

Curry Wildfire Preparation Team Wildfire Risk Reduction Training

Curry County Planning Division

October 9, 2010

Fire Fighting Standards for Dwellings in an Timber (T) or Forestry Grazing (FG) Zone:

The dwelling must:

- Be located on a parcel within a structural fire protection district or under contract with a structural fire protection district for residential fire protection.
- If not, provide evidence that the applicant has asked to be included within the nearest fire protection district. If it is determined that inclusion within a fire protection district or contracting for residential fire protection is impracticable, alternative means for protecting the dwelling from fire hazards may be provided.

Alternative means may include:

- A fire sprinkling system, onsite fire suppression equipment and water storage or other methods that are reasonable, given the site conditions.
- If a water supply is required for fire protection, it must be a swimming pool, pond, lake, or similar body of water that at all times contains at least 4,000 gallons or a stream that has a continuous year round flow of at least one cubic foot per second.
- The applicant must provide verification from the Water Resources Department that any permits or registrations required for water diversion or storage have been obtained or that permits or registrations are not required for the use.
- Road access must be provided to within 15 feet of the water's edge for fire fighting pumping units. The road access must accommodate the turnaround of fire fighting equipment during the fire season. Permanent signs must be posted along the access route to indicate the location of the emergency water source.

Fire Safety Area:

- A primary fire safety area of at least thirty (30) feet width must be maintained around all structures;
- A secondary fire safety area of at least one hundred (100) feet width must be cleared and maintained around the primary fire safety area.
- In primary fire safety area, accumulated needles, limbs and other dead vegetation should be removed from beneath the trees.
- For both primary and secondary fire safety areas, vegetation is limited to mowed grasses, low shrubs (less than two (2) feet high, and trees that are spaced with more than fifteen (15) feet between the crowns and pruned to remove dead and low (less than eight (8) feet from the ground) branches.
- Areas subject to the Scenic Waterway Area Overlay Zone may have compliance with the primary and secondary fire safety area requirements of this section modified to comply with specific siting standards contained in any state or federal approved Scenic Waterway Management Program when such regulations conflict.

Other Fire Standards:

- Must have a fire retardant roof.
- If there is a chimney or chimneys, each chimney must have a spark arrester.
- The dwelling can not be sited on a slope greater than 40 percent.
- The County may impose standards and conditions in addition to those specified above, when it deems it necessary to protect the public health, safety and welfare.
- Replacement or substantial improvement of legally sited existing dwellings requires compliance with the Fire Safety Area requirements of subsection 2. above. Substantial improvement constitutes an improvement which is in excess of 50% of the assessed value of the existing dwelling.
- Road Access to Dwellings must meet the requirements of Section 3.056

Fire Safety standards for Roads:

- Roads and driveways must have:
 - a driveable surface width of sixteen (16) feet.
 - an all weather driveable surface of gravel or rock.
 - an unobstructed horizontal clearance of not less than sixteen (16) feet and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than twelve (12) feet.
- Average grade for a road or driveway must not exceed 13.5% for any one mile of road length; or exceed 20% for any four hundred (400) consecutive feet of road length.
- Roads and driveways must have a driveable surfaced turnaround which has either a thirty-five (35) foot radius cul-de-sac, or a sixty (60) foot "T-shaped" design for the turning of fire fighting equipment.
- Roads, driveways, bridges and culverts must be designed and maintained to support a minimum gross weight (GVW) of 50,000 pounds for the passage of fire fighting vehicles or equipment.

Fire Safety standards for Roads:

- Bridges or culverts which are part of the construction of the road or driveway to the dwelling or structure must have written verification from a Professional Engineer, licensed in the State of Oregon, that the structure can meet the 50,000 pound construction standard.
- All bridges must be inspected and certified as to compliance with the 50,000 pound construction standard at an interval not greater than once every two years from the date of this ordinance. The inspection report must be filed with the Curry County Road Department.
- Variations from these standards may be granted through the provisions of Article VIII of this ordinance. The applicant must provide a written statement from the governing board of the fire protection district having responsibility for structural fire protection in the area where the new dwelling or structure is to be located which states that their fire-fighting vehicles and equipment can negotiate the proposed road and driveway.
- NOTE: The road standards listed above do not apply to private roads accessing only commercial forest uses that do not include permanent dwellings or structures. The purpose of the rule is to provide adequate access for fire fighting equipment.

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