



# The Hot Sheet

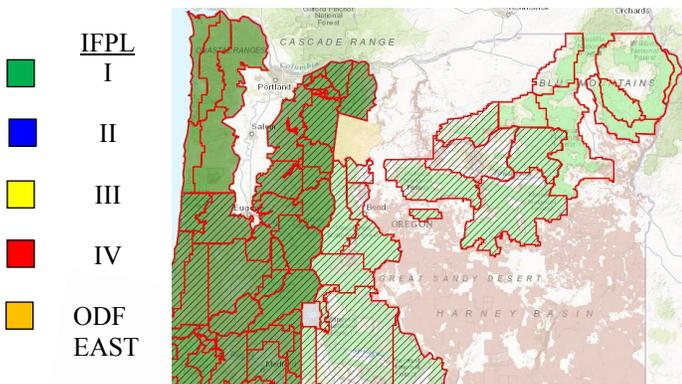


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## HERE WE GO.....

As of Thursday, July 21, all ODF forest protection districts have declared fire season. All operations must now follow [fire season requirements](#). Those of you working west of the Cascades must follow IFPL requirements and eastside folks need to pay attention to additional restrictions that may be imposed under high or extreme fire conditions. Go to [WWW.OREGON.GOV/ODF](http://WWW.OREGON.GOV/ODF) to stay up to date on closures where you are working.



## FIREWATCH TOOL

Many times, a fire investigation will uncover an issue with the Firewatch: not present; poor communications; not observing all areas of the operation worked that day; not able to run equipment; and so on. In many cases, a Firewatch must show investigators what actions he/she took to prove the rules were followed. Negligence in Firewatch responsibilities could lead to total liability for fire costs, which could be millions of dollars.

Advances in GIS technology is taking much of the guesswork out of the equation through tracking Firewatch movements. Milt Moran of Cascade Timber Consulting, Inc., shares how they are getting the most out of their Firewatch service.

“We utilize the Spot Tracker 2. We have it set up so the fire watch turns it on, then presses the ‘check-in’ button at the start and end of Firewatch and every half hour between.”

Moran says that if a fire is detected, the Firewatch can press the ‘help’ button, which immediately sends a customized text message to several managers showing the operator and location.

Check-ins go straight to a designated email account that are stored for 30 days. Cascade downloads that information into a Microsoft Access database for future reference. Reports can then be generated to make sure the Firewatch is being done per the company’s requirements. Maps can also be generated to show the path of the Firewatch observations. Pretty cool stuff. Check it out.

# SIZING IT UP

When reporting a fire on your operation, be prepared to give a fire size up to illustrate exactly what you have. Here’s a good short list of things to check off.

- **Descriptive Location:** Know the Lat and Long as well.
- **Estimated fire size**
- **Fuels burning and surrounding fuels.**
- **Slope at head of fire**
- **Position of fire on Slope:** ridge, saddle, mid slope, canyon bottom.
- **Spread Potential:** low, moderate, high, extreme
- **Fire Behavior:** smoldering, creeping, running, spotting, torching, crowning, erratic, crown/spotting.
- **Wind speed and direction**
- **Number of people and resources on the fire**



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## FIRE PREVENTION RULES UNDER REVIEW

The last time a thorough review of the industrial fire prevention rules took place was more than 30 years ago. In an effort to align rules with changes in technology and current logging practices, a committee comprised of landowners, operators, trade associations and ODF field and policy staff are in the process of reviewing the rules to be better reflective of today's working environment.

The committee has completed phase one of the project, which entailed updating and clarifying language in Oregon's Administrative Rules. When the entire prevention program review is completed, suggested changes will go through a public hearing process and presented to the Board of Forestry for adoption.

Phase two will start following this fire season. It will include a thorough look at the Industrial Fire Precaution Level (IFPL) system. The hope is to finish the review in early spring of 2017 and have updates in place for the 2017 fire season. Stay tuned.

## WEEKEND PILFERING

Fire extinguishers, tools and other equipment left at your site over the weekend can be easy pickings for forest freeloaders. Not only are you out expensive equipment, a fire inspection would show that you no longer meet minimum requirements. Be sure and secure items or take them with you when leaving for an extended period of time. Just make sure you bring them back the following Monday morning. Perform a self inspection to make sure everything is where you left it.



Taking a pulse of **FIRE INSPECTIONS** early in the fire season, we are showing positive results.

There have been a few issues of missing tools and discharged or missing fire extinguishers, but those issues were corrected during the same inspection.

One inspection did reveal that the operator didn't think he needed fire tools if it was raining. Fire tools and all other requirements must be followed during a declared fire season, unless waived by the forester, regardless of the weather.

Also, make sure that you are **NOT** using modified power saws during fire season. Saws must be in compliance with [spark arrester guide](#) specifications. In addition, double check the screen to make sure number one, the saw has a screen, and number two, it is in good condition.



## TOOL TABLE

People Working	1-4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Tool Boxes Required	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Axes or Pulaskis	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Shovels	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	7	7	7	7	7
Hazel Hoes or Pulaskis	1	2	3	3	4	5	5	5	6	6	7	7	7	8	8	9	10