

Evacuation Preparedness

GRAND OAKS WEST OAKS DISCUSSION

8 JUNE 2021



Introduction

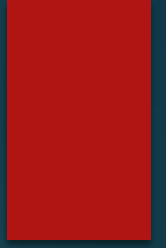


Tonight's Discussion

- ▶ **THANK YOU!** This is one step in the process of getting our community better prepared!
- ▶ Questions in Chat
- ▶ Mute your speaker and video
 - ▶ Unmute if you have a question to discuss
- ▶ Be Respectful of Others



Purpose



- ✓ Enhance your knowledge of local wildfire risks
- ✓ Share knowledge of the evacuation process
- ✓ Address any of your concerns
- ✓ Share some resource links to help you learn

Historical Causes Statewide

- Human Caused (97% per NIFC)
- Downed Power Lines
- Easterly Winds
- Lightning Strikes
- Factors in Red Flag days

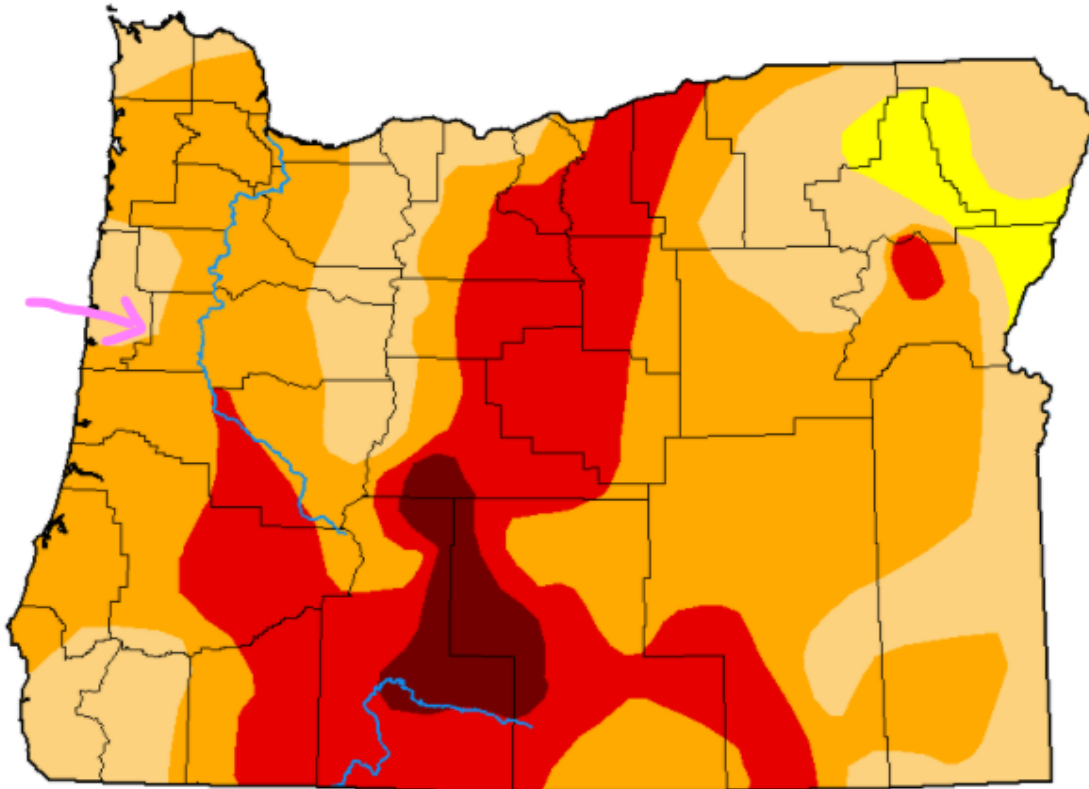


Last year by the numbers (ODF):

