

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the GRFD is to provide professional quality fire fighting, emergency medical, rescue, and education and prevention services to the district service area.

(from left to right)
Firefighters Gene Davies, Don Rowlett, Juliet Grable, Matt Flotho, Phil Newby, Katy von Beroldingen, Norm Dean, Jeff Scranton, Kyle Miller, and Brint Borgilt after a long day of mopping up. Now is the perfect time to make your property "firewise." See pages 2 and 3 for more details.



GRFD BOARD

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Letter from the President

By Stephen Bender

2018 has been another exciting year for fundraising here in the Green Springs. Current board members Gail Colbern and Jim Impara welcomed Tamara Lerner, Juliet Grable and Denise Rowlett to the board. They have brought renewed energy to our task of raising money to support our fire department. At the West Coast Country Music Festival we provided food and sold tee shirts designed by Tamara Lerner. Denise and Juliet collaborated with Gene Davies and many

other volunteers to produce our first bingo night just before Halloween. Our deep thanks to Denise and Donnie Rowlett for letting the community invade their home for Spooky Bingo Night. It was really a joy to see old and new Green Springs residents having such a good time. The GSFR board is planning several additional bingo nights as well as our annual membership meeting. Look for the dates on the back of this newsletter. Articles presented here will cover winter fire readiness, including driving tips, links to weather cams and pet safety information. Thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter.

As we all know, fire is becoming commonplace in our rural environment. Our fire season is officially over, but our forests remain dry. Chief Davies and his crew put out several fires in our area this season and kept the Green Springs from erupting in conflagration. They responded to numerous medical emergency calls and have truly saved lives. They are dedicated servants of our community. But their service does not end when fire season ends; their commitment is year round. They have put out several fires since the fire season ended. Fire knows no single season and respects no boundaries. We all share the responsibility of keeping our properties safe, not only for ourselves but for our neighbors. Please remain vigilant and be careful. Thank you all for your continued support.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

Spooky Bingo and More! By Denise Rowlett

Halloween 2018 will go down in Green Springs Fire Department history as the First Annual Halloween Spooky Bingo Fundraiser, and it was deemed a success worthy of "haunting" memories for all. (Haunting in a good way!)

The total net proceeds were over \$1,800. Almost all of the beverages and food were donated, as were the bingo game and supplies. The decor was also donated as were the hands and hours of labors. The funds raised will go toward the \$6,000 fee that is required by the County for the 911 service and coordination that is provided by Jackson County Central Dispatching service.

We had reports that the child care was also a success and no child was left behind. The child care volunteers also came through the evening unscathed and willing to meet the call for a repeat performance.

So save the date! **February 9th, 2019** is the next evening of Bingo and Raffles. We will be returning to 17250 Highway 66, The Pinehurst Inn property, for our next Bingo evening. While we will not have the massive decorations and elaborate costumes (congrats to our winners, Jennifer Watson and Phil Newby!), we will have a Valentine "Lucky in Love"-type theme. We will have two more games dates before the height of summer and then come back in October for another Halloween Spooky Costume and Bingo and Raffle party. See the back of this newsletter for upcoming dates.

We want to make sure all have a chance to win in our raffle, be able to purchase extra food and drink tickets, and purchase the GRFD hats and sweatshirts and tee shirts—so bring your wallets.

Thank you all who donated time, money, heart, and yes, there was even a bit of blood...

See you next time!



Now is the Time to Prepare for Fire Season By Gene Davies and Juliet Grable

Fire season 2018 started early. During the first days of July, we watched nervously to see if the Klamathon Fire would crest Keene Ridge. That fire ushered in months of more fires and smoke. Then in October we watched as the Camp Fire roared through the town of Paradise, destroying over 10,000 structures and leaving dozens of people dead or missing.

Despite the smoke, the Greensprings was unscathed. Unfortunately, fires such as the Klamathon are predicted to become much more frequent, more intense and more destructive. Like many communities, the Greensprings is quite unprepared for fires like these. The time to become more prepared is RIGHT NOW, and the best place to start is at home, in the ignition zone surrounding your residence and outbuildings.

Fire requires three ingredients: fuel, oxygen, and an ignition source. The key to reducing vulnerability is to break up and reduce fuel loads in the area around your home and structures. This way, even if a fire does approach, its path is interrupted.

See the next page for some tips for addressing fuel loads around your house and other structures.

Fire Season continued on page 3

The Alarm – December 2018

Now is the Time continued from page 2

IMMEDIATE ZONE This zone includes the home and the area 0 to 5 feet from the furthest attached exterior point of the home. This zone should be your priority, as it is the most vulnerable to embers.

