

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2025

Board Shanty Fire Highlights Importance of New Agreement with Rural Metro Fire Department

Grants Pass, OR — The Board Shanty Fire, which ignited on July 17, 2025, in the wildland-urban interface South of Grants Pass, underscores the critical importance of coordinated fire protection and emergency response in Josephine County. This incident illustrates why the Josephine County Rural Fire Protection District board of directors voted unanimously to enter into a formal agreement with Rural Metro Fire Dept., Inc. on July 7th, 2025.

Thanks to a fast and aggressive initial attack led by Rural Metro Fire, working in seamless coordination with the Oregon Department of Forestry, the fire was rapidly engaged, helping to prevent greater spread and potential damage. This successful response was bolstered by longstanding mutual and automatic aid partnerships with agencies including Grants Pass Fire Department, Illinois Valley Fire District, Applegate Valley Fire District, Williams Rural Fire Protection District, and many others.

“Their swift and professional response is exactly why we committed to a partnership with Rural Metro,” said Mark Jones, President of the Josephine County Rural Fire Protection District. “We thank all the agencies involved for their dedication and courage, and we pray for their continued safety as they work to protect lives and property.”

Residents are encouraged to follow official updates on the ODF Southwest Oregon District Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/ODFSouthwest

To receive emergency alerts, evacuation notices, and zone updates, please sign up with Genasys Protect (formerly known as Zonehaven): protect.genasys.com

Residents in or near impacted areas are urged to take the following preparedness steps:

1. Assemble go-kits with vital medications, documents, clothing, and pet/livestock needs.
2. Keep vehicles fueled and parked facing out for quick departure.
3. Review evacuation routes and know local shelter locations in advance.
4. Monitor updates from: Genasys Protect, Watch Duty app, Josephine County Emergency Management, and ODF Southwest Oregon
5. Know the levels of evacuation
 - A **Level 1 evacuation** means be ready for potential evacuation.
 - A **Level 2 evacuation** means be set to evacuate.
 - A **Level 3 evacuation** means that you need to leave immediately!

Every second counts in a wildfire emergency. Preparedness saves lives.

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