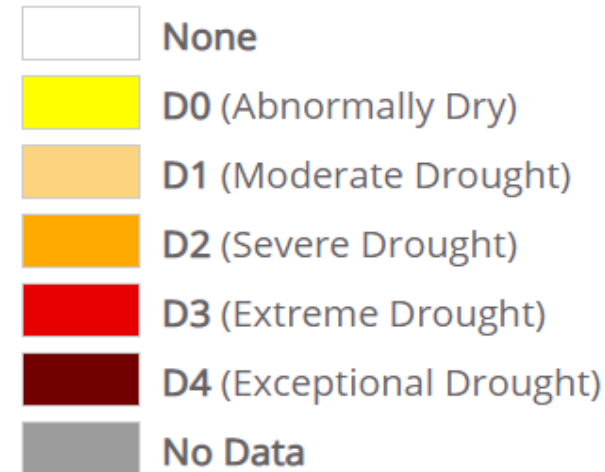
Category	ACRES	FIRES	COSTS
Debris Burning	145	181	\$344,869
Equipment Use	761	160	\$4,397,000
Recreation	191	126	\$799,353
Smoking	994	39	\$4,601,168
Juveniles	6	13	\$22,277
Misc	53	104	\$234,312
Unknown	506,362	39	\$37,357,528
Arson	667	47	\$8,458,700
Totals	509,179	709	\$56,215,207

**Map released: Thurs. May 27,
2021**

Data valid: May 25, 2021 at 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity



Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

Adam Hartman, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

Ahira Sanchez-Lugo, NOAA/NCEI

Red Flag Warning

What is it?

- ▶ Warning issued by National Weather Service
- ▶ Factors: Increased temperatures, Low relative humidity, low dew point, Dry fuels, dry lightning, and elevated winds (15+ MPH)
- ▶ Already issued - 04/15/21 (earliest in years)
- ▶ Trigger for Power Safety Power shutoff



Red Flag Warning Days - DO/DON'T!

DO

- ▶ Follow all local fire restrictions/burn bans
- ▶ Check preparedness plans
 - ▶ People
 - ▶ Pets
 - ▶ Trailers
 - ▶ Communications
 - ▶ Reunification
- ▶ Check-in with neighbors
- ▶ Water down yards, roof
 - ▶ Check gutters
- ▶ Call 911 if you see an unsafe condition (unattended fire)
- ▶ Stay tuned in to public/social media/NWS

DONT

- ▶ Vehicles in vegetation
- ▶ Smoking materials
- ▶ Trailers dragging chains
- ▶ Use your outdoor shooting range

CALL THE CFD BURN LINE AT 541-766-6971

Public Safety Power Shutoff

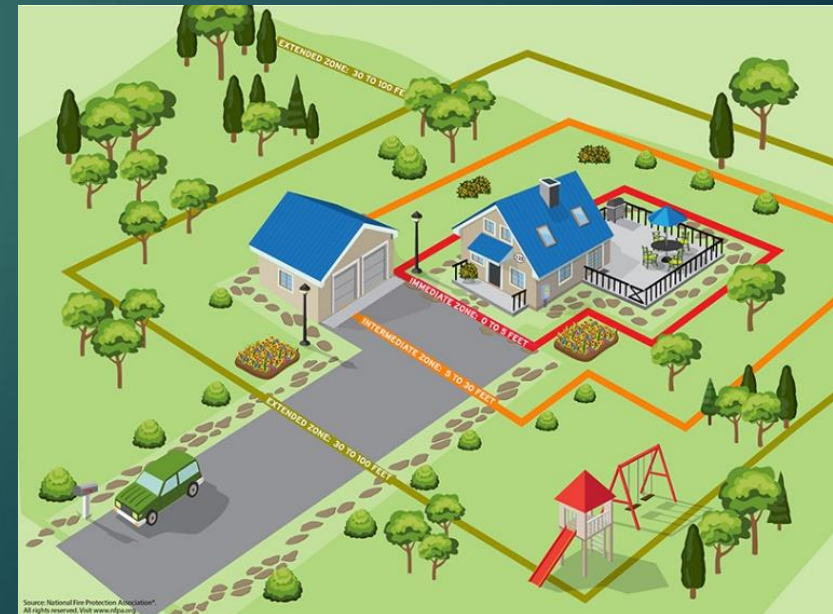


- ▶ Policy that allows Public Utilities to shut off power when there is significant danger of fire in a specified area
- ▶ In Oregon, this will be managed by the Public Utilities Commission
 - ▶ Policy Currently working its way through the approval process
 - ▶ Statewide working groups this month with a wide variety of agencies
 - ▶ In place before “Fire Season”
- ▶ PSPS OPUC Working Group Kickoff 15 June

