

 <p>JACKSON COUNTY <i>Oregon</i></p>	<p>DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</p> <p>10 South Oakdale Ave, Room 100 Medford, OR 97501-2902 Phone: (541) 774-6907 Fax: (541) 774-6791</p>
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Fire Safety Inspection Information Sheet

SIGNAGE & ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Address signs allow emergency services personnel to find your home when there is a fire or medical emergency. Reflective signs with numbers that are at least 3" tall are recommended. If your address is on your mailbox, make sure there is one on each side. Address signs are available from most fire districts within Jackson County. You may think your house will be easy to find if there is a fire, but what if you are having a medical emergency? Address signs save response time which could save your or your loved one's life.

Driveways need to accommodate large emergency vehicles. There should be a flat turnaround area so the emergency vehicle doesn't have to back down the length of the drive. On longer driveways, turnouts (areas to pull off to the side of the road) allow you to get out and the fire department to get in at the same time in the event of an emergency. The driveway standards ensure the fire department can access your residence. They can't help you if they can't get to you.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE & FIRE PREVENTION

Fuelbreak, an area where flammable vegetation is selectively removed, can provide your home with its own defense during a wildfire situation by slowing a fire's approach and reducing its intensity. Fire departments can't always access your home during wildland fires. Having a home that can survive a wildfire on its own frees the firefighters up to fight the fire. If the fire department is available and can access your property, a fuelbreak provides them an area to work safely. The fuelbreak standards also help prevent a structure fire on your property from starting a wildland fire.

Building materials are another important fire prevention strategy. Burning embers from fires can be blown a distance of up to a mile from the fire and are a potential threat to your home. Embers account for a large percentage of homes burned by wildfire, and many homes have wood roofing that is easily ignited by embers. For this reason, all roofing material must be nonflammable and no wood roofing is allowed. Along the same lines, all chimneys must have spark arresters.

This sheet is for informational purposes only and is based on Sections 8.7 & 9.5 of the Land Development Ordinance for Jackson County. For more information, see www.jacksoncounty.org, or contact a Planner at (541) 774-6907

To order a fire safety inspection you must have your address sign posted, your driveway installed, your structure staked, and your fuelbreak completed

FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION CHECKLIST:

ADDRESS SIGNS:

- Address signs are installed at the driveway entrance (visible from both directions) and at all forks in the drive, with directional arrows as needed.

ACCESS STANDARDS:

- Access extends to within 150' of any portion of the exterior wall of the first story
- Access is a minimum 12' wide, and a minimum 14' wide on all curves that have a radius less than 55'
- Vegetation is cleared to a height of 13 ½' along the entire driveway including bridges and culverts
- Access is designed for a 50,000 pound load with an occasional 60,000 pound load, and has at least 6" of base rock
- Maximum grade of drive is 10%. See JCLDO for exceptions
- Curves have a minimum radius of 48' except when the grade exceeds 15% then the minimum centerline curve radius shall be 100 feet
- Access has an approved turnaround within 150' of structure, as well as every one half mile along access
- On single lane roads turnouts are provided every 800' and are 50' long, 7' wide, and have 25' tapers unless otherwise approved
- Gate widths will be a minimum of 2' wider than the required accessway width
- Bridges and culverts have driving surfaces that are a minimum 12' wide (some exceptions may apply) and have at least a 50,000 pound load capacity
- A 22' fuelbreak including the driving surface is required along private accessways, driveways, private roads, and private access easements in accordance with Section 8.7.1(B)(1).

A FUELBREAK, measured from the outermost projection of the structure (including decks and overhangs) is developed around all sides of the building. The total fuelbreak must be 100', but if natural slopes on the site are greater than 20%, an additional 50' is required below and on both sides of the structure. In accordance with Section 8.6.4 no riparian habitat may be removed in order to comply with fuelbreak requirements. Where the required fuelbreak is located within a protected riparian area, a fuelbreak reduction will be required:

- Dead plant material is removed, including dead branches on living trees, and fallen dead vegetation that hasn't significantly started to decompose
- No branches overhang the roofline, or within 10' of stovepipe or chimney outlets (25' for evergreen branches)
- Vegetation is thinned to remove "ladder fuels" and to break up continuous vegetation, trees are spaced more than 15' between trunks (some exceptions) and limbed up to a height of 10'
- Flammable groundcover (bark mulch etc) may not be used within 1' of buildings
- Firewood piles and woodsheds are at least 30' from all structures
- Grass is kept to a height of less than 6" and no use of highly combustible shrubbery

BUILDING MATERIALS:

- All chimneys have a spark arrester
- Roofing material is non-flammable, Class A or B. No Wood Shakes!