
FIRE & EMERGENCY PLAN

This is a copy of the Foothills Creek F&E Plan. We have removed many of the references to our street and added lines for you to fill in your street name and other information. Some areas we left in the data to give you an example of the types of information to acquire. Use what you like and change what you don't.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Develop a simple guideline for (street)_____ residents to follow in case of flood, fire, or other major problems that could affect most or all of us.

Improve community awareness of our stewardship of the land and foster respect for the ecosystems and the processes that maintain them.

Develop a wide array of strategies for fuel reduction and fire suppression that _____ residents can accept as sensible precautions against catastrophic fire.

Encourage all of the _____ residences to participate in the All Hazards Plan. Identify area residences that need assistance in problem times.

Develop a mapping of fuels in the _____ Basin to assist agencies and help in the acquisition of funding to assist in fuels reduction. *Your local watershed council can help.*

NEED FOR A PLAN

It is recognized that those of us that live in the rural community may have to fend for ourselves during a catastrophic event that would also affect the major metropolitan areas, i.e.: Medford and Grants Pass. Limited state, county and city resources would be directed to the highest population areas. Therefore, we should assist each other to lessen the impact of the event.

In the case of fire, we have the opportunity to address four aspects of this problem before it happens: human-caused wildfires, hazardous fuels, and access for fire suppression. Last, but not least, emergency communications can help us during any kind of catastrophic event.

TYPES OF DISASTERS

The most obvious disaster that we face each year is the threat of fire. We spend 3 to 5 months each summer watching the weather worried about thunderstorms, watching for smoke and for those with police/fire scanners, listening to see if our area is identified.

Living in Oregon, most of us have experienced floods. In _____, flooding of the drainage could potentially isolate some of us from the rest of the valley. All _____ residents could be affected and should be prepared for this possible event. Other types of disasters could include wind and ice storms that could leave our area isolated or without power for days.

FIRE RISK

Although we watch the skies anxiously when summer thunderstorms threaten to rain lightning into our dry forests, it seems it might be wiser to watch ourselves. When it comes to fire risk in _____, human beings are as dangerous as lightning. Fire risk is a self-explanatory term - how much chance is there that a fire will start? But it also has a technical definition: the chance of fire starting as determined by the presence and activity of causative agents.

Human activity is certainly one of these causative agents, so human actions greatly influence the pattern of fire risk, as well as the number of fires, in our area. In fact, human activities are highest on the list of causative agents and including mowing, landscape maintenance, backyard burning, farming, ranching, timber management, light manufacturing, mining and quarry operations, recreation, tourist and travel activities, and electrical transmission. Typically, a human-caused fire in the watershed starts at low elevations along roads and burns to the ridge tops. When these fires occur under conditions of high and extreme fire danger, they are often costly, difficult to suppress, and highly damaging. Because of the frequent threat to life, property, and other resources of high value, they require a large and complex response to suppress them.

FIRE ACTION PLAN

- To develop a more comprehensive resources and phone tree list of all residents on _____. Currently this is being done by completion of a survey (see attached) and the surveys are provided at meetings, through friends, by contacting area dispatchers and available on our web site at _____. We have approximately # _____ properties signed up on the fire plan and phone tree which represents approximately _____% of all residents so we have some work to do this summer. Also, the some areas _____ are not considered by most to be a high fire risk area so those residents are not as compelled to be a part of the fire plan.
- Maintain two Area Dispatchers for every designated area of _____. Currently _____ is broken up into # _____ areas as follows:

