



Lincoln County Wildfire Readiness

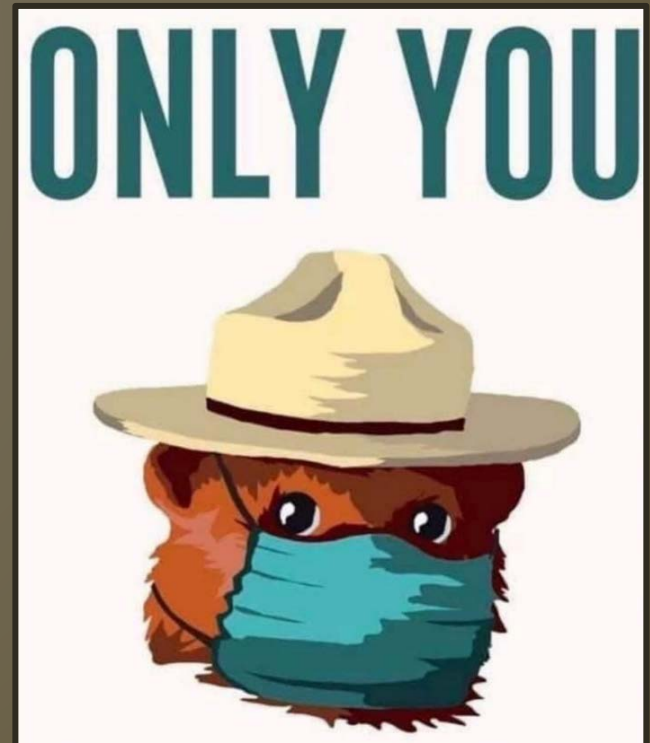


Module 8: Wildfire Response -
Cautionary Re-Entry

2021 – Lincoln County Public Safety Agencies have separated our wildfire readiness presentation into 8 individual modules. Virtual presentations will be conducted and recorded May – June and will be posted to the County wildfire readiness website for viewing at any time.

The following slides are intended to be used as a self learning guide. The slides have links to additional local, state, federal resource information.

If you have questions, feel free to reach out to any of the agencies represented in this presentation.



Module 8: Wildfire Response – Cautionary Re-Entry



Section Overview

- A. Administrative Brief and Sponsors
- B. Cautionary Re-Entry – What to Expect
- C. Returning Home Precautions - After A Wildfire
- D. Damage Assessment/Clean-Up
- E. Flood Risk After Fire
- F. Coping with Disaster or Traumatic Event
- G. Additional Resources
- H. Questions

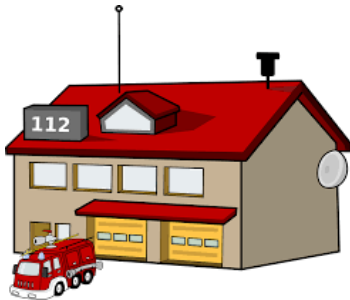


Section A: Administrative Brief and Sponsors



Wildfire Advocates

Local government, public safety, utilities, healthcare providers and volunteer groups have an advocacy role to ensure their agencies and our communities are prepared for, know how to respond to and recover from wildfire events.



Community Presentation Sponsors



"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Lincoln County



American Red Cross

Our objective!

Strengthening your knowledge of our local wildfire risk and your role in preparedness, response and recovery.



Section B: Cautionary Re-Entry – What to Expect?



After the Fire!

Returning to Normal

FA-46/June 2016



FEMA

What's Happening Behind The Roadblock?

- **Security Protection:** Local Law Enforcement securing the burn area to restrict access for safety and security
- **Animal Services:** Working to identify remaining animals that need to be evacuated for medical treatment and/or shelter in place resources for food and water until Survivors can return
- **Damage Assessments:** Critical to access federal resources (FEMA Funding) for Survivors and safety for those returning
- **Utility Restoration:** Providers working to mitigate further damage, clearing of roads, decreasing hazards so Survivors can return to their properties
- **Cautionary Re-Entry Planning:** Establishing process to allow Survivors to return separately from the general public

What to Expect?