Risk assessment

- ▶ Vulnerability of homes to ember, surface fire, and crown fire
- ▶ General condition of structures themselves
- ▶ Immediate hazards within the home ignition zone on individual properties
- ▶ Concerns presented by common/open space areas or adjacent public lands
 - ▶ Structural characteristics
 - ▶ Vegetation types
 - ▶ Slope and aspect
 - ▶ Housing density

CFD Rural Station 6 – LT Will Kalenius
William.Kalenius@corvallisoregon.gov
541-766-6476





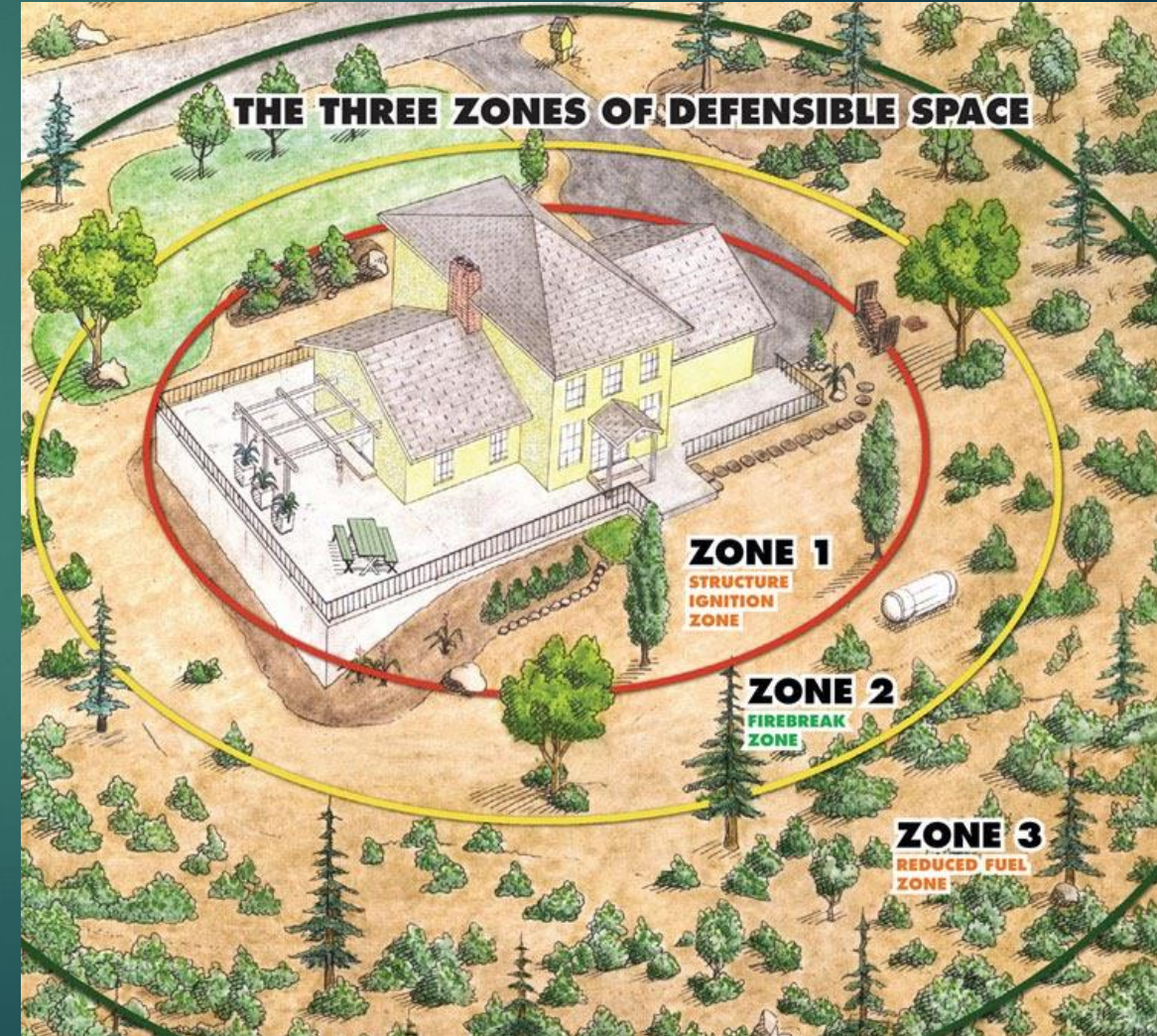
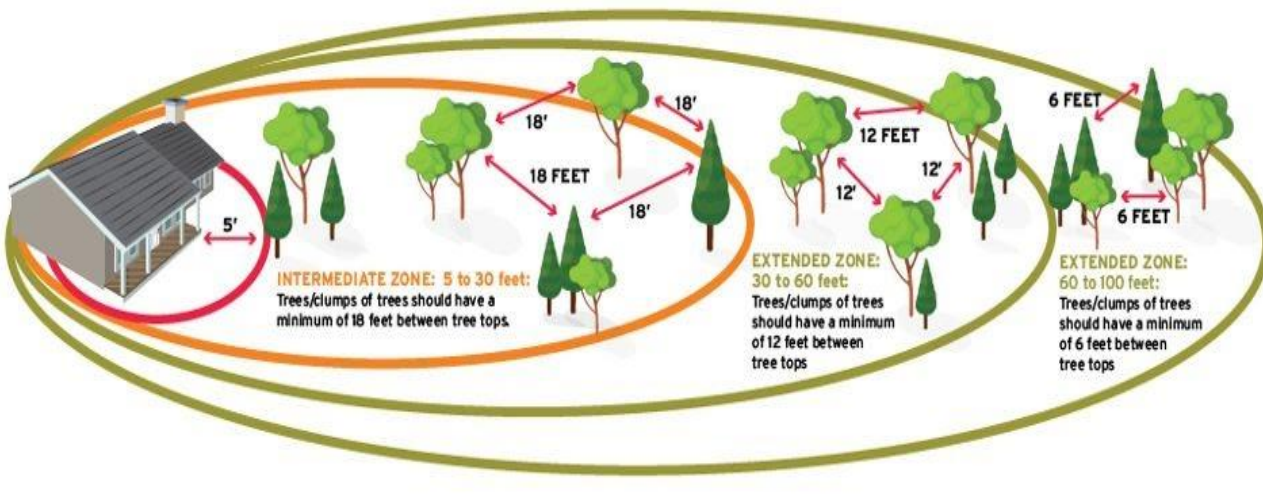
FIREWISE USA[®]
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