Married couples are considered one household dispatcher so we have a built in back up if one or the other is not home when an emergency arises.
- Maintain Safe Zones for _____ area Residents in case they are cut off. Currently we have a Safe Zone at _____ and another Safe Zone at _____. Both were approved by the _____ Fire District Fire Chief with the permission of the property owners. Additionally, to establish a "Safety Zone" Manager for communication, accountability and one person in charge.
- To hold annual neighborhood meetings, inviting all related agencies in an effort to recruit sign ups for the fire plan and phone tree as well as to educate and inform residents about important information that affects our properties and our community. The _____ has offered their facility at no charge for our meetings. Ideally the best time for a meeting is before fire season hits however, it is difficult to get residents to start thinking about fire concerns when it is still raining.
- Developing a _____ Community Web Site for residents to access for information on Fire Safety Tips & Information, available programs for fuel reduction, News Bulletins, Wildlife issues and more. Currently we have our domain name and our site is being hosted at no charge by a local internet service provider. We have two committee members that work on the site so that we are not dependent upon any one person for anything. Visit at _____.

- We have established a fire notification program with Oregon Dept. of Forestry and our Area Dispatchers via cell phone text notification. If there is a fire in our general area 5 Dispatchers (one from each area of _____) receive a cell phone text message on the location and details of the fire. This allows us to be informed and get organized quickly.
- We have developed an email notification to out of area property owners who may not be aware of circumstances that are or may affect their property. We ask our out of area property owners fill out our survey and keep it on record either solely or in conjunction with a tenant survey and made them aware of the web site for information.
- We have established, through our survey, an email list of all residents who have a computer and internet access. This way we can send out notices to large groups about planned burns and issues that could impact the community. This saves hours of calling or having to wait for a neighborhood meeting. One of the great challenges of rural living is how to reach residents especially in this area. This area is unique because of its location in the Rogue Valley being between two major Cities of Grants Pass & Medford. We cannot reach residents by newspaper as some take the Medford Paper, others the Grants Pass Paper and still others the Rogue River Press. We have found that the email tree helps alleviate that problem to some degree. At the very least we can email residents to go to the web site for an update.
- We have developed a coordinated road block system working with the Jackson County Sheriff. We have created procedures and have volunteers ready to establish and man a road block until the Sheriff arrives at which time they would stay and coordinate efforts for resident and or livestock evacuation efforts with the Sheriff to avoid transport vehicles being unable to get through. Also to direct traffic up either the left or right fork to the residence depending upon the location of the fire. We currently have a team of eight road block volunteers. Our goal is to maintain 8 volunteers if possible as folks go on vacation, are ill, etc...
- We are currently discussing how to help other bordering neighborhoods to get their own fire plan organized. We can do our part but if neighboring areas like Birdseye Creek or Galls Creek do not then we will be affected one way or another. We all impact on each other.