- **Categories of Returning Survivors** – Those With:
 - Destroyed homes/businesses/structures (properties)
 - Damaged properties – homes uninhabitable
 - Affected but habitable
 - No damage but in the burn scar area
- You **may not know which category** of Survivor you are until you return home
- **Do not attempt to return** to your property **until Public Safety Officials** give the go ahead
- It **may take several days or even weeks** until you are able to access your property again
- **Small neighborhood areas may be allowed back at different intervals** – one neighborhood today another tomorrow
- You may only **be allowed access** to your property **for a few hours** at a time until all roads and utility hazards have been cleared

What to Expect?

- Staying Informed!

- Notification of Cautionary Re-Entry
 - **Emergency Notification Systems** – communications to affected area of cautionary re-entry plans (validate your email is in your notification opt-in profile so you can receive full details)
 - **Website** - County Emergency Management **primary**
 - **Call Center** – will have up to date information for Survivors
 - **Social Media** – It is likely a new Facebook page will be created specific to this fire
 - **Local Media** – will be kept informed of updates and requested to share information frequently on public sites/radios

What to Expect?

- Physical Environment

- **Unstable or affected driveways, culverts, bridges, hillsides**
- **Limited or no power service**
 - If home survived – expect refrigerator and freezer damage due to lack of power
- **Damaged septic tanks**
- **Damaged water systems** or connections to public/private water systems
- **Vulnerable or high-risk trees** – could greatly limit access to your home, structures or property in general
- **Continued smoldering** of tree's buildings or underground hot spots
- **Poor air quality** due to lingering smokey conditions
- **Hazardous or toxic residue** due to mixture of burned items

What to Expect?

- Shock and Stress Reactions

- **Emotional disbelief by surrounding communities** that this fire has occurred in their area
- **Inundation by members of the public wanting to “see” the affects of the fire**
 - **Public Safety Officials will try to limit access** to the area as long as possible to allow Survivor's time to acknowledge how they have been affected, assess the status of their property, retrieve deceased pets/livestock
- The emotional toll to the Survivors will be in different phases based on their level of damage, impact and others they know who are affected. It will be **challenging for Survivors to isolate themselves from the public at large** – many mean well and want to help but it will be an overwhelming emotional response.

Video: Returning Home After Wildfire



RETURNING HOME AFTER A WILDFIRE

CalFire Post Fire 30

Watch later Share

MORE VIDEOS

Learn more at [ReadyForWildfire.org](https://www.readyforwildfire.org)

0:02 / 0:30

CC Settings YouTube

The video player shows an illustration of a red SUV with a yellow box on the roof, parked in front of a white house with an orange door. The background is a landscape with several bare, black trees and a few green evergreens. The sky is a muted, greyish-brown color. The video player interface includes a play button, a volume icon, a progress bar, and a 'Learn more at ReadyForWildfire.org' link. The YouTube logo and settings icons are also visible.

Section C:

Returning Home Precautions - After A Wildfire

RETURNING HOME AFTER A **WILDFIRE**



*Once a wildfire has burned through
an area, many dangers may remain.*

*Follow these precautions when
returning home.*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
COOPERATION.**



Cautionary Re-Entry

- Only those with listed residential or business addresses will be allowed back in.
- Protection of valuables and safety of residents and responders.
- Hazardous material conditions may exist.



Cautionary Re – Entry Notice

A Cautionary Re-Entry Notice Has Been Issued For The Area Of

[enter neighborhood reference information]

Lincoln County Sheriff's Office has issued a **Cautionary Re-Entry Notice**. Property Owners and Renters are allowed back into the downgraded area; you may be asked to present proof of residency/property ownership at the road checkpoints.

Properties Where the Fire DID NOT Burn Through:

- Conduct a full inspection of all buildings and property as well as the areas adjacent to your property.
- If you suspect or witness an actual fire call 911; if you identify a threat for a potential fire call the non-emergency number to report it (see below).

