

EUGENE SPRINGFIELD FIRE

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

MAY 24, 2021



Our Mission: To serve our communities by preserving life, protecting property, and the environment through prevention, education, emergency medical services, rescue, and fire suppression services.

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2020 OREGON WILDFIRE SEASON

People

- 9 lives lost
- Over 2,000 people sought emergency shelter
- Impacted access to affordable housing for low-income families

Property

- 1.2 million acres burned
- 4,021 homes/housing structures destroyed
- 1,193 commercial structures destroyed

Cost

- Estimated \$1.15 billion in damage, response costs, and debris removal
- \$32.2 million paid in FEMA Individual Assistance to Oregonians

*Recovering & Rebuilding From Oregon's 2020 Wildfires, Key Findings & Recommendations
State of Oregon January 4, 2021

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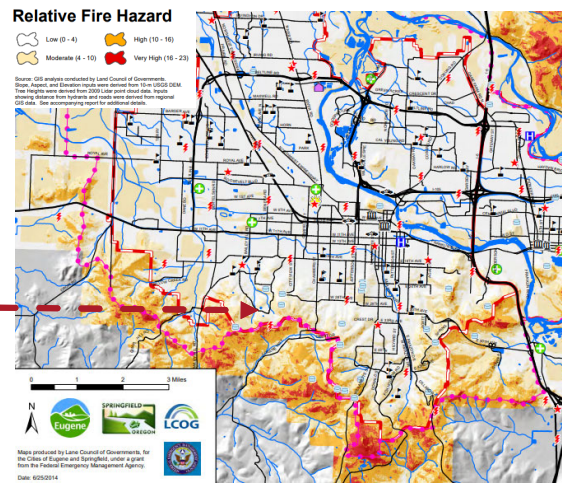
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DEFINING THE PROBLEM



Eugene's South Hills:

- Abundance of vegetation
- Residential development in forested areas
- Steep slopes
- Limited egress routes



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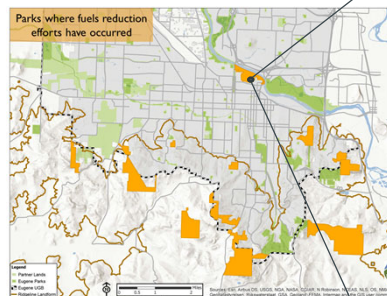
PAST AND PRESENT WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Past

- Fire Hazard Map
- 2019 Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction
\$1.3 million in grants have supported 750 acres of fuels reduction since 2007
- 2020 LC Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- 2020 Community Risk Assessment Report

Present

- Hazardous fuels assessments
- On-going fuels reduction
- ODF funded 2021 Eboard Eugene South Hills Collaboration Fuels Reduction Project
- Continued ecological burns (on-going for 30 years)
- Renewing outreach materials
- Revision of evacuation zones/routes
- Wildfire Preparedness Resources available on ESF website



Skinner Butte, before (top) and after (bottom) fuels reduction

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CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS



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EUGENE WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS COALITION



- ODF Grant to locate 100 private residents in So. Hills interested in future fuel reduction
- HRNI Matching Grant to improve NLC website, purchase tree trimming tools for free rental to homeowners & community wildfire education
- Evacuation planning with Highland Condos and South Hills

Past Activities

- Three 2020 Wildfire Forum Presentations
- Giving presentations at Neighborhood Associations meetings
- Produced 16-minute video of 2020 Wildfire season

Present Activities

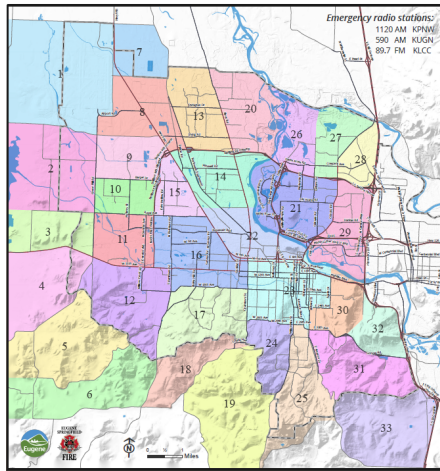
Future Activities

- Continue producing educational wildfire preparedness media
- Working with OSU Ext. to develop a Volunteer Wildfire Risk Assessment Program
- Assist the City of Eugene with funding & hiring a Fire Adaptive Community Coordinator position

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REVISION OF EVACUATION ZONES



* Draft evacuation zones May 2021

Eugene Springfield Fire is currently reassessing and revising Evacuation Zone plans:

- Collaboration with Emergency Management Teams
 - Lane County
 - City of Eugene
 - City of Springfield
- GIS is contributing support on developing zones
- Project will clarify zones and routes to be used by Emergency Services, LCCC, and the public
- Map will be finalized by June 1st, 2021 with communications to the community following a few weeks after

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THREE E'S

Educate

Empower

Enable

- Raise awareness
- Provide information on current projects and partnerships
- Demographically targeted educational resources
- Consistent messaging through website and social media

- Actively engage community
- Firewise Communities
neighbor helping neighbor
- Maintain partnerships

- Grants and additional funding
- Continuously update available resources
- Provide effective communication
- Improvements to escape routes and emergency planning

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QUESTIONS?



Example of successful defensible space.

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