ADDITIONAL PLANNING NEEDED

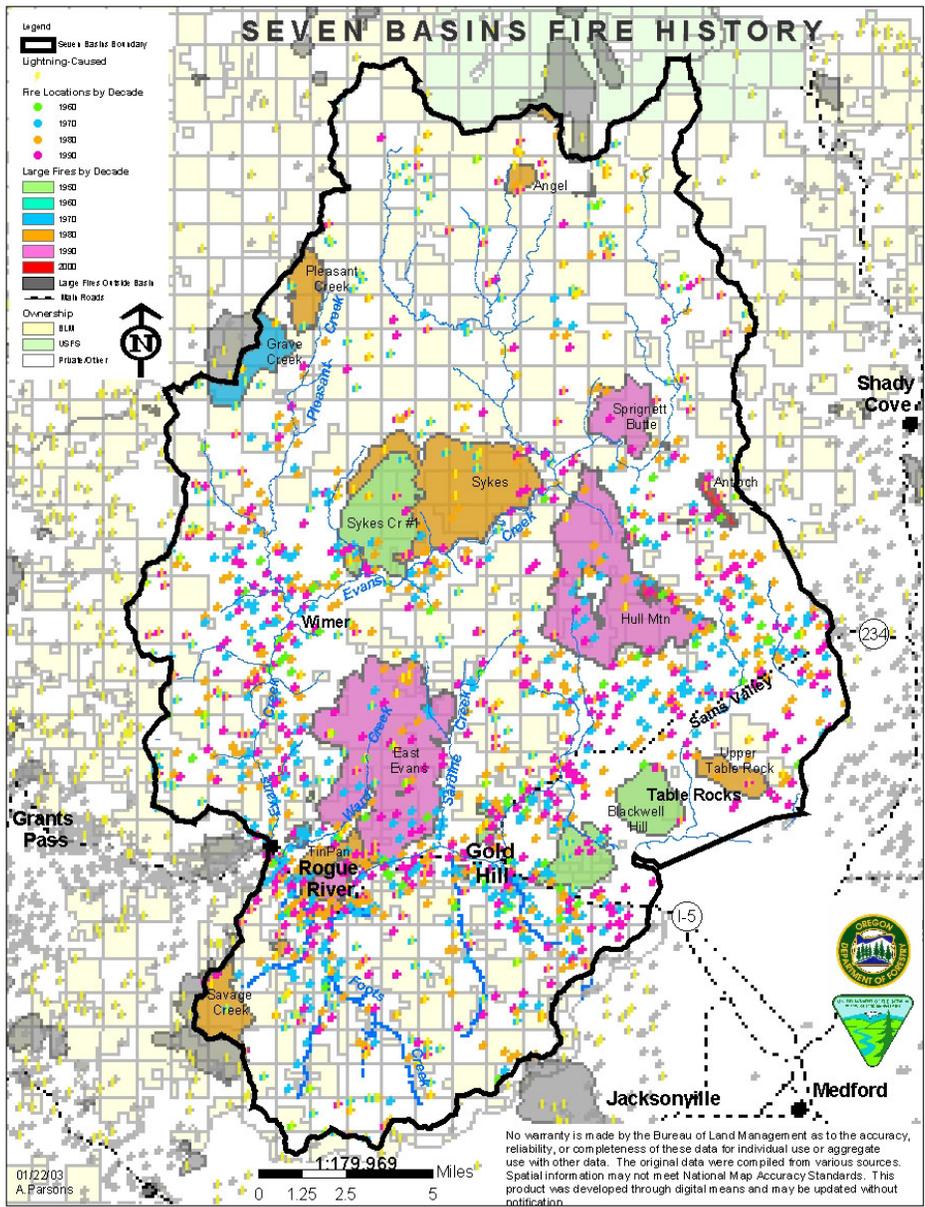
While we currently do not have a comprehensive plan for major flooding or other such emergency situations it is in our plan to address these issues. Fire is our primary concern given the history of this area. We can utilize all the information gathered through the fire planning and apply it to any emergency. There will be some specifics that will need to be worked out for other disasters such as a major earth quake or flood.

FIRE BACKGROUND AND HISTORY *Change info and maps to suit your own area.***

Fire occurrence, or the average number of fires in a specific area during a specified time, can help us understand where we need to focus our attention. For example, in the Applegate between 1970 and 1999 fire occurrence averaged about 78 fires per year. 56% of the 2,257 fires during those 29 years were human caused. The remaining 44% were started by lightning. It should be noted that the Applegate and Foothills areas are back to back and what generally affects one could affect the other. During the 2003 Foothills Fire the Foothills Dispatchers were being contacted by Applegate Area residents over their concern. Proving that we must all work together to be fire safe. From 1967 to 2003 the Foothills Area has had 83 noted fires according to the Oregon Dept. of Forestry. Of these 45% were caused by lightning strikes and 45% were caused by the human factor

including equipment fires, arson, debris burns, smoking, recreationists and juveniles. The remaining 10% are categorized as miscellaneous. Total acres burned were 97.56. On average it shows we have 2.3 fires annually in the Footh Creek area. According to the same data, the Footh Creek area has had a minimum of 1 fire a year and never had a year without a fire since 1967.

