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Fire Season is not over

Salem, OR— The Oregon Department of Forestry wants to remind Oregonians that with weather fluctuating across the state, fire is still on the landscape and fire season is still in effect. Oregon is still experiencing one of the worst seasons we've seen in the past decade, and the department warns the public against complacency.

"East winds are very common around this time of year, making now the time to prevent the next large wildfire. There is still potential for more fire starts and the season isn't over yet." Chris Cline, Fire Protection Division Chief, said. "The fewer human caused fires we have, the less strained our resources will be."

East winds come to the Pacific Northwest every year around the end of August and last through the fall months. They occur from the crest of the Cascades to the Oregon/ Washington coast. Though the winds come annually, significant east wind "events" do not occur every year. If an event does occur, it usually lasts about 48 hours.

Current low humidity combined with sustained winds can increase fire behavior and risk west of the Cascades.

Conditions this week are a mix of warm temperatures, wind, and dry fuels, increasing the risk of wildfire. So far this year, according to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center, there have been **1,697 fires in Oregon** that have **burned 1,535,304 acres**. Within 24 hours this past weekend, the department deployed two incident management teams to assist with fast growing fires in Klamath ([Copperfield Fire](#)) and Wheeler ([Shoe Fly Fire](#)) Counties.

If the Oregon Department of Forestry knows that an east wind event is going to happen, which can be determined at least 5 days in advance, the agency will preposition resources, adjust schedules, and take necessary precautions to respond to new starts or increased fire behavior quickly.

"With the approaching fall like conditions, it's easy to think that fires are lessening. However, we are still seeing new fire starts daily throughout the state of Oregon." Cline said.

Wildfire prevention means:

- Debris burning is prohibited during fire season without a permit. Cover your pile and wait until fire season is over. A dry, covered pile is cleaner and safer to burn later, during wet fall and winter conditions.
- Don't park your car over dried grass, and make sure your vehicle or ATV is regularly serviced.
- Dispose of your cigarette using designated receptacles, and NEVER discard butts on the ground or in vegetation outdoors.
- Check local restrictions before lighting a campfire.

Several ODF districts have updated their fire danger levels recently. Visit Oregon.gov/odf to find local fire restrictions and keeporegongreen.org for more wildfire prevention tips.