

A-3. Community at Risk: Portland Fire & Rescue

The City of Portland and the area covered by the Portland have been identified as a Community at Risk (CAR) by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) provides structural fire protection and emergency medical services for areas within the City limits. By contractual agreement, PF&R extends those services to the area served by the Burlington Water District located along Highway 30 northwest of the Portland City limits and the Alder Creek Lumber Company located on Sauvie's Island. PF&R also covers Rural Fire Protection District #1 and a small portion of Rural Fire Protection District #10 through regional mutual aid agreements.

This section also covers the areas managed by the Port of Portland Airport Fire Department, which is mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration to provide fire protection for the Portland International Airport air traffic control tower, power center, Port Headquarters, and all areas inside a secured fenced perimeter. The Port's Fire Department is a mutual aid partners with PF&R, and will respond to areas beyond their designated perimeter.

Previous Wildfire Mitigation Efforts

The City of Portland recognizes the need to minimize the wildfire-related risks and has been developing wildfire mitigation and response strategies over the past several years. Previous efforts include the *Wildfire Readiness Assessment: Gap Analysis Report* (2009)¹¹, *The Forested and Wildland Interface Areas Fire Protection Annex* (2005) and the *City of Portland Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, Section 11: Wildfire* (2005; updated 2010). This portion of the MCWPP (Resource A-3: Portland Fire & Rescue) refines the actions identified in the *Portland Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan* and the *Wildfire Readiness Assessment: Gap Analysis Report* by consolidating the actions into one document.

In 2003, the City of Portland adopted a Wildfire Hazard Zone Map (Map #13.A) which established the primary wildfire hazard areas in the City using topography, weather and vegetation (<http://www.portlandonline.com/fire/index.cfm?c=55225>). The blue area is the Wildfire Hazard Zone and the brown areas represent open spaces and parks in the Wildfire Hazard Zone. The Oregon State Legislature allows communities that have developed Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) maps (ORS 93.270(4)) to require fire resistive roofing material (class C or higher for residential) for new development and re-roofing of existing homes. The City adopted a Wildfire Hazard Zone Map in 2003. Although the Multnomah County CWPP process generated more recent wildfire hazard maps, the Portland Wildfire Hazard Zone Map provides greater detail than does the County mapping effort.

These previous planning and mapping efforts provided the foundation to leverage grant funds for project implementation. In 2006, the City of Portland secured \$1.3 million from FEMA to implement a Wildfire Fuel Reduction Project, a priority project identified in the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. This effort focused on reducing wildfire risk through proactive management of vegetation in Forest Park, Powell Butte and the Willamette Escarpment (Mocks Crest and Oaks Bottom Bluffs).

During the course of identifying vegetation management strategies to reduce wildfire risk, it became apparent that there were additional issues to consider on a municipal level including: emergency response training, equipment, inter-agency coordination, emergency evacuation and access. The purpose of the *Wildfire Readiness Assessment: Gap Analysis Report* was to identify "gaps" in these areas and develop action items to address those gaps.

¹¹ See www.portlandonline.com/wildfire

In 2009, the Portland City Council directed City staff to create an interagency Wildfire Technical Committee (WTC) to implement the Action Plan of the City's *Wildfire Readiness Assessment: Gap Analysis Report*, and manage future wildfire mitigation and fuels reduction projects. Members of the WTC realized that they could build capacity to mitigate wildfire risk within and beyond city boundaries by engaging partners on a larger scale. The Oregon Dept. of Forestry has been promoting this approach by assisting counties in developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, and committed staff to facilitate the development of a Multnomah County Wildfire Protection Plan.

The following City of Portland Bureaus are key stakeholders in enhancing the City of Portland's capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond to potential wildfire events.

Portland Fire and Rescue (PF&R)	Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS)
Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R)	Portland Water Bureau (PWB)
Portland Office of Emergency Management (POEM)	Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES)
Portland Bureau of Development Services (BDS)	Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT)
	Portland Police Bureau (PPB)

Portland Fire & Rescue Communities at Risk

The CWPP planning process identified Communities at Risk (CARs) that are particularly vulnerable to wildfires (Map #13B. Portland Fire & Rescue Overall Wildfire Risk) a description of the PF&R CARs is provided in Table A-3.1: Portland Fire & Rescue Communities at Risk and the Port of Portland Cars are shown in Table A-3.2.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ Defensible Space | ✓ Vegetation/Fuels |
| ✓ Access limitations | ✓ Recreation and Transients (ignition sources) |
| ✓ Steep slopes | ✓ Debris burning |
| ✓ Water pressure/availability | ✓ Lack of Community Awareness |
| ✓ Communications | ✓ Protection Capability |

Portland Fire & Rescue Wildfire Action Plans

The City of Portland Bureaus worked in collaboration with CWPP partners to develop action plans designed to enhance the resiliency of local Communities at Risk (Table A-3-3: PF&R CARs Action Plan) and build capacity to improve coordination, communication, vegetation management, regulatory alignment, training and response and community education throughout the entire City (Table A-3.4 Portland Wildfire Action Plan).