- ▶ Program run by National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
- ▶ Goal- Create ignition-resistant communities
 - ▶ The program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and act now to prevent losses.
 - ▶ Mitigation funding grants tied to Firewise USA communities (e.g. chipper)
 - ▶ Develop an organizational structure for communicating in the neighborhood

Defensible Space

- ▶ Zone 1: Ember-resistant Zone (0-5 ft)
- ▶ Zone 2: Lean, Clean, and Green (5-30ft)
- ▶ Zone 3 Reduce Fuels Zone (30-100ft)
- ▶ Your Best Defense at Home
- ▶ Urban and Rural can be affected!

TREE SPACING



EM 9103 - February 2015

Fire-resistant Landscape Plants for the Willamette Valley

Brooke Edmunds ■ Barb Fick ■ Paula Rogers Lupcho



Oregon State
UNIVERSITY Extension
Service



FIRE-RESISTANT PLANTS FOR HOME LANDSCAPES

*Selecting plants that may reduce
your risk from wildfire*



Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

- ▶ Monitors around the state
- ▶ Sets a AQI number and particulate risk
- ▶ “OregonAIR” App
- ▶ Keep those masks!



Air Quality Index Levels of Health Concern	Numerical Value	Meaning
Good	0 to 50	Air quality is considered satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable; however, for some pollutants there may be a moderate health concern for a very small number of people who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is not likely to be affected.
Unhealthy	151 to 200	Everyone may begin to experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
Very Unhealthy	201 to 300	Health warnings of emergency conditions. The entire population is more likely to be affected.
Hazardous	301 to 500	Health alert: everyone may experience more serious health effects.

6 Steps to Financial Preparedness

- ▶ Do not succumb to normalcy bias
- ▶ Use insurance to plan for Recovery
- ▶ Review your insurance coverage now
- ▶ Keep an inventory – video, photos, database
- ▶ Go Kit should contain copies of important documents
 - ▶ Wills, Power of Attorney, Titles/Deeds, birth certificates, licenses...
 - ▶ Thumb drive
- ▶ [READY.GOV](https://www.ready.gov) Financial Preparedness

Mass Notification

- ▶ Linn-Benton ALERT (Everbridge)
www.co.benton.or.us/preparedness/page/emergency-alert
 - ▶ 541-766-6864
- ▶ Corvallis ALERT (Nixle)
 - ▶ Text CORVALLIS to *888777
- ▶ OR Alert - **in progress – No action required**



Mass Notification Systems

▶ Linn-Benton ALERT

- ▶ Landline and mobile numbers
- ▶ Opt in profiles (phone, text, and email)
- ▶ Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA)

▶ Corvallis ALERT

- ▶ NIXLE
- ▶ Primarily text based
- ▶ Opt in (text CORVALLIS to *888777)

• EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM (EAS)

- LOCAL RADIO STATIONS AND TV

• FLASH ALERT

- MEDIA RELEASES

• NOAA WEATHER ALERT

- ADVERSE WEATHER ALERTS AND FIRE WEATHER ALERTS

• SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS

- FACEBOOK, TWITTER, INSTAGRAM, NEXTDOOR, ETC. ***



DURING A WILDFIRE BE READY, BE SET, GO!



Your local law enforcement agency orders evacuations. If you feel threatened by a wildfire, do not wait for an official evacuation order. There are three levels of evacuation:

LEVEL 1 **BE READY:**

Prepare, monitor, and pack your valuables.

LEVEL 2 **BE SET:**

Be set to evacuate at a moment's notice.

LEVEL 3 **GO:**

Leave immediately!

#BelieveInFireSafety

Exercise Will Be Discussed after this!

Evacuation Level 1

- ▶ *“Be Ready”*
- ▶ *Review your Go Kits, Evacuation, Pet, Communication & Reunification Plans... Pack it up and stage vehicles*
- ▶ **Final Approved Oregon State Evacuation Levels June, 2014**



Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information.

This is the time for preparation and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock.

If conditions worsen, emergency services personnel may contact you via an emergency notification system.

Evacuation - **Level 2**

- ▶ **“Be Set”** Be Set to Evacuate
 - ▶ Have supplies together and in the vehicle
 - ▶ **Leave now if you can**
 - ▶ **THIS MAY BE THE ONLY NOTICE YOU RECEIVE**

- ▶ **YOU MUST PREPARE TO LEAVE AT A MOMENTS NOTICE**

This level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice.

Residents *MAY* have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at their own risk.



Evacuation - **Level 3**

- ▶ **“GO!”** Evacuate now. Imminent threat to public safety
 - ▶ **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY!**
- ▶ Danger to your area is current or imminent, and you should evacuate immediately. If you choose to ignore this advisement, you must understand that emergency services may not be available to assist you further. **DO NOT** delay leaving to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home.
- ▶ **THIS WILL BE THE LAST NOTICE THAT YOU RECEIVE** – Next of Kin notification
- ▶ Area radio and TV stations have been asked to broadcast periodic updates.

Public Safety Agencies will not pre-publish evacuation routes.

Entry to evacuated areas may be denied until conditions are safe.



