-OSHA training.**
- ◇ **If allowed, make sure warming fires are dead out before leaving the operation.**





### 2011 INDUSTRIAL FIRE STATS

CAUSE	FIRES	ACRES
Warming Fire	1	0.01
Exhaust/Spark/Loader	3	0.51
Electrical Wiring on Equipment	4	8.79
Other Logging Equipment Related	2	0.02

The 2011 fire season will go down as one of the finest on record in the history of fire protection. Overall, as of October 3rd, just 628 fires have burned 2,056 acres. That compares to the 10-year average of 981 fires and 25,237 acres. The sampling of industrial fire activity above shows tremendous success in preventing operation fires.

## TOOL TABLE

#. of people in operation	1-4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
# Tool Boxes Required	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
# Axes or Pulaskis	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
# Shovels	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	7	7	7	7	7
# Hazel Hoes or Pulaskis	1	2	3	3	4	5	5	5	6	6	7	7	7	8	8	9	10