

Wildfire Safe

June 4, 2025

Summary

- Rockaway community at risk for wildfires; historical fires near Quadrant Street highlight potential threats, requiring vigilance despite current low-risk level. Oregon saw 1.9 million acres burned last year; 74% of fires are human-caused, with top reasons being equipment use (22%) and debris burning (20%). Tillamook County enhances firefighting capabilities with an additional engine among 76 statewide, supporting proactive fire response strategies.
- Defensible space guidelines emphasized: Remove combustibles in zero to 5-foot zone and maintain 'lean, clean and green' principles in 5 to 30-foot zone. 2024 forecasts indicate warmer, drier summer conditions shifting to El Nino; elevated threat levels for coastal fire risks, with limited resources during major incidents. Evacuation preparedness reinforced with the Ready-Set-Go system; residents urged to prepare go bags and stay informed for swift action.
- Community wildfire mitigation plan underway with Mayor Mary and Councilor Mark Tynes; seven zones identified for comprehensive risk assessment and funding eligibility. High-intensity fires, exemplified by the 1989 Multnomah Falls incident, stress need for proactive forest management to prevent catastrophic fuel buildup. Mutual aid agreements established for enhanced fire response within Tillamook County; training drills conducted for improved emergency coordination.
- Early detection vital for effective fire suppression; intervention during initial stages can drastically reduce extensive fire damage and resource strain. Early detection allows for quicker response times, enabling firefighters to address small fires before they escalate into larger, uncontrollable blazes. Intervening in the initial stages of a fire can significantly minimize damage to property and natural resources, preserving ecosystems and reducing recovery costs. Effective communication and community awareness are crucial for reporting fires promptly, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and effectively during emergencies.