Below, please find a summary of the Portland Wildfire Action Plan. These actions were prioritized by considering technical feasibility, timing of implementation, and ability to meet Goals and Objectives. For more detail regarding timeline for implementation and potential partners, please see Table A-3.4: Portland Wildfire Action Plan.

Figure A.3-1. City of Portland Proposed Wildfire Actions

Priority 1 Priority 2 Priority 3

1. Continue to convene a standing Wildfire Technical Committee (WTC).	17. Incorporate a broadening of pruning allowances to apply to all trees w/in 30 feet of a structure in next Tree Project refinement or city-specific building code project
2. Secure funding for continued long-term vegetation management of natural areas that maintain safe fuel levels in key locations.	18. Determine the effectiveness of maintenance agreements for new land divisions designed to manage vegetation in open space tracts.
3. Develop a more detailed definition of WUI standards and an associated WUI map to inform future actions relating to development, defensible space, emergency response and wildfire prevention.	19. Develop a comprehensive vegetation treatment program that includes both mechanical methods and prescribed fire.
4. Conduct systematic reviews of Portland's large, publicly owned, wildland tracts regarding fire safety and ecological health.	20. Establish an information network in Forest Park and Powell Butte.
5. Improve enforcement of park rules in Portland Parks and Recreation managed natural areas and open space tracts on approved land divisions.	21. Create incentives for and address barriers to encourage fuel reduction and defensible space.
6. Improve emergency radio communications between City first responders and PP&R City Nature staff.	22. Design and install one or more demonstration areas to showcase wildfire resistant plantings.
7. Assess and make recommendations for wildland firefighter training for Portland Fire & Rescue and City Natural Resources Staff.	23. Educate landowners in the Wildland Urban Interface about reducing wildfire hazards.
8. Provide hazardous fuels assessment and initial wildfire response training to City Natural Resources staff.	23. Consolidate unassigned and/or unmanaged vegetated areas owned by the City under a single land management umbrella.
9. Continue to conduct annual wildland firefighter training for Portland Fire & Rescue personnel.	24. Amend the Portland Plant List and other related City plant lists to include fire resistant native plants and planting strategies.
10. Establish an agreed upon fire danger rating system and develop agency protocols.	26. Re-Invigorate Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) with concrete projects such as a neighborhood wildland interface disaster planning program.
11. Analyze and prioritize emergency vehicle access routes.	27. Review and potentially refine City contract specifications for machinery operations during "Red Flag" weather conditions.
12. Conduct a periodic tri-county wildfire coordination meeting.	28. Index City wildfire mitigation plans and activities.
13. Revisit mutual aid agreements to ensure they are current and applicable.	39. Assess and communicate the capacity of the water infrastructure (e.g., pipes, hydrants, etc.)
14. Flag new development proposals that occur in the Wildland Urban Interface in the city's TRACS/Accela mapping system to ensure that the Roof Type C is required at plan review.	30. Develop a cross-bureau plan for evacuation of citizens in high fire risk areas in the event of a severe wildfire.
15. Explore the use of existing mechanisms to allow PF&R to require fire resistant building materials and landscaping in the WUI.	31. Review and update the Forested and Wildland Interface Areas Fire Protection Plan on an on-going basis.
16. Seek funding to produce a local WUI ordinance to augment the Building Code including any additional WUI mapping needs	32. Explore avenues for funding wildfire interface home construction upgrades to low income homeowners.

Structural Ignitability & Regulatory Alignment

As mentioned above, the City of Portland has exercised ORS 93.270(4), providing authority to require fire-resistive roofing material for development occurring in designated WUI areas (Map #13). However, some improvements need to be made to the automated system that alerts land use planners to areas that would be subject to this requirement. The action plan encourages the City of Portland to “flag” new development proposals that occur in the Wildland Urban Interface in the city’s TRACS/Accela mapping system to ensure that the Roof Type C is required at plan review.

