

After the Fire Checklist

IF YOUR PROPERTY HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY WILDFIRE, UTILIZE THIS CHECKLIST TO CHART A COURSE FORWARD AND MODIFY TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CONTACT _____ TAXLOT# _____

On the way back to your home

- Check with law enforcement for an end to evacuation and the all-clear to return
- Refer to TripCheck for road clearances
- Look for downed trees, shrubs, rocks loosened by the fire that could create road obstacles or fall on to the road/driveway
- Be aware of standing trees or utility poles by the side of the road that may or may not look burned, or partially burned - that can be loosened by the fire
- Watch out for downed powerlines.

Once back on your property

- Wear proper personal protective equipment: thick boots (to prevent puncture wounds from sharp objects), heavy gloves, mask, eye protection, hard hat (protection from overhead hazards).
- Check around the house for hot embers in gutters, under decks, wood/debris piles, valleys of the roof, shrub/vegetation clumps – wisps of smoke or smell of smoke – call 911 if any heat found. Check for structural damage to the house (foundation cracks, support beams charred)
- Check for gas (smell of gas) and water leaks.
- Check the main power meter (normally outside). If turned off or no power, call the utility service provider
- Make sure pump house/well is in good working order – make sure water is safe to drink
- Any damage to gas lines, phone lines, power lines – stay clear and call utility service provider

Going in the house

- Before turning any lights on - have a flashlight (turn it on prior to entering the house) from your go-kit. Look for embers (in the dark) or heat throughout the house, especially in the attic (smell and look for smoke)
- Check for structural damage inside the house
- Check the main circuit box. If turned off, make sure all appliances are off before turning the main circuit breaker back on
- Discard all food that's been exposed to heat, smoke, fumes, soot or flood waters. If the power has been out, discard food that could be spoiling

Outside and around the property

- Percent of property area burned: _____ Not sure
- Identify slope of property (acres): 0-30%: _____ 30-60%: _____ >60%: _____
 Not sure
- Overall percent and location of vegetation burn severity:
Low _____ Moderate _____ High _____ Not sure
- Overall percent and location of soil burn severity:
 Low _____ Moderate _____ High _____ Not sure
- How close did fire come to water courses: _____
 Not sure
- How steep are the slopes (%) above and adjacent to water courses: _____
_____ Not sure
- Was there erosion on the property prior to the fire? (gully, rill, sheet)
 Yes No Not sure

Outside and around the property: draw the following on a map with tax lot identified

- Forested area burn-severity and tree mortality (map out and label or fill in the blanks):
Low: # acres _____ Mortality: % < 10% dead _____
Moderate: # acres _____ Mortality: % 10-50% dead _____
High: # acres _____ Mortality: % >50% dead _____
Need assistance to determine forested area burn severity and tree mortality?
 Yes No
- Location and number of hazardous trees (proximity to roads, structures)
 Not sure
- Damage to property improvements (water pipes, fences, gates)
 Not sure
- Damage to road surface, ditches, or culverts
 Not sure
- Location of fire
 Not sure
- Bare, burned over soil
 Not sure
- Identify natural draws, streams, and rivers (Perennial, Seasonal)
- Damage to water courses (irrigation structures/culverts/debris blockage)

Comments/Summary:

For more information visit: extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program