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows. Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors – mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles – anything that can burn.
- Do not store anything underneath decks or porches. Screen or box in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.

INTERMEDIATE ZONE. This zone includes everything within 5 to 30 feet' from the furthest exterior point of the home. Using appropriate landscaping and/or creating firebreaks can help decrease fire behavior.

- Clear vegetation from under large stationary propane tanks.
- Create fuel breaks with driveways, walkways/paths, patios, and decks.
- Keep lawns and native grasses mowed to a height of four inches.
- Remove ladder fuels (vegetation under trees) so a surface fire cannot reach the crowns. Prune trees up to six to ten feet from the ground; for shorter trees do not exceed 1/3 of the overall tree height.
- Space trees to have a minimum of eighteen feet between crowns with the distance increasing with the percentage of slope.

- Tree placement should be planned to ensure the mature canopy is no closer than ten feet to the edge of the structure.
- Tree and shrubs in this zone should be limited to small clusters of a few each to break up the continuity of the vegetation across the landscape.

EXTENDED ZONE This zone include all areas within 30 to 100 feet of the home, and out to 200 feet. The goal here is not to eliminate fire, but to interrupt fire's path and keep flames smaller and on the ground.

- Dispose of heavy accumulations of ground litter/debris.
- Remove dead plant and tree material.
- Remove small conifers growing between mature trees.
- Remove vegetation adjacent to storage sheds or other outbuildings within this area.
- Trees 30 to 60 feet from the home should have at least 12 feet between canopy tops.
- Trees 60 to 100 feet from the home should have at least 6 feet between the canopy tops.

EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS. Here are some tips for safely evacuating, should a fire threaten your property.

- Ensure your home has legible and clearly marked numbers.
- Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet to accommodate emergency vehicles.
- Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock.
- Sign up for Citizen Alert Program through Jackson County: <https://jacksoncountyor.org/emergency/Resources/Citizen-Alert>
- Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay – don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.
- Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.

Winter Driving Safety Tips

By Denise Rowlett

While many of Oregon's highways have cameras which can be accessed at <https://tripcheck.com/>, you cannot find one for our beloved Highway 66. Lots of good weather conditions and highway conditions, but no cameras. So a little sleuthing gave us the bit of help we have needed.

Fortunately, a couple of internet links will connect you with cameras that are aimed at the roads. While we can only hope that more folks with private cameras will help make up for the spots that ODOT has not been able to cover, please take a moment to thank the business and citizens who have provided the links below, and save them for reference throughout the winter.

Bill Terpening Medford Fuel provides access to many cameras through their webpage: <http://billterpeningmedford.com> Select *Medford* in the menu on the left, then find the highway location that is of interest to you. The site also has weather info and many other links that this writer has yet to explore.

The Green Springs Inn and Cabins has a link that provides the view of Highway 66 right in front of the inn: <http://www.ggs.net/GreenspringsCams/index.php>

You are always encouraged to carry extra food and water. Peanut or almond butter provides a great stable protein source without needing special handling. Appropriate snow chains and safety equipment are not a choice; they are required by law. Carry flashlights and extra batteries along with an old sleeping bag or blanket for warmth. Use your floor mats or a tarp to lay on the ground when mounting chains on your tires. This helps keep the cold from contacting your body and lowering your body temp. A box of gloves like your doctor uses can be found at Smart Foodservice (formerly Cash & Carry) in Medford. They are fairly inexpensive and help keep the hands drier and warmer when handling those couplers on your snow chains, all without the bulk of leather or woven material. This nice little tip was passed on by a tow truck driver. Safe Journeys!

Winterizing for your Animals

By Gail Colbern, DVM

Well, winter is coming – and with plenty of cold. Are your pets and livestock ready? Here are some pointers to be sure everyone will have a fun and healthy winter!

All Animals:

- * Ensure all animals have plenty of fresh water, NOT frozen. Sometimes offering warm water in cold weather will increase consumption and maintain good digestion. Remember that water can freeze, even during the day.
- * All outdoor animals and livestock need more food during winter. Extra calories are used to produce body heat.
- * Even though it's cold outside, all animals still need some exercise in winter. Exercise increases cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal and mental health.
- * Keep a flashlight handy for power outages during long nights.
- * Have a written emergency plan for all of your animals. Stockpile emergency food, water and medications so you will be ready in the event of an emergency. Be sure all family members are familiar with the plan.
- * Be ready for snow before it starts!