Beyond requiring fire-resistive roofing materials in WUI areas, Portland Fire and Rescue (PF&R) can only provide input on residential development as it relates to access and fire flow (water supply). The City has identified water grid engineering requirements for firefighting in wildfire areas. Currently the design target for residential areas when considering new and upgraded water main systems in the WUI is a minimum flow of 1750 gpm at a single hydrant within the pressure zone. In cases that applicants cannot meet access and fire flow requirements, PF&R can recommend alternative means and methods that include sprinklers, fire resistant building materials and fire resistant landscaping.

The City of Portland recognizes that codes and ordinances are evolutionary, and has built flexibility into Zoning Code language to allow land use reviewers to use discretion in requiring additional conditions to meet code criteria, including protecting life safety. This discretionary language could potentially provide an avenue for PF&R to place additional conditions on development in the WUI that go beyond water and access to include fire resistant building materials and fire resistant landscaping.

As indicated in the action plan, the Portland Bureaus of Fire and Rescue, Development Services, and Planning & Sustainability will explore the use of existing mechanisms (discretionary authority, conditions of land use approval) to allow Fire to require fire resistant building materials and landscaping in the WUI.

The State of Oregon does allow local jurisdictions to adopt a local Wildland Urban Interface Ordinance, which grants local authorities the tools to require fire resistant building materials and design standards. The International Wildland Urban Interface Code provides options for reducing structural ignitability and is the foundation from which communities can build their WUI Ordinance.

If the discretionary language does not serve to provide adequate authority to require fire resistant building materials and landscaping in the WUI, Portland Fire & Rescue will scope and seek funding to produce a local WUI ordinance to augment the Building Code. This would require funding and staff time to complete more detailed mapping and analysis of WUI areas. The proposed WUI ordinance would also require a public involvement and local and state adoption processes.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction

The City of Portland considers vegetation a key component of watershed health and maintaining livable, sustainable neighborhoods, and has adopted plans, policies and strategies to protect and enhance the urban forest and sensitive environmental resource areas. The Environmental Overlay Zone (Title 33.430) protects natural resource values and functions by limiting disturbance and removal of native vegetation and requirement mitigation when native trees and vegetation are removed. In order to integrate goals for wildfire risk reduction and ecological health, the City of Portland has incorporated limited tree pruning and removal exemptions and standards within and outside the Environmental Overlay Zone to allow property owners in the WUI to create defensible

space. Portland City Council broadened the 30 foot pruning exemption by eliminating the 6-foot limit and by establishing a simple permit to allow limited native tree pruning in environmental zones beyond 30 feet of a building under an arborist's oversight in July, 2011.

Although the City has established limited tree pruning and removal allowances to help reduce wildfire risks, the City has not yet explored potential allowances for management of low structure and shrub vegetation. Although the City has included information about fire resistant shrubs in the Portland Plant List, more information and examples illustrating ways to manage native vegetation to address wildfire hazard and ecological health is needed to inform the design educational materials and regulatory improvements to address this issue.

The action plan encourages the City to scope and seek funding for a project to explore and demonstrate planting and landscaping options for native groundcover, shrubs and mature trees to achieve goals for wildfire protection and watershed health. This would be a collaborative effort with community Naturescaping and backyard habitat certification programs.

The scope of the FEMA funded Wildfire Fuel reduction project was to plan and implement fuel reduction projects in three focus areas [Forest Park, Powell Butte Nature Park and the Willamette Escarpment (Mocks Crest and Oaks Bottom)]. In order to determine the location and size of high priority fuel reduction projects, a preliminary planning phase of the project involved conducting selected field surveys, and analyzing maps and data to gain an accurate understanding of existing conditions in high risk areas of the parks. Then a conceptual desired future conditions (DFC) map was prepared to guide restoration and hazardous fuel reduction work over the next 25 years. Finally an assessment was conducted to determine the "gap" between existing conditions and the desired future and fuel reduction projects were selected and prioritized. The Portland Bureau of Parks and Recreation has prioritized actions and prescriptions specific for these project areas. Although the City has made some progress towards achieving the DFC in these parks, a great deal of future work is required.

The City also worked with Multnomah County CWPP planning partners to identify and prioritize fuels reduction projects in additional natural areas adjacent to Communities at Risk. For more information, please see Chapter 6, Hazards Fuels Reduction & Biomass Utilization.

Bull Run Watershed

The Bull Run Watershed provides drinking water to over 840,000 residents in the Portland Metropolitan area. As with forests throughout the western Cascade mountain range, wildfires have played a significant role in shaping the age class, species composition, and structure of forests in the Bull Run watershed. The University of Washington completed a fire history study of the Bull Run in 1996.

