



Sheriff's Office

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Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

Citizen Alert, Preparedness and Wildfire Events

Dear Wasco County Citizens,

The year 2020 has been full of tremendous challenges for Wasco County Citizens, beginning with COVID-19 in the early spring to the Wildfires in the late summer and fall. Over 18,000 combined acres were burned in the Fir Mountain Fire, White River Fire, Mosier Creek Fire and Seven Mile Hill fire with over 3600 households/residents placed on evacuation notices from Level I to Level III.

Requesting our citizens to evacuate their personal property is one of the hardest job duties the Sheriff's Office has, yet it is one of our most important tasks to ensure the life and safety of each individual. During a wildfire event, time is of the essence, which is why it's imperative that Wasco County residents sign up for Citizen Alert. During the Seven mile hill fire, winds from the gorge were causing fire to move so fast that if it wasn't for our fire fighters it could have impacted Murphy's edition. The Citizen Alert notification allows us to send an immediate notification to the impacted area and gives time for the citizens to evacuate the area safely.

For the upcoming Fire Season, I request and hope that all Wasco County Citizens take the time to sign up for Citizen Alert, prepare an emergency evacuation kit, become familiar with Evacuation levels, fire prevention and defensible space and follow the guidelines of your local Fire Department and Department of Forestry.

Evacuation Levels

Level 1: Means "BE READY" for potential evacuation. Residents should be aware of the danger that exists in their area, monitor emergency services websites and local media outlets for information. This is the time for preparation and precautionary movements of persons with special needs, mobile property and (under certain circumstances) pets and livestock. If conditions worsen, emergency services personnel may contact you via an emergency notification system.

Level 2: Means "BE SET" to evacuate. You must prepare to leave at a moment's notice. This level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family and friends outside of the affected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready to evacuate at a moment's notice. Residents MAY have time to gather necessary items, but doing so is at their own risk. This may be the only notice you receive. Emergency services cannot guarantee that they will be able to notify you if conditions rapidly deteriorate.

Level 3: Means "GO" evacuate now. Leave immediately! Danger to your area is current or imminent, and you should evacuate immediately. If you choose to ignore this advisement, you must understand that emergency services may not be available to assist you further. DO NOT delay leaving to gather any belongings or make efforts to protect your home. This will be the last notice you receive.

The link for signing up for Citizens Alert is:

<https://member.everbridge.net/453003085612392/login>

For Fire prevention and defensible space please follow the following link:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/Pages/fireprevention.aspx>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lane Magill".

Lane Magill, Sheriff
Wasco County Sheriff's Office
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