

Chapter 10: Clackamas County Fire Agencies

Introduction

There are 13 local structural fire agencies and two wildland fire agencies in Clackamas County that have been identified as Communities at Risk in the 2012 CWPP. These organizations provide essential public services in the communities they serve, and their duties go beyond extinguishing fires. Most also provide emergency medical services (EMS), search and rescue, and fire prevention education.

Wildfire prevention and response efforts are most effective at the local level. One of the primary goals of the 2017 CWPP was to create the foundation and build capacity for local fire agencies to create Community Wildfire Protection Plans that reflect the localized hazards, needs and mitigation strategies. However, the majority of fire agencies have not had the time or resources to invest towards this effort.

For this reason, the 2017 CWPP Update continues to focus on taking a localized approach to wildfire planning by creating individual CWPP's for each fire agency. Each fire agency was tasked by ODF to identify and document issues regarding wildfire hazards, emergency operations, structural ignitability, community outreach and education and fuels reduction priorities. Fire agency representatives were also asked to identify Local Communities at Risk, or areas that are particularly vulnerable to wildfires. Fire agencies also provided input on larger county-wide issues to be addressed by the 2017 CWPP.

Local CWPP Content

Each CWPP includes a brief description of the issues identified during fire agency interviews, and are complete with action plans to address wildfire issues specific to the agency and the Local Communities at Risk. Maps illustrating the locations of the Local Communities at Risk and Fuels Reduction priorities have been included as well. The goal of the CWPP's is to provide a guide for fire agencies to address wildfire hazards as staff and funding are available. The information gleaned from the following pages can also be used to identify commonalities/discrepancies between fire agencies, which can help direct wildfire mitigation efforts at the county level.

Components of Local CWPP's

- Fire Agency Description
- WUI Description & Map
- Hazard Assessment (Map #4: Overall Wildfire Risk in Clackamas County)
- Description of Wildfire Issues: Emergency Operations, Structural Ignitability, Community Outreach and Education and Fuels Reduction
- Local Communities at Risk Description and Map
- CWPP Action Plan & Fuels Reduction Priorities

Maintenance and Monitoring

In order to have a comprehensive and effective wildfire plan, it is critical to address county-wide and local issues simultaneously. Fire agencies will provide updates to the Wildfire Planning Executive Committee as actions and projects are completed or identified to ensure that these efforts are being coordinated and that partners are aware of potential opportunities for collaboration.