The fire researchers concluded that Bull Run has an inherently low occurrence and therefore a low risk of catastrophic fire because of its high rainfall, typically short season of high fire-danger conditions, and low incidence of lightning. However, when large fires do occur, they tend to be devastating, "high-severity, stand replacement" fires that burn everything to the ground. Some parts of the watershed have burned as many as three times in the last 500 years. A large catastrophic fire burned about 99% of the watershed around the year 1493. The two small isolated stands that escaped the fire are over 750 years old. Four other moderate size fires, ranging from 2,100 to 7,700 acres, burned the combined equivalent of about one-third of the watershed between 1493 and the early 1900s. A total of 3,300 acres (6.5% of the watershed) burned during the 20th century. The most recent high impact wildfire in the Bull Run occurred in 1923.

The Bull Run watershed is a no trespass management unit with no unauthorized public access. The watershed is patrolled and trespassers are found, occasionally with illegal warming fires. Illegal fires are another source of potential forest fires. Funding for drop in wildland fire pump equipment was not funded this year through the Urban Area Security Initiative, but hope remains that funds may be available for upcoming years for this equipment to increase the seasonal patrols of the watershed.

Portland Fire & Rescue CWPP Community Involvement

Multnomah County initiated community involvement and public outreach events for the highest priority Communities at Risk for each Local Fire Agency in Multnomah County. The community meeting in Portland was held for the Linnton Community and had two primary objectives: to gather information from the public about their wildfire concerns and to share information about the fire plan and living with wildfire.

Linnton Community Wildfire Meeting

Date: May 4th, 2011 from 7:00pm-9:00pm

Location: Linnton Community Center

Attendance: 17 residents

Facilitators:

- **Portland Fire & Rescue** Assistant Fire Marshall, Dick Haney;
- **ODF:** Cindy Kolomechuk
- **Portland Office of Emergency Management:** PF&R Lieutenant Matthew Silva

Meeting Description

This community was identified by PF&R as the highest priority for risk reduction because it is adjacent to Hwy 30 and the Burlington Northern Railroad, which transports large quantities of hazardous and flammable materials on a daily basis. The area is also within Forest Park, which contains ample vegetation to fuel a wildfire, and many recreational users, providing potential ignition sources.

This event was conducted in the form of an evening meeting and hosted by the Linnton Neighborhood Association, during their monthly meeting. However, a train car derailment along the railroad adjacent to Hwy 30 made for a more exciting evening than anticipated. A train carrying logs derailed into a line of parked railroad tank cars carrying denatured alcohol on tracks west of Cornelius Pass on Highway 30. A massive fire occurred, and pushed fire crews back a half of a mile. The area was evacuated and Hwy 30 was closed while fire fighters from multiple agencies worked to extinguish the blaze.



Despite some confusion regarding the status of the meeting, the facilitators and seventeen landowners made it to the Linnton Community Center. This event provided a great platform from which to discuss wildfire hazards in the Linnton area. Assistant Fire Marshal Dick Haney discussed

wildfire hazards in the Linnton neighborhood and introduced the measures that landowners can take to prevent and be more prepared for wildfires including regarding the types of fire-resistive building materials to use, how to effectively create defensible space, and how to provide adequate access. Cindy Kolomechuk provided an overview of the Multnomah County Fire Planning process. Lieutenant Matthew Silva closed the discussion by providing tips for being prepared for wildfires as well as other potential hazards in this area.

Information Gleaned from Community

Community members were asked to provide input regarding their perceptions of wildfire risk and rank the highest priority issues in their neighborhood (Table A.3-5 Wildfire Concerns in the Linnton CAR).

The highest priority issue was access. Residents are concerned about the steep, narrow driveways and streets that characterize their neighborhood. Dick Haney mentioned how difficult evacuation can be on these roads if people are trying to leave while emergency vehicles are trying to access the neighborhood. The residents recognized that these access and evacuation issues coupled with potentially longer response times make community preparedness critical for this area. Water availability was also a primary concern. Enhancing water availability and pressure is extremely expensive and in some cases not possible, so attendees were encouraged to take an active role in wildfire prevention including adequate measures to protect their homes through defensible space.

Table A-3.5 Wildfire Concerns in the Linnton CAR

Topic	Linnton Priority
1. Access Limitations	High
2. Evacuation, Emergency Preparedness	High
3. Protection Capabilities	High
4. Water Availability	High
5. Backyard/ Agricultural Burning	Medium
6. Concerns about Adjacent Public Lands	Medium
7. Transients/ Recreation	Low
8. Concerns about Neighboring Private Property	Low



PORTLAND FIRE AND RESCUE OVERALL WILDFIRE RISK

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN - 2011 MAP #13B

Overall Wildfire Risk Map - Inputs and Data Sources

- Risk, Values, Protection Capabilities, and Hazard Layers
- Wildland Urban Interface (Structural Vulnerability)

Sources: Metro RLIS Data, Oregon Dept. Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, Multnomah Co. GIS, Oregon State Fire Marshall



This map is provided for informational purposes only. Information used to develop this map has been obtained from many sources, and is not guaranteed to be accurate. Multnomah County assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of information appearing on this map.