Properties Where the Fire DID Burn Through: Once a wildfire has burned through an area, many dangers may remain; follow these precautions when returning to your property.

Safety Check the Exterior of Your Property First, Check for:

- Trees and poles with deep charring, particularly if still smoldering, this should be considered hazardous.
- Smoldering holes in the ground can be full of hot coals and white ash is evidence of hot material.

Safety Check Inside Your Home, Business or Outbuildings:

- Embers: Check for embers in the attics or vents of your buildings and in surrounding landscaping.
- Utilities: Check all utility meters/connection boxes before restoring any services; if you view any damage notify the utility company (gas, power, water, phone, tv); turn off appliances before turning power back on to the structure.

Damage Assessment – Documentation: If there is damage to your property or buildings:

- Take pictures of their current condition before you begin any recovery efforts.
- Create a detailed inventory of damages.
- Contact your insurance agent to let them know of damages; these damages may not be covered by traditional home owners insurance.

Recovery Assistance & Damage Assessment:

Public Information Call Center - 541-265-0621,
www.co.lincoln.or.us, email

Non-Emergency Dispatch:

Toledo 541-336-5555,
Lincoln City 541-994-3636,
all other areas of Lincoln County 541-265-0777

Returning Home Resource



WHEN DRIVING TO YOUR PROPERTY CHECK FOR:

- Trees, brush, and rocks which may be weakened or loosened by fire.

Trees and brush weakened by fire may lose limbs or fall.

Rocks loosened by fire may roll and crumble. If rocks have rolled down a slope expect more to follow.
- Debris or damage from fire on roads and driveways.
- Debris on the road near your home and in your driveway.

Clearing the debris to the edge of your driveway and removing it later will help keep your home safe from fire.
- Utility poles weakened by fire.



AT YOUR PROPERTY, CHECK FOR FIRE OR FIRE DAMAGE

- Hot embers in rain gutters, on the roof and under overhangs.
- Hot embers under decks and in crawl spaces.
- Hot embers in wood piles, debris piles and lawns.
- If well or pump-house is in working order.
- If your electrical service has not been interrupted you may continue to use your power for such things as pumping water, etc.

IF YOUR SERVICES ARE OFF, CHECK FOR BURNED SERVICE EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES:

- Is there damage to the gas meter, gas lines, or propane tank? If there is **ANY** visible damage **DO NOT** attempt to repair or turn on these services. Call your local propane company or utility.
- Look at the electric meter. If there is any visible damage **DO NOT ATTEMPT** to turn the breaker on.
- If there are electrical wires on the ground **STAY CLEAR** and contact your local utility immediately.



WHEN DRIVING TO YOUR PROPERTY CHECK FOR:

- Trees, brush, and rocks which may be weakened or loosened by fire.

Trees and brush weakened by fire may lose limbs or fall.

Rocks loosened by fire may roll and crumble. If rocks have rolled down a slope expect more to follow.

- Debris or damage from fire on roads and driveways.

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Clearing the debris to the edge of your driveway and removing it later will help keep your home safe from fire.

- Utility poles weakened by fire.



Driving To Your Property

AT YOUR PROPERTY, CHECK FOR FIRE OR FIRE DAMAGE



- Hot embers in rain gutters, on the roof and under overhangs.
- Hot embers under decks and in crawl spaces.
- Hot embers in wood piles, debris piles and lawns.
- If well or pump-house is in working order.
- If your electrical service has not been interrupted you may continue to use your power for such things as pumping water, etc.



Check For Fire Damage

- Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smoldering debris, and live embers.
- The ground may contain heat pockets that can burn you or spark another fire.
- Use appropriate masks or respirators while touring the area.

IF YOUR SERVICES ARE OFF, CHECK FOR BURNED SERVICE EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES:

- Is there damage to the gas meter, gas lines, or propane tank? If there is **ANY** visible damage **DO NOT** attempt to repair or turn on these services. Call your local propane company or utility.
- Look at the electric meter. If there is any visible damage **DO NOT ATTEMPT** to turn the breaker on.
- If there are electrical wires on the ground **STAY CLEAR** and contact your local utility immediately.



