



Oregon State Fire Marshal's Red Incident Management Team

September 22, 2009

Dear Medford and Ashland Residents,

We want to thank you for your hospitality, patience, kindness, and acts of charity over the last several days. Since Monday afternoon we have worked within your communities to continue the excellent work that Medford Fire Rescue, Ashland Fire and Rescue, Oregon Department of Forestry, mutual aid firefighters from Jackson, Josephine and Douglas Counties, law enforcement officers and public works crews performed in the initial hours of the Deer Ridge and Siskiyou wild land fires. Monday night we were able to provide those initial attack crews with needed rest.

We are structural firefighters from cities and fire districts around Oregon who were sent here under a little-known Oregon law, the State Conflagration Act, which allows the State Fire Marshal to send firefighters from all over the state to help in a fire emergency that has overwhelmed and/or exhausted the local responders. In the case of these fires, teams of firefighters from Benton, Deschutes, Marion, Lane, Linn, and Coos Counties responded, led by a team of trained fire officers from around the state.

When we arrived Monday we were impressed by what local residents and all of the firefighters accomplished before our arrival. The evidence of local firefighting skills lies in the 300+ homes in Medford and the approximately 250 homes in Jackson County Fire District 5 near Ashland that were protected and remain standing today.

We have enjoyed our "visit" to your community. Please accept our deepest thanks for your kindness, cooperation and patience. The following public agencies responded to this emergency:

Medford Fire Rescue
Ashland Fire
Lane County Fire District 1
Springfield Fire
McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District
Eugene Fire & EMS
Coburg Fire District
Sweet Home Fire
Harrisburg Fire
Illinois Valley Fire
Albany Fire Department
Lebanon Fire
Brownsville Fire
Bandon Fire
North Bend Fire
Redmond Fire
Jackson County Fire District 4
Jackson County Fire District 5
Lake Creek Fire District
Rural Metro Fire
Applegate Fire District 9
Oregon Department of Forestry

Jackson County Fire District 3
Sutherlin Fire
Douglas County Fire District 2
Corvallis Fire
Philomath Fire
Alsea Fire
Salem Fire
Turner Fire
Woodburn Fire
Willamette Valley Fire Authority
Stayton Fire
Silverton Fire
Bend Fire
Hillsboro Fire
LaPine Fire
Black Butte Fire
Jefferson County Fire District 1
Rogue River Fire
Jacksonville Fire
Grants Pass Fire Rescue
Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office