Table A-3.1 Portland Fire Rescue Communities At Risk

Community At Risk	CAR Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Lands	Private Lands	Recreators/ Transients	Protection Capabilities	Burning	Preparedness	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description
Portland Fire & Rescue Communities at Risk													
Linnton	High	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	This community is at particularly high risk because it is adjacent to Hwy 30 and the Railroad, which transport hazardous and flammable materials. The area is within Forest Park, so there is ample vegetation to fuel a wildfire, and many recreators providing potential ignition sources. . Access is limited due to steep slopes and narrow driveways. Addressing is needed here. Water pressure is a limiting factor as elevation increases.
Forest Park/Skyline Road	High	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	Forest Park is the largest natural area in Portland, at over 5,000 acres. Large concentrations of native and non-native vegetation have the potential to burn and transfer fire to nearby homes and businesses. The park is heavily used by transient and recreators, and there are units of large industrial forest land managed for timber production. Addressing is needed here.
Forest Heights	High	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	Forest Heights is a community of about 50 homes. It is located on the western edge of Forest park and has a great deal of managed forest land surrounding it. There is a large common area that needs to be treated to reduce wildfire hazards as well. There are steep, narrow roads, and lack of sufficient water to fight a wildfire here. Also, many homes have cedar shake roofs.
Willamette Bluffs Escarpment	High	X	X	X		X				X	X	X	The Willamette Bluffs Escarpment is located adjacent to the university of Portland, has extremely steep slopes covered with blackberries. Multiple homes are exposed to a fire moving upslope in this area. Access is good, but fighting fire on this steep escarpment is extremely challenging. A 5-alarm wildfire almost engulfed these homes on August 8th, 2001.
Rocky Butte	High	X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X	There are about 50-60 homes on Rocky Butte. This community includes homes that are very steep slopes and some that are perched on stilts. Ignitions from the freeway and recreators is a potential hazard here. There is a tunnel at the base of the slope that limits access and ODOT owns primary access road, which is in need of more regular maintenance. There is very low water pressure at the top of the Butte. the Homeowners' Association is very active here and provides an opportunity for community outreach.
Kelly Butte	High	X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	Kelly Butte has a high concentration of fuels and structures at the base of the hill. There is a natural area that is not very well-maintained. The water supply and pressure is poor here and access is limited. BOEC transmitters are located here, making it a high priority for protection. In addition, there is a large transient population that frequently light campfires.
Powell Butte	High	X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	There are heavy fuels adjacent to homes on steep slopes on Powell Butte. Although there is a hydrant at the top, it is not sufficient for fighting wildland fire. It is heavily used by recreators, and there is a caretaker that lives on top. Access is poor due to steep, narrow roads. Prescription burns have been used here for Oak restoration. This area is the future site of a Portland Water Bureau Reservoir.
Johnson Creek Watershed	High	X	X	X		X	X		X	X		X	This area includes a number of homes that are in need of defensible space. Many roads are steep and narrow dead ends. It is heavily used by transients, which provides potential ignition sources.