Utilities Check

WHEN YOU HAVE SECURED SAFETY OUTSIDE YOUR HOME, CHECK INSIDE FOR FIRE OR FIRE DAMAGE

- Embers in the attic, which may have entered through vents.
- If electricity is off, before turning it on, make sure all appliances are turned off. Once you are sure all appliances are turned off, there is no fire damage to your building and the meter does not have any visible damage you may turn on the main circuit breaker.
- Check if the phone is working.
- Check if security system and alarms are working.
- Use flashlights to help inspect your home and surrounding area.

AFTER CHECKING YOUR PROPERTY CONTINUE TO USE CAUTION AND NOTE OUTDOOR CONDITIONS:

- Trees & poles with deep charring, particularly if still smoking should be considered hazardous.
- Smoldering holes in the ground can be full of hot coals.
- White ash is evidence of hot material

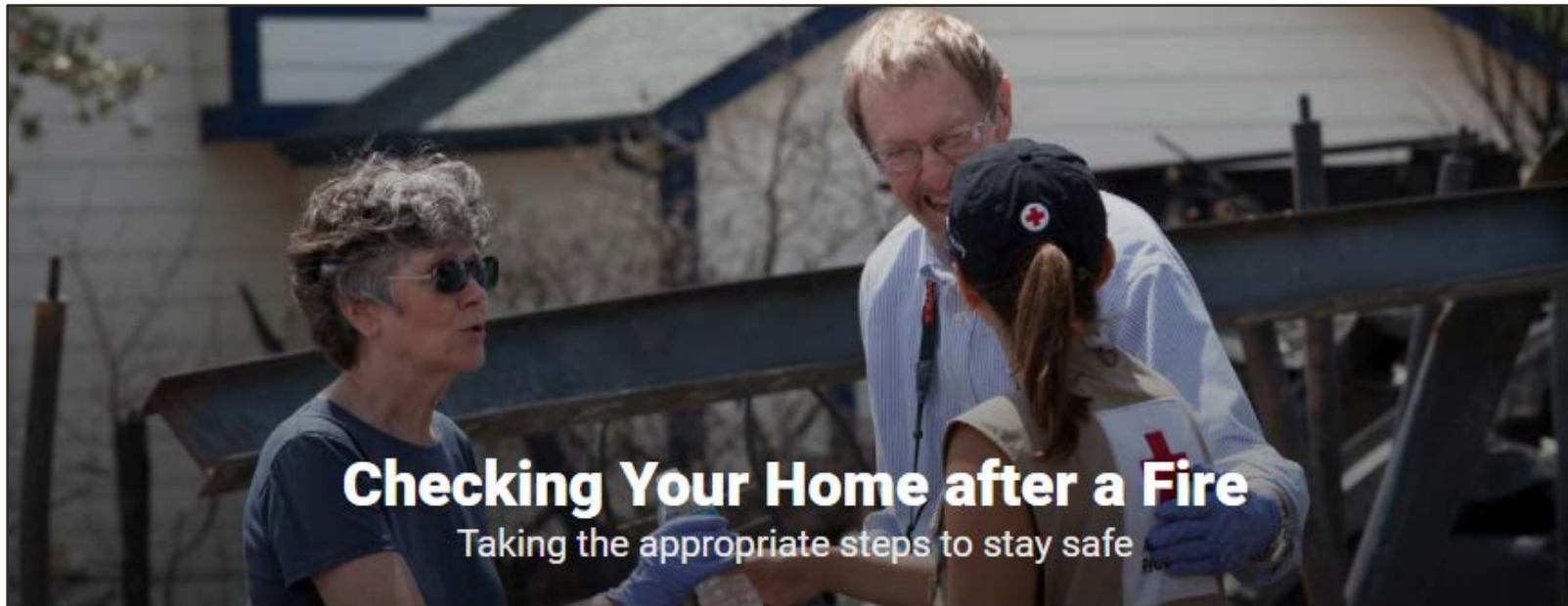


Assessment Inside the Home & Continued Caution

Red Cross



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Red Cross



Checking Your Home after a Fire

Taking the appropriate steps to stay safe



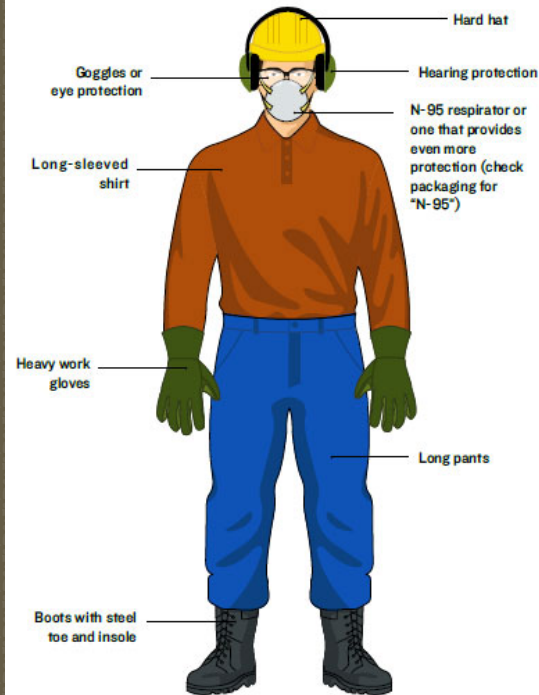
Need Help Now?

If you need help after a home fire, [please contact your local Red Cross](#) »

Section D:

Damage Assessment and Clean Up

WHAT TO WEAR WHEN CLEANING UP DEBRIS AND HOUSEHOLD WASTE AFTER A DISASTER



CAUTION!

- Protect wounds and cuts with waterproof bandage.
- Avoid heat stress by taking frequent breaks and drinking safe water.
- Cleaning up sewage? Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, and goggles.
- Be aware of your surroundings-avoid electrical lines, insects, wild or stray animals, and long periods under the sun.