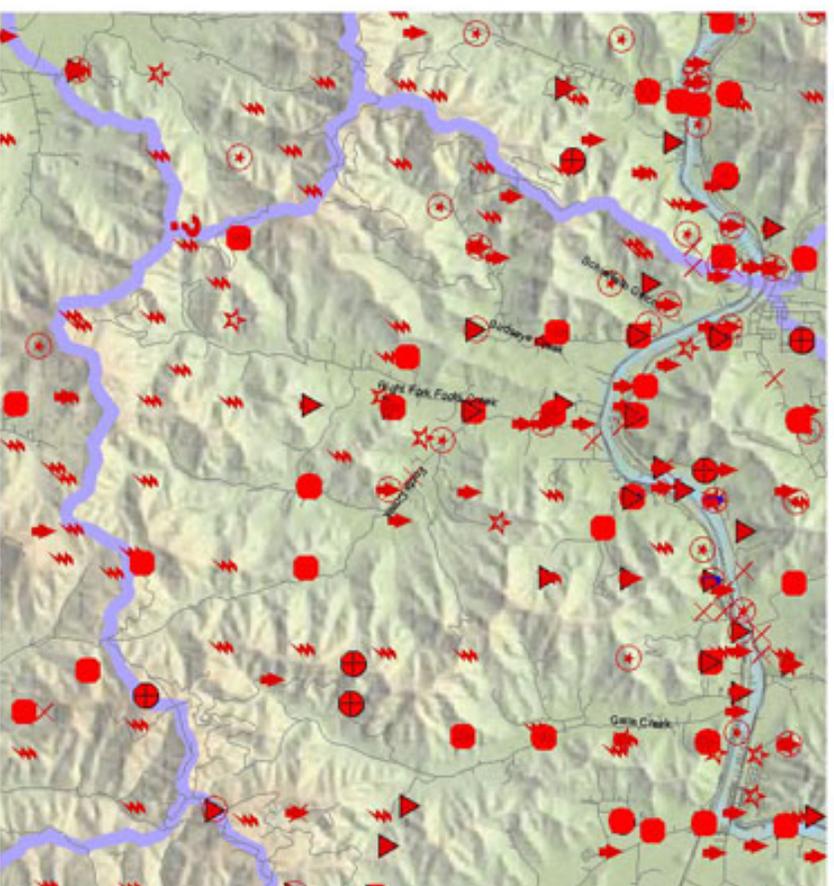
Below is a map of the Seven Basins Watershed Area showing all the fires locations, times and causes followed by a map of the Footh Creek Wildfire History from 1967 to 2003.



Foots Creek Wildfire History 1967-2003

Fires and Acres by Year

Fireyear	Count	Sum_statprot
1968	5	0.2500
1969	1	0.0500
1971	1	0.0500
1972	1	0.7500
1973	3	0.1500
1974	8	1.3500
1975	1	3.0000
1976	1	0.0000
1977	6	0.0000
1978	7	0.0000
1979	1	0.0000
1981	1	0.7000
1982	2	0.8000
1983	1	0.1000
1984	1	0.1000
1985	4	25.9000
1986	2	0.2000
1987	2	2.1000
1988	6	53.3000
1989	1	0.1000
1990	3	0.3000
1991	1	0.1000
1992	3	0.3600
1993	2	0.0200
1994	4	0.1300
1995	1	0.1000
1997	1	0.2500
1998	2	1.2500
1999	1	0.0100
2000	1	0.2500
2001	2	0.2600
2002	2	0.5100
2003	3	5.0200



Fires and Acres by General Cause Code

General	Count	Sum_statprot
1	38	80.7400
3	11	2.4700
4	1	0.0100
5	5	0.2600
6	9	3.9000
7	2	5.0100
8	10	4.7000
9	7	0.4700

- Stlrre203.shp
- (1) Lightning
- (2) Rail
- (3) Equipment
- (4) Recreationist
- (5) Smoking
- (6) Debn's Burnir
- (7) Arson
- (8) Juveniles
- (9) Miscellaneou
- Under Invest
- Orrods.shp
- Orhtwy.shp
- Wshed.shp

FIRE DISTRICTS

The _____ Area is served by the _____ Fire District. There are currently only # _____ properties on _____ that lay outside the Fire District area.