Table A-3.1 Portland Fire Rescue Communities At Risk

Community At Risk	CAR Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Lands	Private Lands	Recreators/ Transients	Protection Capabilities	Burning	Outreach	Communication	Steep Slopes	Description
Portland Fire & Rescue Communities at Risk													
Oaks Bottom	High		X	X	X	X		X		X		X	There are many homes located at the top of the steep Oaks Bottom canyon . Access is limited here and there is heavy vegetation. The area is used by many recreators and transients. PF&R and PP&R used prescribed fire here to reduce wildfire hazards. Community outreach was a part of this project.
Mount Tabor	Medium	X				X	X	X		X		X	Mount Tabor is in a very urban area, with homes surrounding the base. It is comprised of healthy, mature forest, but there is an area on the southern end that has an issue with blackberries. Portland Water Bureau has reservoirs here, making it a priority for protection.
Springwater & Flavel	Medium	X				X				X		X	There is a recreation corridor amidst this very urban area that presents some unique wildfire hazards. Blackberries can be found 10 feet thick near homes. It is a major bicycle thoroughfare and is used by many transients.
Pedock Mansion Area	Medium	X	X		X	X		X		X		X	There are a lot of homes in this area intermixed with heavy vegetation. Paddock Mansion is a historical structure, and many recreators use this area. There are many natural areas that would benefit from fuels reduction work.
Tryon Creek	Medium	X	X			X				X		X	Tree is a residential area surrounding this state Park. The park has an older stand of mature trees, but defensible space around homes is needed. Access is good here, and it is visited by many recreators, which presents some outreach opportunities.
Terwilliger Curves	Medium	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	The Terwilliger Curves area has very poor access, with narrow, windy, steep one-way roads. Water is also limited here. The forest is mature, but defensible space around homes is needed.
Zoo and the Hoyt Arboretum	Medium	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X	Although the zoo grounds are well-maintained, the areas adjacent to Hwy 26 and up the slope to the zoo are heavy will flammable brush. Frequent car fires occur here on the side of Hwy 26 that could easily ignite the hillside leading up to the zoo. Evacuation would be challenging with the windy roads, large numbers of recreators, and animals at the zoo. Wider paving is needed
SW Portland Cemetery	Low	X				X	X			X			The cemetery has a great deal of fuels that need better maintenance.
Sullivan's Gulch	Low		X		X		X	X					There is a railroad here that has had a number of ignitions. There needs to be more rigorous vegetation management in the right of way.
Smith/Bybee Lake	Low				X		X						This area is comprised of commercial and industrial land. There is good defensible space around these structures. The City Park here is used by many transients, so it is essential that the City continue to maintain these areas to reduce potential ignitions.

Table A-3.2 Port of Portland Communities at Risk

Community At Risk	CAR Priority	Defensible Space	Access	Water	Public Lands	Private Lands	Recreators/ Transients	Protection Capabilities	Burning	Preparedness	Communications	Steep Slopes	Description
Port of Portland Communities at Risk													
Elrod Road	High	X		X									This area is the location of the Port's infrastructure. There is some commercial development to the south. The site is fenced , so transients are not an issue, but there are electrical lines that could ignite the trees, brush and grass.
Government Island	High		X	X	X		X	X					Government Island is unique because it lies under the I-205/I-5 bridge and is controlled by State Parks. Despite the fact that it can only be accessed by boat, many recreators use this area, and frequently have campfires and light fireworks. A wildfire here could potentially close the I-205/I-5 bridge.

Table A-3.3 Portland Communities At Risk Action Plan

Action Item	Timeframe	Partners	CAR
Portland Local Communities At Risk Action Plan			
Conduct a Community Meeting to educate community on defensible space, and measures that can be taken to reduce structural ignitability. Solicit feedback on wildfire prevention projects the community would support.	Spring 2011/ Ongoing	ODF, Keep Oregon Green, Office of Neighborhood Involvement	Linnton, Forest Park, Forest Heights, Rocky Butte, Powell Butte, Oaks Bottom, Willamette Bluffs, Kelly Butte
Develop a local wildfire prevention campaign to promote defensible space and reduce structural ignitability within the Home Ignition Zone	Spring 2011/Ongoing	ODF, CWPP Outreach Subcommittee	All
Obtain structural ignitability intelligence by conducting structural triage assessment data collection (including GPS points) for homes in strategic planning areas.	2 Years	ODF, Wildfire Technical Committee	All
Develop a community-driven pre-disaster plan including evacuation routes, telephone call down trees, and other strategies for strengthening community response.	Ongoing	POEM	All
Map all roads, bridges and driveways and prioritize homes that have dead-ends, and cannot support emergency service vehicles (grade, length, vegetation, turn-around) for defensible space and fuels reduction projects.	Long Term	BDS, ODOT, Multnomah County, ODF	All
Implement road addressing (including length of driveways) and other signage for emergency response.	2 Years	ODF	Forest Park, Linnton
Partner with managers of forested areas to reduce hazardous fuels in natural areas surrounding communities at risk.	Ongoing	PP&R, Metro, Private Forest landowners	All
Seek grant funding to support fuels reduction and creation of defensible space around homes. Consider developing a cost-share program to support these activities.	Ongoing	ODF, Wildfire Technical Committee	All
Identify opportunities for community debris disposal collection sites that recycle or compost vegetative material vs. burning.	Ongoing	ODF, Wildfire Technical Committee	All
Use controlled burns as a training tool for potential wildland response.	Ongoing	USFS, ODF	Oaks Bottom, Powell Butte
Work with Portland Police and Multnomah County Sheriffs office to patrol the area to reduce transient camps.	Ongoing	Portland Police, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office	Oaks Bottom, Forest Park, Kelly Butte, Johnson Creek, Tryon Creek, Powell Butte
Increase public awareness of wildfire hazards by posting information on existing placards in recreational areas.	2 Years	USFS, ODF	Oaks Bottom, Forest Park, Johnson Creek, Tryon Creek, Powell Butte, Kelly Butte, Forest Heights

