

City

SOURCE

THE CITIZEN'S SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF ASHLAND

Radiation Concerns

The City of Ashland has received phone calls and emails from citizens concerned about potential radiation from the recent disasters in Japan. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has air-monitoring stations in Portland, Corvallis and Eureka California. The air monitoring stations have continually shown normal background levels of radiation.



Per the EPA, the levels of radiation would have to be hundreds of thousands of times higher than the current readings before Oregonians would need to take any protective actions. Updates from the (See *Radiation Concerns*, Back Page)

Project Homeless Connect Event

The Jackson County Community Services Consortium Homeless Task Force will hold the Project Homeless Connect 2011 on Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at the Medford Armory 1701 S. Pacific Highway from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. A hot lunch, medical and dental care, mental health assessments, legal counseling, bus passes, clothing vouchers, haircuts, and food distribution, will be some of the valuable services offered at the event. For more information, to volunteer, or to donate materials or services, please contact Ed Angeletti, ACCESS Inc. Planning Director at (541) 774-4330 or ejangeletti@access-inc.org, or visit www.access-inc.org. ▼

Forest Face Lift Underway

The forests above town in the Ashland Watershed not only provide clean drinking water to all of Ashland, but also afford us recreational opportunities, clean air, and the scenic backdrop to our community.

To be good stewards of our watershed, the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR) was created. 6.5 million dollars of Federal stimulus funds have been dedicated to AFR over the next 3 years to decrease the threat of a severe wildfire, improve forest health, maintain critical wildlife habitat, and educate the community in the process.

Proposed AFR projects such as controlled burning and tree thinning will be carefully implemented and monitored to assess the degree to which work is having the intended outcomes. There are ongoing opportunities to volunteer and see AFR work, both completed and planned. See AFR's website, www.ashlandwatershed.org for more information or to sign up for the email notification list. The AFR project is a partnership between the City of Ashland, The Nature Conservancy, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, and the U.S. Forest Service. ▼



Cut it Short!

Cut Weeds & Grass by June 15th

Keep it Short!



Why Weed Abatement?

Grass fires and wildfires are ignited every year in Ashland whether by people or by lightning. Whether it's personal property or our watershed, we have a lot to lose when it comes to wildfires. By cutting grass and weeds, you reduce the ability for fire to spread as quickly, thus reducing the fire risk in our community.

Ashland Municipal Code (Section 9.04) requires landowners or occupants to cut grass and weeds by June 15th each year and maintain that height throughout fire season. This applies to all lots within the City limits. Compliance with the weed abatement ordinance will substantially improve the overall fire safety in our community, as well as enhance the appearance of the neighborhood where your property is located. Failure to abate and maintain weeds and grass by June 15th each year can result in fines up to \$362 each day the violation exists, plus any abatement and staff costs.

More information about weed abatement and a list of contractors is available at our website www.ashland.or.us/weedabatement or call Ashland Fire & Rescue at 541.482.2770.

Weed Abatement Success

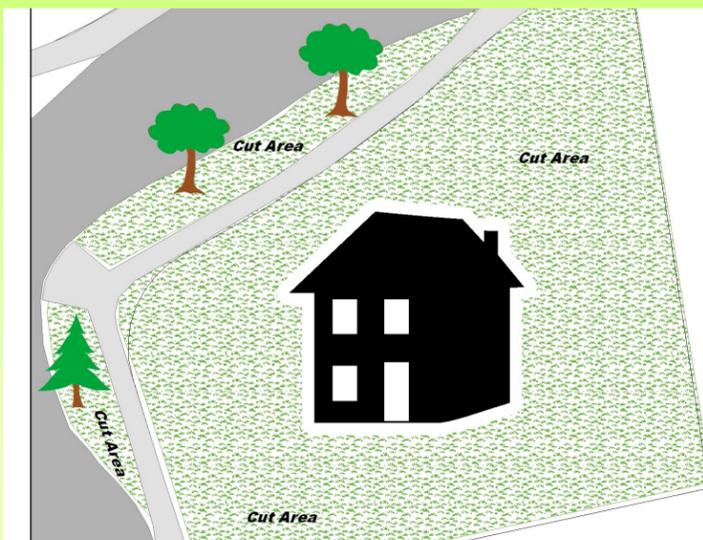
Short grass and weeds make a huge difference to firefighters and your neighborhood. This photo from last summer's Oak Knoll fire is from an empty lot where the grass and weeds had been cut short throughout the summer. When hot embers from just a few hundred feet away landed on the short vegetation, the grass and weeds ignited, but did not support the rapid spread of intense fire. In fact, this open lot provided a safe working space that firefighters used to help extinguish the fire.



If your property is 1 Acre or smaller:

