



PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE



Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Sara Boone, Fire Chief
Kari Schimel, Fire Marshal
Prevention Division
1300 SE Gideon Street
Portland, OR, 97202
Phone: (503) 823-3770

PROCEDURE

PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE - PREVENTION

JULY 15, 2021

MITIGATING FIRE & LIFE SAFETY HAZARDS AT HOUSELESS CAMPS

I. Unauthorized camping in high risk urban wildfire hazard areas

The increasing pace of climate change creates large risks for the city's forested areas. While Portland Fire & Rescue is working to increase wildfire awareness for residents living within the wildland-urban interface, unauthorized camping in our designated wildfire hazard zones poses an acceptably high threat of potentially catastrophic wildfire incidents. A wildfire in these forested areas would not only place the lives of the houseless community at risk, but also the lives of residents who recreate in the forest and live in the developed areas that surround them.

To mitigate this risk, PF&R is working with stakeholders and community partners to develop a procedure to relocate unauthorized campers from high risk wildfire hazard areas. The framework of this proposed procedure is as follows:

- A. PF&R will provide maps identifying high risk areas
- B. Relocation efforts will revolve around the Wildland fire season or whenever a Burn Ban is declared by the Multnomah County Fire Defense Board
- C. Notification and outreach to campers for voluntary relocation assistance from wildfire hazard areas will be conducted by Street Roots
- D. As a last and final resort, the Homelessness Urban Camping Reduction Program will relocate camper(s) who decline to voluntarily relocate from the designated high-risk wildfire hazard zones within the City.



PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE



Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner
Sara Boone, Fire Chief
Kari Schimel, Fire Marshal
Prevention Division
1300 SE Gideon Street
Portland, OR, 97202
Phone: (503) 823-3770

II. Illegal burning and aggressive behavior to first responders on emergency calls

Safety is the number one challenge fire crews face on houseless fire calls. Crews are increasingly confronted with aggressive and violent behaviors and are routinely forced to balance the risks of physical confrontation against the risks posed by illegal burning.

To ensure the safety of our crews and to reduce the risk of physical confrontation, PF&R is proposing the following procedure:

- A. Fire companies will refer illegal burning and aggressive behavior to the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO)
- B. Street Roots will be engaged to provide outreach, education, and resources
 - a. Street Roots and PF&R-FMO will develop protocol for referral process and follow up
- C. For second offenses, after Street Roots outreach efforts, the Fire Marshal will request HUCRP relocation of campers
 - a. Documented by PF&R FMO referral for illegal burning and/or aggressive behavior.