The _____ Fire & Emergency Planning Project currently encompasses all of _____ Road including all Forks of _____ & _____ .

INSURANCE HAZARD RATING *Change this to suit your own area.***

According to Fire Chief _____ the rating for the Foothills area is a mix of # 8 & #9. The rating of #8 includes any properties within the district up to 5 miles from the Fire House. This covers Foothills up to the 2100 block on both Forks. After the 2100 block the rating changes to #9 and any properties outside the Fire District are rated as #10 and are not structurally protected by the Fire Dept.

Note; some insurance companies are now using historical data rather than the rating system.

PARTNERS AND COMMITTEES

We have ongoing partnerships with the following Agencies and Groups: *List your partners here*

- The Rogue River Fire District
- The Oregon Department of Forestry
- The OSU Extension Office
- The Jackson County Sheriffs Department
- The Natural Resources Youth Core

The Foothills Fire & Emergency Planning Committee: *List your dispatchers here*

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**When an Emergency Arises
The Basic Concept of Our Emergency Communications Strategy**

In rural Southern Oregon, every emergency preparedness program emphasized the same thing: You must be prepared to be on your own for at least 72 hours in case of a local disaster such as a flood, fire, or earthquake. That’s not to say help may not arrive sooner, but if a disaster is widespread, it may take that long for sufficient resources to arrive. (Be sure to obtain a copy of your county’s emergency preparedness manual for general planning.)

You and your neighbors need to know how to respond to an emergency and how to get information. If you know these things before an emergency strikes, you’ll be better prepared to protect your life and property. To the greatest extent possible, every resident of Foothills should know what will happen in an emergency, which agencies will be responding and when, which neighbors to contact, who can

provide help and who needs help, how to get and how to give out information. One goal of Emergency Communications is to help you know these answers. Having a neighborhood plan can identify ailing neighbors, small children, valuable livestock, water sources, folks with medical training, which could greatly assist resource agencies, fire departments, the Red Cross, and you and your neighbors.

OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOME

To give affected residents more information: Knowing they will have advanced warnings and time for preparation provides residents with some peace of mind amid the anxiety.

To provide a source of information and education so residents can be pro-active about fire & emergency safety and take an active role in reducing their own risks as well as the risk to our community.

Access to Community Resources:

To provide emergency personnel with local resident information and resources as in who may need special assistance in an evacuation or require special medical assistance, which has medical training or special skills, what property provides access to rear areas, which has locked or electronic gates, and what animals/pets firefighters may encounter. Additionally to provide resource information on available heavy equipment, all local water sources as in swimming pools, ponds and or dry hydrants on their property.

To coordinate with emergency personnel / agencies to assist in an organized evacuation of residents and endangered pets and livestock. Residents on _____ Road have a wide variety of animals ranging from alligators, buffalo, llamas, cattle and horses to exotic birds, dogs, cats, snakes, miniature horses and so on. Moving these animals can be very time consuming and as we have learned, residents will not wait for an official evacuation order if they feel they are in the potential path of a fire. Working with the _____ Fire District and the Jackson County Sheriff's office is a very important part of our fire plan. We can do this by having Official Fooths Creek Fire Committee Trained personnel at any Sheriff's roadblock to coordinate with residents that may need to have horse trailers etc brought in to evacuate their animals.

Change to suit your plan...

To reduce the number of outside calls to fire command during an emergency and to help keep "rubber-neckers" out of the emergency area. In discussion with the Jackson County Sheriff and the Rogue River Fire District Chief about the 2003 Fire on Fooths Creek, we agreed that there could likely be a time lag before a Sheriff would be able to arrive on the scene to establish a road block. In which case the Fooths Creek Road Block Team (who are trained) would put up a road block as soon as possible allowing only residents, verified assistance, and emergency related vehicles through.