Table A-3.4 City of Portland Wildfire Action Plan

Action Item	Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Partners	Details/Progress
Portland Vegetation Management Action Items				
Procure funding for continued long-term vegetation management of natural areas that maintain safe fuel levels in key locations.	High	Ongoing	PP&R, ODF, FEMA, NRCS	Received \$1.3 million from the FEMA pre Disaster Mitigation Program to reduce hazardous fuels from 2005-2010.
Develop a more accurate definition of WUI standards and an associated WUI map to inform improvement of City policies, regulations and codes to strengthen requirements for fire resistant building materials, and enable the establishment of defensible space around homes and business while continuing to protect the natural resources of park natural areas.	High	Long-Term	PP&R,PF&R,GIS	No progress initiated
Conduct systematic reviews of Portland's large, publicly owned, wildland tracts regarding fire safety and ecological health to ensure informed land management decisions.	High	Short-Term	PP&R,	No progress initiated
Improve enforcement of park rules in Portland Parks and Recreation managed natural areas and open space tracts on approved land divisions.	High	Short-Term, Ongoing	PP&R, BDS	There are full-time PP&R rangers enforcing camping & fires in PDX natural areas .
Improve emergency radio communications between City first responders and PP&R City Nature staff.	High	Short-Term	PF&R,PP&R,POEM	Partially completed: emergency radios are provided for Forest Park Staff.
Determine the effectiveness of maintenance agreements for new land divisions designed to manage vegetation in open space tracts.	Medium	Long-Term	BDS	No progress initiated
Develop a comprehensive vegetation treatment program that includes both mechanical methods and prescribed fire.	Medium	Long-Term	PP&R,PF&R	Partially completed task: fee for service program exists but lacks funding.
Establish an information network (e.g., identification, orientation, way-finding and	Medium	Short-Term	PP&R	Partially completed in Forest Park
Create incentives for and address barriers to encourage fuel reduction and defensible space.	Medium	Long-Term	PF&R, BES, PPR, BPS	No progress initiated
Scope and seek funding for a project to explore and demonstrate planting and landscaping options for native groundcover, shrubs and mature trees to achieve goals for wildfire protection and watershed health. Design and install one or more demonstration areas to showcase wildfire resistant plantings.	Medium	Short-Term	PF&R, PP&R, BES, PWB	Partial progress: 1 demonstration garden at Oaks Bottom Wildlife Refuge- another in planning for PF&R fire station 27 in Forest Park
Consolidate unassigned and/or unmanaged vegetated areas owned by the City under a single land management umbrella.	Low	Short-Term	BGS	No progress initiated
Amend the Portland Plant List and other related City plant lists to include fire resistant native plants and planting strategies that could be encouraged or required in local landscaping.	Low	Ongoing	PP&R, PF&R, BES and BPS & ODF	Task partially completed for woody plants; herbaceous plants still needed.

Table A-3.4 City of Portland Wildfire Action Plan

Action Item	Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Partners	Details/Progress
Portland Structural Ignitability/ Regulatory Alignment Action Items -				
Continue to convene a standing Wildfire Technical Committee (WTC).	High	Ongoing	PP&R, BDS, PF&R, MCEM	The WTC worked with partners to develop the Multnomah County CWPP and will continue to implement the Wildfire mitigation actions for the City of Portland.
"Flag" new development proposals that occur in the Wildland Urban Interface in the city's TRACS/Accela mapping system to ensure that the Roof Type C is required at plan review.	High	Short Term	BDS, PF&R	The Oregon State Legislature allows communities that have developed Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) maps (ORS 93.270(4)) to require fire resistive roofing material (class C or higher for residential) for new development and re-roofing of existing homes. The City adopted a WUI map in 2003.
Explore the use of existing mechanisms (discretionary authority, conditions of land use approval) to allow Fire to require fire resistant building materials and landscaping in the WUI.	High	Short-Term	PF&R, BDS,BPS	Currently, Portland Fire and Rescue (PF&R) can only provide input on residential development as it relates to access and fire flow (water supply).
Scope and seek funding to produce a local WUI ordinance to augment the Building Code, including any additional mapping needs, and deliver it through the public involvement and local and state adoption processes.	High	Short-Term	PF&R, BDS, SFMO, WTC	The State of Oregon allows local jurisdictions to adopt a local Wildland Urban Interface Ordinance, which grants local authorities the tools to require fire resistant building materials and design standards. The International Wildland Urban Interface Code provides a the foundation from which communities can build their WUI Ordinance.
Incorporate a broadening of pruning allowances to apply to all trees w/in 30 feet of a structure in next Tree Project refinement or city-specific building code project	High	Long Term	PF&R, PP&R,BDS,BPS, ODF	Portland City Council broadened the 30 foot pruning exemption in the Environmental Overlay Zone by eliminating the 6-foot pruning limit for conifers and by establishing a simple permit to allow limited native tree pruning in environmental zones beyond 30 feet of a building under an arborist's oversight in July, 2011. This action item is to include non-conifer tree species in the exemption.
Explore avenues for funding wildfire interface home construction upgrades to low income homeowners.	Low	Ongoing	WTC, ODF	No progress initiated