- Wash your hands with soap and water before eating. If water is not available, use hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol).



MORE INFORMATION ON CLEAN UP:
www.cdc.gov/disasters/cleanup/facts.html

Damage Assessment, Assistance

- Document property damage with photographs.
- Conduct an inventory and contact your insurance company for directions on how to report your losses.
- Participate in local damage assessment process – they are working to obtain Federal declaration status to access FEMA financial assistance for Survivors.

From Oregon Department of Financial Regulation – Consumer and Business Services

- If you file a claim with your insurance company, your insurer may require a damage inspection before you start repairs. Try to prevent further damage or theft by making temporary repairs, save receipts for temporary work, and check with your insurance company before beginning repairs.
- Do not get rid of anything that is damaged until your insurance company has seen it and said you can toss it out.
- One of the most daunting tasks of the claim process can be filling out an inventory of your damaged personal items. Your insurance company needs this to document the personal property that is damaged or destroyed. Take your time; you do not need to give every item to your adjuster at once. Just make sure to ask how long you have to submit your list.
 - Prepare a list that includes the item, the age, the approximate original cost, and the approximate replacement cost.
 - Do not dispose of the damaged items until your adjuster can view them. Take photos of the damaged items yourself.

Red Cross



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Cleaning Up After a Fire



Need Help Now?

If you need help after a home fire, [please contact your local Red Cross](#) »