REPORTING A PROBLEM

REPORT ALL PROBLEMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO 911.

The interagency dispatch center is trained to determine whose jurisdiction the problem lies in and therefore who should be called for the first attack. When a problem is reported that lies within a given jurisdiction or poses a potential threat to a jurisdiction, the 911 center notifies the appropriate agencies immediately, and the agencies respond immediately. There is a great deal of jurisdictional and mutual aid overlap within our area, so it's important not to try to second guess which agency to call.

It is important to give complete and accurate information when calling in an emergency. There are many types of specialized equipment: for example, during a fire sending out the wrong equipment could be costly. For instance, don't just say, "It's a vehicle fire," let the dispatcher know if the vehicle

is still in the garage, in which case it would be considered a structure fire. Providing detailed information can greatly assist emergency personnel in developing a plan of attack prior to their arrival. You will be asked to stay on the line until the dispatcher needs no more information.

Some basic, helpful pieces of information when calling 911:

1. State the nature of the emergency
2. Location of the problem, including addresses, cross streets, and/or directions.
3. Your name, location, and your phone number.

After calling 911, notify your Foothills Area Contact Dispatcher of the situation.

Area Contact Dispatchers are as follows: *Change and add names and phone #'s*

Below The Fork (from the Market to the Fork)

- **1056 James & Janet Bond**
- **440 Scarlet Ohara**

Left Fork (All Odd # Addresses)

- **1822 Bob & Betty Boop**
- **1915 Mickey & Minnie Mouse**

Lower Right Fork (up to 2500 – Even # Addresses)

- **2082 Harry Potter**
- **2111 Indiana Jones**

Upper Right Fork (2500 and up)

- **5136 Jon Luke Picard**
- **4050 Speed and Sporty Racer**
- **2800 Luke & Laura Soap**

Hosmer Lane (All Addresses)

- **353 Data & Digit Jones**

Immediately upon notification the volunteers that are trained by the Sheriff's Department will establish a road block at _____. The intent of the road block is to prevent unauthorized persons into the hazard area. The location also gives an area for unauthorized persons to turn their vehicles around without blocking emergency vehicles. Volunteers will assist the sheriff in determining verified residents and approved and verified evacuation assistance vehicles that should be allowed to pass the road block.

EMERGENCY ROADBLOCK ASSISTANCE

During a fire/emergency residents may feel they need to either evacuate themselves or their livestock prior to an official evacuation but do not have the means to do so without assistance. Currently if they call a relative or friend to help them, that person would not be able to get through the roadblock as they are not a verified resident.

Our goal would be to have an authorized Foots Creek Committee person at the roadblock with their Dispatchers book and a cell phone to coordinate with residents and to verify that the person arriving with a horse trailer is authorized by the resident to come through the roadblock and to write down their license plate number and to what address they are going. We have created this procedure through working with the Jackson County Sheriff, the _____ Fire District Chief Ben Ramsey and Oregon Dept. of Forestry.

USING THE TELEPHONE TREE

Once established, an emergency notification system could be used in both emergency and non-emergency capacities to notify residents of:

Threatening emergencies such as wildfires and floods

Safe escape routes and safety zones to retreat to

A place to transport livestock in an emergency

Phone numbers and web sites to call or access for specific assistance related information

Notifications of changes in regulations designed to prevent fire

Notification of problems such as arson, missing children, cougar attack or any problem that the watchful eyes of the _____ residents could assist.

The system wouldn't be activated every time a problem occurs, and not everyone in the system would need to be immediately notified. It wouldn't be an informational cure-all but an easy way to possibly increase public safety.

Identified on the Telephone Tree are those with medical issues and or disabilities. This is in the Form of a red asterisk (*) next to their name. When a dispatcher sees this asterisk they can refer to the Fire Survey filled out by the resident to find out exactly what medical conditions exist and how best to assist them.