Cut and maintain grass and weeds to no more than 4" in height

- On the entire property
- On abutting park rows and other right of ways



Unabated Weeds

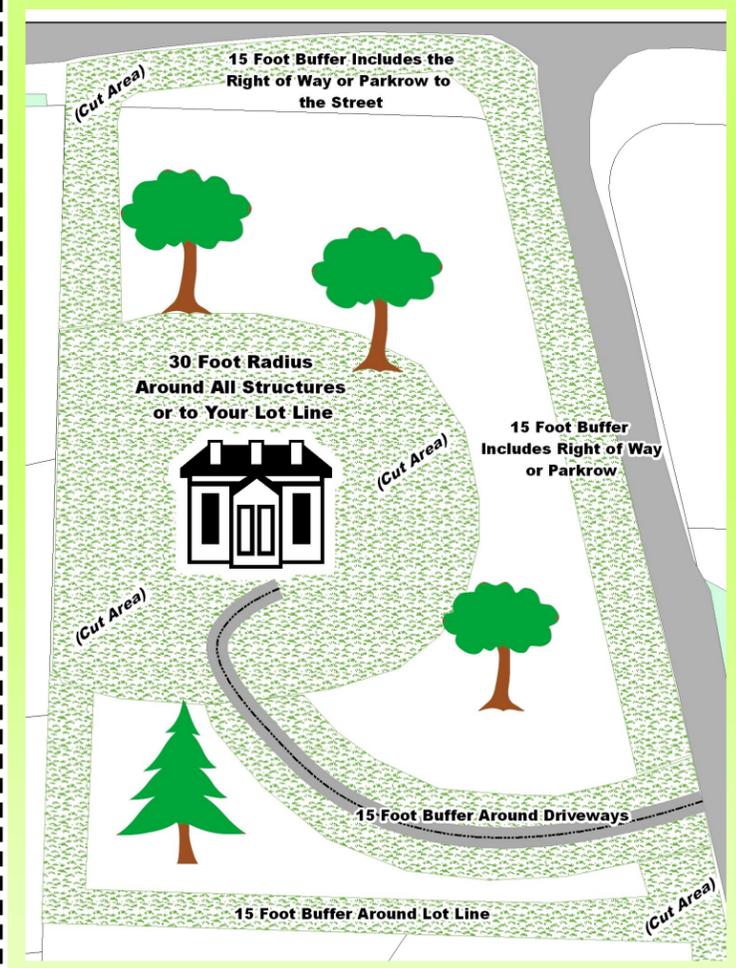
Tall, dead grass ignites easily and spreads wildfire quickly. By following weed abatement requirements, you will make a difference in how a wildfire could spread throughout Ashland. This photo from last summer's Oak Knoll fire shows how tall, dead grass produced big, fast-moving flames.



If your property is Greater Than 1 Acre:

Cut and maintain grass and weeds to no more than 4" in height...

- On abutting park rows and other right of ways
- Within 30 feet of every structure
- In a 15 foot wide buffer strip around your property
- In a 15 foot wide buffer next to access roads and driveways through properties



To file a weed abatement complaint **after June 15**, submit a written complaint form found at www.ashland.or.us/weedabatement. In order to better facilitate the use of staff time, complaints will only be accepted in writing using the form at this site.

Radiation Concerns Continued from Page 1

EPA air monitoring stations are posted regularly on the Oregon Public Health website, <http://public.health.oregon.gov/Preparedness/CurrentHazards/Pages/DailyAirMonitoring.aspx>. Citizens are encouraged to visit that site and read the information provided.

The Radiation Protection Service of the Oregon Office of Environmental Public Health has established a hot line that is updated regularly. Concerned citizens can call the hot line at 877-290-6767 to hear a pre-recorded message or call 971-673-0405 with specific questions. ▼

Emergency Department Needs a Facelift

Each year, Ashland Community Hospital Foundation's Board of Directors selects a project for its Patrons Campaign. Contributors throughout the Rogue Valley and beyond are invited to support the campaign with a donation. This year, the Patrons Campaign will focus on our Emergency Department, which is critical to our organization and central to the services we provide as a community hospital.

Built in 1990, our current ED was not designed to handle the 8,000 to 10,000 patients who now walk through its doors each year. Having an Emergency Department capable of meeting today's, as well as tomorrow's, healthcare needs is fundamental to the health and safety of our community. Your gift to the 2011 Patrons Campaign will make a difference in the lives of family and friends who use our Emergency Department. If you would like to make a contribution, you can do so online at www.achfoundation.org or call 541-201-4015.

News Notes

Ashland Parks & Recreation

The Ashland Parks & Recreation Department publishes three recreation guides per year; fall, winter/spring and summer. The guides are delivered to every Ashland and Talent household, and can also be viewed online at www.ashland.or.us/recguide. If you haven't received your 2011 Summer Recreation Guide, please call the main Parks office at 541-488-5340. For more information visit www.AshlandParksandRec.org or register for a program online at www.ashland.or.us/register. Re

member, online registration helps to reduce costs and it's easy to do! If you need assistance, please call 541-488-5340, or stop by the Parks office in Lithia Park, 340 S Pioneer St in Ashland. ▼

CITY OF
ASHLAND

City Calendar

- **City Council** meets on the first and third Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Study sessions occur on the day before at 5:30 p.m.
- **Planning Commission** meets on the second Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Study sessions occur on the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
- **Airport Commission** meets on the first Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
- **Conservation Commission** meets on the fourth Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.
- **Forest Lands Commission** meets on the second Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.
- **Historic Commission** meets on the first Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. (the Wednesday prior to the Tuesday Planning Commission)
- **Housing Commission** meets on the fourth Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.
- **Parks and Recreation Commission** meets on the fourth Monday at 7:00 p.m. Study session occurs on the third Monday.
- **Public Art Commission** meets on the third Friday at 8:15 a.m.
- **Transportation Commission** meets on third Thursday at 6:00 p.m.
- **Tree Commission** meets on the Thursday before the Tuesday Planning Commission Meeting

◆ Many of the above meetings are cablecast live on channel 9 and replayed on channel 30. ◆ Meetings are held at Council Chambers, 1175 East Main or at 51 Winburn Way. ◆ For information about all City meetings please call City Administration at 488-6002. ◆ Back issues of the City Source are posted under "Documents" on the City's Website, www.ashland.or.us. ◆ TTY 1-800-735-2900