Dogs and Cats:

- * Best to bring pets inside when temperatures fall below 30°F. Dogs and cats can get frostbitten ears, nose or feet below these temperatures. Young pets, old pets and short-haired pets are most vulnerable. Dog jackets help keep them warm when they need to be out in very cold weather, especially little dogs.
- * Chemicals used to melt snow/ice on sidewalks and roads can irritate pet paws. Keep paws clean to prevent licking/ingestion of chemicals.
- * If animals sleep outside, be sure they have an elevated house with clean, dry bedding (deep straw) and a flap to keep out drafts. Consider adding a pet access door to garage and a soft cushion in warmest corner.

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Winterizing for Your Animals continued from page 4

Dog and Cats, continued:

- * Pets may experience more arthritis during winter months. If they appear stiff or sore, especially when they first get up, see your veterinarian for medication to make them more comfortable. Be sure your pets always have good footing. Older dogs or dogs with arthritis or hip dysplasia need assistance to rise-lift them with a towel or strap placed in just in front of their hind legs. Use a large piece of carpet on top of snow to improve footing.
 - * Use plastic food/water bowls to prevent your animals tongue from sticking/freezing to a metal bowl.
 - * Indoor pets get less exercise in winter, so reduce their food.
 - * Brush/comb pets weekly during winter. A well-brushed pet requires less frequent bathing.
 - * Be sure there are no cats sleeping under the hood (bang on hood) before starting your car. They like the warmth of the engine block.
 - * Keep an eye on your dog outside, especially during a snowstorm. They can become disoriented or even lost due to loss of scent. Keep pets away from frozen bodies of water as they can fall through ice, creating life threatening situations for both animals and humans.
 - * Use 'pet-friendly' antifreeze products and clean up any spills thoroughly. Antifreeze tastes sweet and pets like to lick it up.
 - * As during summer hot weather, do not leave your pet in car for extended times. Cars can act as refrigerators and pets can freeze to death.
 - * Keep paws trimmed of long hair to prevent build-up of ice balls between toes. Keep toenails trimmed to improve traction on ice.
 - * Apply flea preventive and give heartworm medication throughout winter. It only takes one warm day to have pesky insects bothering your pet and spreading parasites.
 - * Contact your veterinarian if you think your animal has frostbite or hypothermia.
- * Check your horse's teeth. If they have points or bad teeth, eating, and consuming sufficient calories, can be difficult.
 - * Protect your livestock from predators that may also become hungry in winter.
 - * Critical to supply fresh, non-frozen water. Cattle need water at least 37°F while horses should have water at 65°F to prevent gastrointestinal impaction.
 - * Provide shelter and a wind-break. Provide a dry area for all livestock and horses to get out of mud and allow their feet to dry. Wet feet get soft and can result in lameness.
 - * Shoes on horses can be problematic during winter as snow and ice can compact in the shoe making walking very difficult. Unless they are required, shoes should be removed for winter.
 - * Consider a blanket carefully. A natural winter coat is very protective from cold temperatures. Horses that have been clipped will have a harder time maintaining body temperature in cold weather. Wet blankets, however, can make animals even colder. If a horse is blanketed, be sure to maintain it throughout winter.
 - * Trim trees in fall to prepare for winter and prevent broken limbs coming down on animals during winter storms.
 - * Have barn and pasture ready by cleaning up, changing light bulbs, fixing fence, oiling hinges, checking fire extinguishers and cleaning furnace filters.
 - * "Fireproof" your barn. Check electric wiring, remove clutter, clean out cobwebs, store flammable items away from the barn, update fire alarm batteries, and be sure all appliances have automatic shut-off switches.
 - * Repair leaks and clean gutters.
 - * Insulate and prevent drafts in barn, but don't make them too tight. Animals need fresh air to prevent respiratory illness. Minimize sources of mold and dust in barn. Keep ammonia odors down by cleaning stalls regularly.

Livestock and Horses:

- * Be prepared to feed more hay. Livestock need more food in winter to produce extra body heat. Have a good supply of hay and feed supple-



Greensprings Rural Fire District

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Save the Dates 2019 Bingo Nights

February 6—Lucky in Love Bingo
June 1—Summer Bingo
August 3—Firehouse Bingo and BBQ
October 26—Spooky Bingo Nite Returns

All Bingo Nights will be at the Pinehurst Inn (17250 Highway 66) except for Firehouse Bingo, which will take place at the Bob Given Firehouse.

2019 Dates TBD

Annual Membership Meeting
Annual Firewise Clean-up Day