Table A-3.4 City of Portland Wildfire Action Plan

Action Item	Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Partners	Details/Progress
Portland Emergency Management Action Items				
Conduct a wildland firefighter training assessment of Portland Fire & Rescue and City Natural Resources Staff and other stakeholders. Make recommendations enhancing wildfire training standards.	High	Short-Term	PF&R, ODF,	Stakeholders would include responders and project managers who might work in the field in areas of fire susceptibility.
Provide hazardous fuels assessment and initial wildfire response training to management training to City Natural Resources staff.	High	Short-Term	PF&R, PP&R, BOM, POEM	No progress initiated
Continue to conduct annual wildland firefighter training for Portland Fire & Rescue personnel. Pursue training with regional and City Incident Management Teams.	High	Ongoing	PF&R, POEM	Each new firefighter at PF&R receives wildland training at the training academy. Incumbent employees get annual wildland refresher training. PF&R has integrated several employees into the State IMT's. A regional drill hosted by TVF&R was cancelled. PF&R will work with regional partners to schedule another drill.
Establish an agreed upon fire danger rating system and develop agency protocols. Consider adopting the national "Fire Danger Rating System" and install the signs at key points in the City.	High	Short-Term	PF&R, PP&R, Risk Management, POEM PBOT, ODOT	A program needs to be developed to support installation of signs that would answer questions and provide information. Outdoor fire hazard signs will be installed at Fire Stations 27 and 29.
Analyze and prioritize emergency vehicle access routes.	High	Ongoing	PF&R, PP&R, PBOT	Emergency Transportation Routes have been mapped and prioritized for the City of Portland
Conduct a periodic tri-county wildfire coordination meeting.	High	Short-Term	PF&R, MCEM	This will be done in coordination with the Multnomah County Wildfire Plan.
Revisit mutual aid agreements to ensure they are current and applicable.	High	Ongoing	PF&R, POEM	Completed on an annual basis by PF&R.
Educate landowners in the Wildland Urban Interface about reducing wildfire hazards.	Medium	Ongoing	PF&R, POEM	Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Strategy (2010 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan) conducted a public involvement process address community hazards.
Re-Invigorated Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NETs) with concrete projects such as a neighborhood wildland interface disaster planning program.	Low	Ongoing	POEM, ONI	No progress initiated

Table A-3.4 City of Portland Wildfire Action Plan

Action Item	Priority	Timeframe	Lead/Partners	Details/Progress
Portland Emergency Management Action Items				
Review and potentially refine City contract specifications for machinery operations during “Red Flag” weather conditions.	Low	Short-Term	PF&R	PF&R will specify potential needs and areas of risk. PF&R will contact local contractors to determine who has available equipment. Water Bureau maintains a large dozer and equipment at Bull Run.
Index City wildfire mitigation plans and activities.	Low	Short-Term	POEM	POEM - Steering committee to be developed 1st qtr 2010
Assess and communicate the capacity of the water infrastructure (e.g., pipes, hydrants,etc.)	Low	Long-Term	PWB, PF&R, BDS,PWB	Water Bureau will need to conduct an assessment and provide the results to PF&R. PF&R will distribute the information to partner agencies.
Develop a cross-bureau plan for evacuation of citizens in high fire risk areas in the event of a severe wildfire.	Low	Ongoing	POEM,PBOT, PBOP,Multnomah County Sheriff's Office	POEM will be updating evacuation plan 2011. POEM and law enforcement will need to notify PF&R of the plan and expectations.
Review and update the Forested and Wildland Interface Areas Fire Protection Plan .	Low	Ongoing	PF&R	Reviewed on an annual basis, updated as necessary.