How you can help NOW

- ▶ **Plan NOW – Prepare checklist style plans - Portable**
 - ▶ Directly relates to reduced stress during
- ▶ **Identify Multiple routes – North, South, East, West**
 - ▶ Knowing all options and routes that you may not normally travel are essential
 - ▶ Identify locations that you could relocate to if a clear path is open
 - ▶ Relatives, Friends, Hotels, Campgrounds, in safe areas
- ▶ **Grand Oaks roads**
 - ▶ What roads create the most problems now?
 - ▶ Can you plan around them? Are there alternatives?
 - ▶ Surface Roads that are open are always your best option!

How you can help with your home

- ▶ Leave lights on – visibility
- ▶ Turn off propane/natural gas – My Opinion
- ▶ Identification of evacuated/need help – Responders will still survey
- ▶ Doors closed but unlocked
- ▶ AC OFF
- ▶ Power on
- ▶ Vehicles to open area – lawn
- ▶ Gas Tank > Half full



How you can help when leaving

- ▶ Stay calm
- ▶ Be patient
- ▶ Drive safe and slow, LIGHTS ON
- ▶ Check on neighbors if situation permits
- ▶ Call 911 if there is a situation that needs responder support
- ▶ Do NOT block roadways or driveways with parked vehicles
- ▶ Cell phone on and charged
- ▶ Monitor Benton County website when appropriate
- ▶ Call Benton Phone Bank for info – 541-766-6120

Pet evacuation and preparedness

- ▶ **Build a Pet go-bag**
 - ▶ Licenses, collar, leash, carriers, food, water bowl, blankets, meds, toys, etc.
- ▶ **Make a plan that encompasses all of them**
- ▶ **Leave early (especially with large animals)**



Where will you go?

- ▶ **Highly individualized based on needs of your household**
- ▶ **The situation will determine your final destination**
 - ▶ **Plans with options is the most effective approach**
- ▶ **Temporary Evacuation Point or Resource Center**
 - ▶ **Identified as an option via mass notification – Linn Benton Alert**
 - ▶ **Site that is safe**
 - ▶ **Basic information**
 - ▶ **Resource coordination/connections**
 - ▶ **Supplies as appropriate**

If you cannot go...

- ▶ Wet down outside – Go and Stay inside
- ▶ Call 911 for assistance
- ▶ Turn on all exterior lights
- ▶ Stay away from windows and move to an interior room or hallway
- ▶ Turn off ventilation systems
- ▶ Do not attempt to leave until after the fire has passed
- ▶ Check for small fires inside the house and extinguish them
- ▶ Drink plenty of water
- ▶ Make sure you can exit the house if it catches fire
- ▶ Fill sinks and tubs with water
- ▶ Place wet rags under doors and other openings to prevent entry of embers and smoke

RECOVERY

- ▶ **Mentally**
 - ▶ Mental Health
- ▶ **Damage Assessment**
 - ▶ Identify damages to infrastructure, property, and environment
- ▶ **Debris Management**
 - ▶ Notice of re-entry
 - ▶ Removal of hazardous materials
- ▶ **Rebuilding**
 - ▶ Permitting and reconstruction requirements

What can you do?

- ▶ Register for mass notification systems
- ▶ Have supplies ready to go including important documents
- ▶ Have a plan (where to go and when)
- ▶ Create Defensible space around your home
- ▶ Promote and Participate in Firewise activities
- ▶ Network with neighbors
- ▶ Prepare mentally and “culturally”
- ▶ **PRACTICE IT!** Plans that aren't tested are not plans but theories

Evacuation Exercise

19 June 9am-12pm

- ▶ Be Ready Alert 18 June – reminder
- ▶ Be Set Alert 19 June – Get Set
- ▶ GO Alert – Different for each neighborhood
 - ▶ Identifies a Resource Center for you to check-in at
 - ▶ Check-in Survey to identify key data points for to learn from
 - ▶ No long discussions, questions or feedback to Lead Planners, answered 29 June
 - ▶ Feedback for Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) on Alert language effectiveness
- ▶ This is your opportunity to walk-through an evacuation in a safe learning environment. See what works, what doesn't, and where you need to improve.
- ▶ We are doing the same thing!

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING TONIGHT!

Dave Busby

Corvallis Fire Emergency Planning
Manager

Dave.busby@corvallisoregon.gov

541-745-9609 – Cell

541-766-6527 - Work

