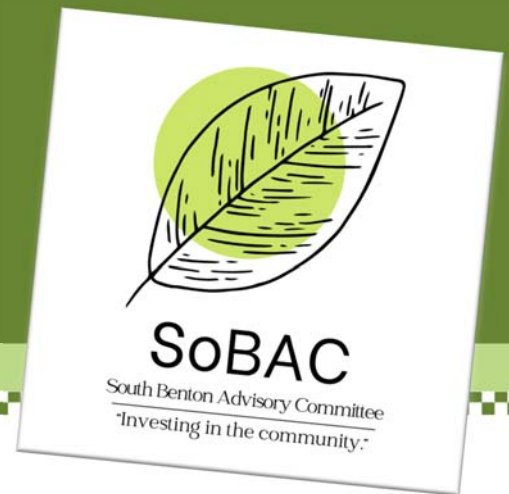


Community News

Published by South Benton
Advisory Committee,
United Way of Linn, Benton,
and Lincoln Counties



Community Calendars

View the latest events calendars at:

Willamette Grange:
willamettegrange.org/community-events

City of Monroe: ci.monroe.or.us/

Alpine Community Center:
www.alpinecommunity.net

South Benton Food Pantry:
southbentonfoodpantry.org/

Monroe Arts Association:
www.monroeartsassociation.info/

Monroe Community Library:
corvallisbenton.librarycalendar.com/?branches%5B92%5D=92

Preparing for Wildfire Season 2024

The month of May is National Wildfire Awareness Month and a great time to make plans and take actions that protect your home and reduce the stress and anxiety of wildfire season. Last year, a thunder and lightning storm in the summer started wildfires in the coast range hills near us. Although the outcome was not severe, the stress of living close to wildfires was felt throughout the community.

Our community is learning to live with wildfire and to understand the best ways to be prepared.

Monroe Rural Fire Protection District, South Benton Firewise Community, Benton County Emergency Management Department, and Oregon Department of Forestry are all planning activities and events to help everyone get information and take action.

Steps to take now**

Step 1: Sign up for the Linn-Benton Emergency Notification System.

Learn more at

<https://sheriff.bentoncountyor.gov/linn-benton-alert/>

Step 2: Defensible Space: Prepare your home and property by creating defensible space. Clear any leaves or woody debris from your roof and gutters. Remove any flammable items within 30 feet of your home.

Step 3: Evacuation preparation: Plan more than one escape route and assemble a family evacuation kit.

**Get help with these steps on May 18 at the Firewise event at Monroe Library between 12 and 3:00.



Get Help and Info.

When: May 18 Noon to 3:00

Where: Monroe Library

Learn:

How to sign up for the **Monroe Home Assessment** program which makes you eligible for \$100 GIFT and helps you reduce wildfire risks.

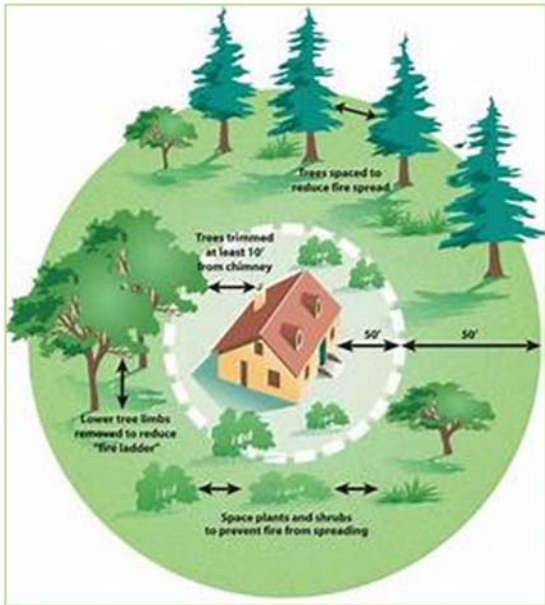
How your landscaping and maintenance can save your home.

How to prepare for evacuation.

Featuring: Interactive games for kids; Defensible Space information; Home Assessment Programs; Evacuation information; Prizes; Refreshments



Defending Your Home from Wildfire



You Are Invited!

Mark your calendar:

City/County work session: On Tuesday, April 30 at 6:00 you are invited to participate when Benton County Planning Commission joins the City of Monroe for a work session at Monroe Community Center, 605 Main St.

The OSU Extension Fire Program team is hosting a webinar on **May 2 from 11am to 12pm on "Not all Flame is the Same: Oregon's Diverse Fire Ecology."** Free registration, <https://beav.es/cL3>.

Monroe Smoking Hot BBQ and Logging Festival: May 18 including a chili cook-off and vintage log truck parade.

Defend Your Home From Wildfire: May 18 at Monroe Library from noon to 3:00 including sign up for the Home Assessment Program, information, kid activities, prizes, and more!

In 2023, Monroe Rural Fire Protection District (MRFPD) was awarded a Community Risk Reduction Grant funded by the Oregon State Fire Marshal and SB762. This program was developed as a way to reach out to community members of the district and offer a chance to assess your property and home in return for a \$100 voucher (in the form of pre-paid card). *Payment of the voucher is subject to eligibility. The program will help bring awareness to the community through this funding opportunity and further prepare residents in case of a wildfire. The program will be active through 2025 or until funding runs out.

The Monroe Rural Fire Protection District (MRFPD) will be using this opportunity to assess wildfire risks to local properties and homes. Owners who have their property assessed become eligible to receive a \$100 prepaid card. MRFPD's goals include raising awareness of local wildfire risk, helping MRFPD better defend homes against wildfire, and helping landowners create defensible space around their homes.

Following the assessment, MRFPD will provide property owners with a report on their findings. For more information, eligibility, or to sign up go to the MRFPD website at <https://www.monroerfpd.org> and visit the Home Assessment Program or phone MRFPD at 541-847-5170.

South Benton Firewise is helping to promote the Home Assessment program by sending a post card to every household and business in the 134 square mile MRFPD and by hosting an informational event at Monroe Library on May 18 from noon to 3:00.

What is Firewise?

Firewise USA is a national organization that teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action. Local communities become "Firewise Communities" by signing up members, establishing a mapped boundary of their community, creating an action plan, and forming a committee. The South Benton Firewise Community was formed in 2019 with help from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Benton County, and MRFPD.

Being a Firewise Community has several benefits in addition to encouraging neighbors to be aware and prepared. Firewise communities are sometimes targeted to receive funding from state or federal sources for projects aimed at reducing wildfire risks. These funds are sometimes made available to landowners as an incentive to tackle projects on their land. These "fuels reduction" activities make the whole community safer.

Funding Opportunity in Firewise Communities

Oregon Department of Forestry is scheduled to launch a program in June to provide "fuels reduction" funding to homeowners who are part of a Firewise Community. The South Benton Firewise committee will announce that program when information becomes available. You can learn more by following the South Benton Firewise Community on Facebook or signing up as a Firewise community member. To receive periodic emails with Firewise news, send an email to evelee@peak.org.



Friend us on **Facebook@SouthBentonAdvisoryCommittee** and send us email at sobac.info@gmail.com. We'd love to hear your feedback and ideas for future community news stories.