Cleaning Up After A Fire

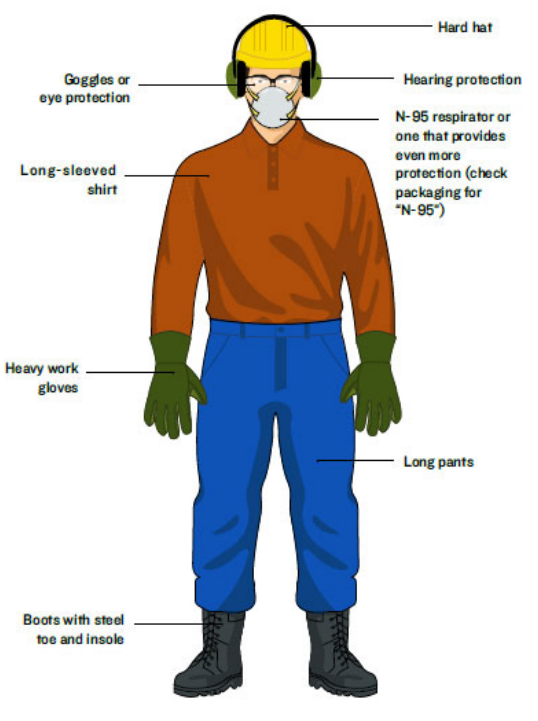
- Personal Safety is a priority when beginning the clean up process. The area is considered a hazardous site especially if there if the property/structures were burned. There could be hazardous ash and heavy metals present in the burn materials.
- When cleaning, wear protective clothing, including a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, work gloves, appropriate cloth face coverings or masks, and sturdy thick-soled shoes during clean-up efforts.
- Use appropriate masks or respirators.
- When cleaning up ash, use a respirator to limit your exposure and wet debris to minimize breathing dust particles

Cleaning Up After A Fire

- People with asthma and/or other lung conditions should take precautions in areas with poor air quality, as it can worsen symptoms. Children should not help with clean-up efforts.
- Pay attention to any health symptoms if you or your children have asthma, COPD, heart disease, or are pregnant. Get to medical help if you need it.

WHAT TO WEAR


WHEN CLEANING UP DEBRIS AND HOUSEHOLD WASTE
AFTER A DISASTER



The illustration shows a person from the waist up, wearing a yellow hard hat, green hearing protection, and a white N-95 respirator. They are wearing a brown long-sleeved shirt, blue long pants, and green heavy work gloves. They are also wearing black boots with steel toe and insole. Labels with lines pointing to each item are: Hard hat, Hearing protection, N-95 respirator or one that provides even more protection (check packaging for "N-95"), Long pants, Heavy work gloves, Boots with steel toe and insole, Long-sleeved shirt, and Goggles or eye protection.

CAUTION!

- Protect wounds and cuts with waterproof bandage.
- Avoid heat stress by taking frequent breaks and drinking safe water.
- Cleaning up sewage? Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, and goggles.
- Be aware of your surroundings- avoid electrical lines, insects, wild or stray animals, and long periods under the sun.
- Wash your hands with soap and water before eating. If water is not available, use hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol).

 MORE INFORMATION ON CLEAN UP:
www.cdc.gov/disasters/cleanup/facts.html

Section D:

Flood Risk After Fire

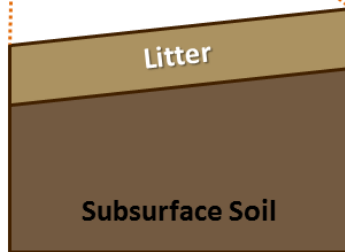
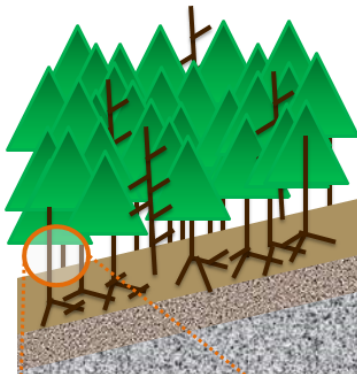