TELEPHONE TREE PROTOCOL

- 1) Check in with all Area Contact Dispatchers to coordinate information.
- 2) Make sure the Information Officer for the agency on the scene is in contact with at least one of the area Contact Dispatchers. Write down what the Information officer tells you and read it back to them to verify the information is correct. Each Area Contact Dispatchers should also write

down what you tell them and read it back to you also to verify the information is correct (this avoids getting wrong information). **Do this with all official information.**

In the event that an answering machine is reached: Leave a brief but complete message regarding the situation. Give the time, and if the person is a volunteer dispatcher, announce that you will complete this person's telephone tree obligations.

- 3) Contact traffic control volunteers and have them coordinate with Agency Information Officer for any road block – cell phone required for volunteer. Traffic congestion develops fast and can delay fire fighting equipment from reaching a fire quickly.
- 4) Divide the phone list between the two Area Contact Dispatchers for your area to quickly alert neighbors if possible. If both dispatchers are away from an area, the other dispatchers need to call those in that area after you have called your own area. The one exception to this is if the fire is located within the area where there are no available dispatchers. In that case dispatchers need to contact those residents first.
- 5) When calling residents for your area, be calm, identify yourself, let them know the type of emergency and that you will be updating them as information becomes available. Make sure they have your number so they can call you if they feel the need. Also be sure they know that there are safe areas for livestock designated on Foothills Creek as well as trailers and other equipment should they need it. Inform them they can also check the web site for emergency updates at _____ Advise that a “close-out” phone call will be made when the situation is controlled or over.
- 6) The Area Contact in communication with the Agency Info. Officer needs to set up hourly updates and then call All Area Contact Dispatchers. Be sure to have good questions prepared. Example:
 - a. Exact location of fire and closest address.
 - b. Current estimated size of fire.
 - c. Have any structures been destroyed or are threatened?
 - d. Is Air Support in route?
 - e. Will power be shut off?
 - f. Do they need any local resources? I.e. equipment, pond locations, use your book to let them know what is available as they do not have any of this information, only Area Contact Dispatchers and the Fire Chief have it.
 - g. Who is in charge of handling traffic control with the Fire District or ODF?
- 7) Identify if anyone in your area (especially anyone who may need special assistance) is close to the fire or emergency area and call them first. Determine if they might need extra time to evacuate and inform the Area Dispatcher who is in contact with the Agency Information Officer in charge, of any elderly, handicapped or ill residents near the fire/emergency location.
- 8) Call volunteer working the road block with cell phone to coordinate incoming evacuation vehicles like horse trailers etc.
- 9) Get name, vehicle description, and license plate of incoming assistance from the evacuating resident only (this insures thieves are not let thru) and give it to volunteer at road block.

- 10) If you are close to the location of the emergency/fire be sure to put the second Area Dispatcher for your area in charge as you will be working to defend your own home and not have time to for everyone else.
- 11) Be sure to advise your area residents NOT to drive to the emergency/fire area and assure them that you are communicating with the official Agency Officers in Charge and will keep them updated. Updates will keep people from jumping to the wrong conclusions.
- 12) Make certain all information you pass along is accurate. Rumors can cause emergency crews/firefighters to move equipment and manpower away from areas where it is really needed.
- 13) Actions to be considered (Note that only the Fire District or Sheriff has the authority to order an evacuation)
 - Begin initial stage of preparedness. (e.g. Fire protection, fire hoses out, animals secured) Keep phone tree available for communication.
 - Notify family members not on the property of potential hazard conditions.
- 14) Keep track of what works and what does not so we can make changes in future. We want to be efficient, organized and effective when an emergency/fire strikes our neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

It is the goal of the _____ Fire & Emergency Committee to hold between one to two neighborhood fire meetings annually for the community. The goal of these meetings is to inform residents about available programs and information that is beneficial to the resident as well as the community as a whole. To increase awareness and promote good stewardship of the land. An example of a program would be the ODF Cost Share Program for fuels reduction or information on Senate Bill 360 and how it impacts property owners and what they need to know.