Burn Scars – Flood Risk

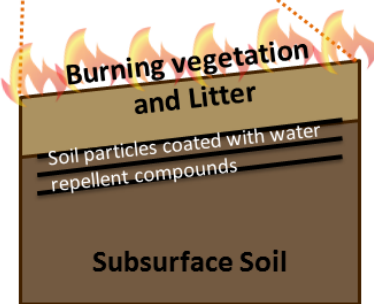


Wildfire Burn Scars are a Flood Risk

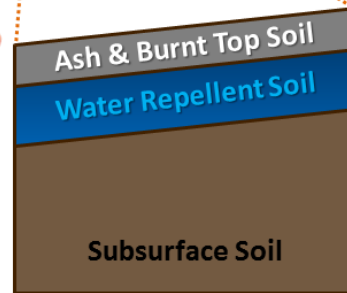
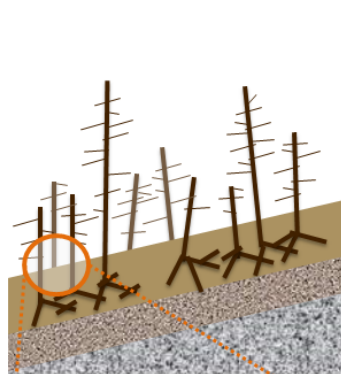
Before Fire



During Fire



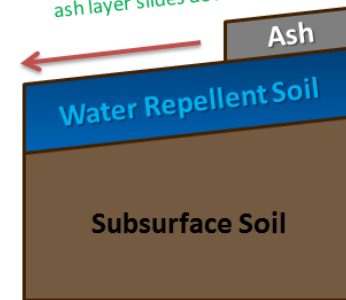
After Fire



During Heavy Rain



Top layer becomes saturated, ash layer slides downhill



Water cannot penetrate water repellent soil layer, so it runs off like pavement which causes dangerous:

Flash Flooding
Mud & Debris Flows
Mudslides



Litter: organic material such as needles, leaves, grass, brush, bark.

Water Repellent Soils: formed when organic material such as trees, scrubs, plants and litter burn at high intensity, water repellent compounds are vaporized, and condense on cooler soil layers below, which prevents soil from absorbing water.

FLOOD AFTER FIRE

Did you know that wildfires dramatically alter the terrain and increase the risk of floods?

Reduce your risk.
The time to buy flood insurance is now.

Contact your local insurance agent for more information or visit the National Flood Insurance Program at www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program



During normal conditions, vegetation helps absorb rainwater.



But after an intense wildfire, burned vegetation and charred soil form a water repellent layer, blocking water absorption.



During the next rainfall, water bounces off of the soil.



And as a result, properties located below or downstream of the burn areas are at an increased risk for flooding.



Heavy Rains

Excessive amounts of rainfall can happen throughout the year. Properties directly affected by fires and those located below or downstream of burn areas are most at risk for flooding.

Degree of Land Slope

Higher degrees of land slope speed up water flow and increase flood risk.



Flash Floods

Intense rainfall can flood low lying areas in less than six hours. Flash floods roll boulders, tear out trees and destroy buildings and bridges.



Mudflows

Rivers of liquid and flowing mud are caused by a combination of brush loss and subsequent heavy rains. Rapid snowmelt can also trigger mudflows.

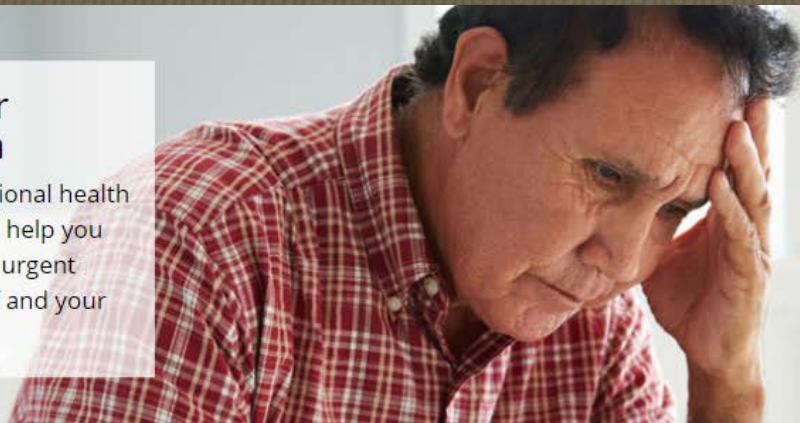


Section E:

Coping with a Disaster or Traumatic Event

Take care of your emotional health

Taking care of your emotional health during an emergency will help you think clearly and react to urgent needs to protect yourself and your family.