We invite the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, the Rogue River Fire District, and the OSU Extension as ongoing guests. Last year (2003) we additionally invited ODOT to discuss concerns over the timing of the bridge construction projects on Foothills Creek and Seven Basins Watershed to discuss their ongoing assessment of the watershed.

COMMUNITY PROFILE *Change with your own information (taken from census)*

Foots Creek has approximately 300 homes and close to 1000 residents. Property diversity ranges from irrigated farms and ranches (EFU Zoning) to forest dwellings (WR Zoning) with residential properties in between. Our population is a largely families and retired citizens. Below are the demographics taken from the 2000 Census for the Rogue River Area based on zip code. Although we are technically Gold Hill we are approximately 8 miles to Gold Hill and 3 miles to Rogue River. Most residents consider Rogue River their town in most part because Gold Hill has so few services compared to Rogue River also Foots Creek is a part of the Rogue River School District and Rogue River Fire District. We feel these demographics reasonably compare to the Foots Creek Area.

Total population	6,794	100.0
SEX AND AGE		
Male	3,302	48.6
Female	3,492	51.4
Median age (years)	46.7	(X)
18 years and over	5,363	78.9
Male	2,552	37.6
Female	2,811	41.4
21 years and over	5,183	76.3
62 years and over	1,866	27.5
65 years and over	1,649	24.3
Male	758	11.2
Female	891	13.1
RACE		
Total population	6,794	100.0
White	6,594	97.1
Black or African American	18	0.3
American Indian and Alaska Native	163	2.4
Asian	62	0.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	14	0.2
Some other race	114	1.7

RELATIONSHIP		
Total population	6,794	100.0
In households	6,779	99.8
Householder	2,851	42.0
Spouse	1,638	24.1
Child	1,578	23.2
Own child under 18 years	1,227	18.1
Other relatives	351	5.2
Under 18 years	153	2.3
Nonrelatives	361	5.3
Unmarried partner	149	2.2
In group quarters	15	0.2
Institutionalized population	0	0.0
Noninstitutionalized population	15	0.2
HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE		
Total households	2,851	100.0
Family households (families)	1,956	68.6
With own children under 18 years	646	22.7
Married-couple family	1,638	57.5
With own children under 18 years	458	16.1
Female householder, no husband present	219	7.7
With own children under 18 years	130	4.6
Nonfamily households	895	31.4
Householder living alone	741	26.0
Householder 65 years and over	436	15.3
Households with individuals under 18 years	745	26.1
Households with individuals 65 years and over	1,162	40.8
Average household size	2.38	(X)
Average family size	2.82	(X)

HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	3,030	100.0
Occupied housing units	2,851	94.1
Vacant housing units	179	5.9
For seasonal, recreational, or occasional use	25	0.8
Homeowner vacancy rate (percent)	2.2	(X)
Rental vacancy rate (percent)	4.3	(X)
HOUSING TENURE		
Occupied housing units	2,851	100.0
Owner-occupied housing units	2,122	74.4
Renter-occupied housing units	729	25.6
Average household size of owner-occupied unit	2.39	(X)
Average household size of renter-occupied unit	2.33	(X)

Please note; The Foothills Fire & Emergency Plan is a work that will continue to evolve. This is the first draft completed in March 2004 by the Foothills Fire & Emergency Planning Committee. As we learn from this process we will be making additions, updates and changes as needed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS - The information contained in this draft was created from materials and information provided by the Oregon Dept. of Forestry, the Rogue River Fire District, the OSU Extension and the Applegate Fire Plan dated August 2002. Those of us on Foothills Creek greatly appreciate the amount of work and dedication of those persons in the Applegate who developed their plan.

Updated April 2008.