Taking Care of Your Emotional Health

Information and resources for adults and families.

[More information](#)



Helping Children Cope

Information and resources addressing the special emotional needs of children during a disaster.

[More information](#)



Helping Teens Cope

Information and resources for older children, teens, and young adults to help better cope after a natural disaster.

[More information](#)



Planning Resources for State and Local Governments

Information and resources for emergency planners, state, and local government to support mental health in emergencies.

[More information](#)



Response Resources for Leaders

Information and resources for government, faith-based, and community leaders to support their communities.

[More information](#)



Responders: Tips for Taking Care of Yourself

Tips and resources to for emergency responders for resiliency and coping during a disaster.

[More information](#)

Coping with a Disaster or Traumatic Event



After a disaster, it is important to take care of your emotional health. Pay attention to how you and your family members are feeling and acting.

Taking care of your emotional health will help you think clearly and react to urgent needs to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Follow these tips to help you and your family recover or find support.

Steps to Care for Yourself

- Take Care of Your Body
 - » Try to eat healthy, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep, and avoid alcohol and other drugs.
- Connect
 - » Share your feelings with a friend or family member. Maintain relationships and rely on your support system.
- Take Breaks
 - » Make time to unwind. Try to return to activities that you enjoy.
- Stay Informed
 - » Watch for news updates from reliable officials.
- Avoid
 - » Avoid excessive exposure to media coverage of the event.
- Ask for Help
 - » Talk to a clergy member, counselor, or doctor or contact the SAMHSA helpline at 1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746.

How to Help Your Children

- Talk with them
 - » Share age-appropriate information
 - » Reassure them
 - » Address rumors
 - » Answer questions
- Set a good example by taking care of yourself
- Limit exposure to media and social media coverage of the event

Common Signs of Distress

- Feelings of fear, anger, sadness, worry, numbness, or frustration
- Changes in appetite, energy, and activity levels
- Difficulty concentrating and making decisions
- Difficulty sleeping or nightmares
- Physical reactions, such as headaches, body pains, stomach problems, and skin rashes
- Worsening of chronic health problems
- Increased use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs

Seek help from your healthcare provider if these stress reactions interfere with your daily activities for several days in a row.

CALL or TEXT Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Disaster Distress Hotline: 1-800-985-5990.



People with deafness or hearing loss can use their preferred relay service to call 1-800-985-5990.

Section G: Additional Resources



Additional Resources

- Lincoln County:
 - [Lincoln Alerts](#)
 - [Seasonal - Wildfire Readiness Information](#)
 - [Active Wildfires – Lincoln County](#)
 - [Current Conditions \(all weather conditions\)](#)
 - [When to Call 911 and Public Safety Agency Contact Info](#)
- State – Oregon:
 - [Keep Oregon Green](#)
 - Oregon State University Extension Service - [Wildfire Wednesdays](#)
 - Oregon State Fire Marshall's Office – [Wildland Urban Interface](#)
 - Oregon Department of Forestry – [Fire Prevention](#)
 - Oregon Health Authority – [Prepare for Wildfire/Reducing Health Effects of Wildfire Smoke](#)
 - Oregon Emergency Management – [Oregon Wildfire Response](#)
 - Oregon Department of Financial Regulation – Consumer and Business Services – [Wildfire Insurance Resources](#)

Additional Resources

- State – California:
 - [Ready for Wildfire](#)
- Federal/National:
 - American Red Cross – [Checking Home After Fire](#)
 - Center for Disease Control – [Coping with Disaster or Traumatic Event](#)
 - [Ready.Gov](#)
 - National Fire Protection Agency – [Wildfire Community Preparedness Day](#)
 - FEMA National Flood Insurance – [FloodSmart Resources](#)
 - US Fire Administration – [After the Fire](#)

Section H:

Questions



Contact Information

Virginia "Jenny" Demaris
Emergency Manager
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office
[\(541\) 265-4199](tel:5412654199)
vdemaris@co.lincoln.or.us
[County EM Website](#)



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Lincoln County