

## **September 22 @ 12 – Agricultural Wildfire Preparedness in Rangelands**

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I developed an Agricultural Wildfire workshop and educational materials to educate dryland crop producers and ranchers on the new Oregon OSHA guidelines for fighting farmland and rangeland wildfires. Oregon OSHA produced a new publication in 2019 with valuable input from the Oregon Wheat League that requires employers to have an emergency action plan for their farm, along with a firefighting action plan and fire prevention plan. In addition, employees must be educated in basic wildland firefighting covering fire control, fire behavior, and fireline safety. I developed templates with producer feedback for the required plans and covered pertinent aspects of fire behavior in dryland cropping, along with creating defensible space on the farm. I covered what is required and best practices to cover in the farm emergency action plan, firefighting action plan, fire prevention plan, and PPE Hazard Analysis to determine what types of PPE are necessary with agricultural wildfire. I included knowledge I have gained from 5 years of wildland fire experience, along with my M.S. degree from the University of Montana where I conducted fire research and was a teaching assistant for a fire management course. My workshop allowed attendees to document completion of an annual fire refresher as required by OSHA. I believe it is important that all producers and OSU Extension Faculty who work in fire prone areas of the state understand how to be prepared for wildfires. Over 60 farmers and ranchers in Wasco and Sherman Counties attended the workshop that was held February 10, 2020 and are now starting to develop the required emergency action plans. Many producers are also now considering going to additional wildfire training. It is still too early to see what actions will be taken as a result of this training. The workshop materials and templates are pertinent for any agricultural operation where there is the potential for wildfire. It is also important for other agricultural extension agents to understand what these new requirements are for their local producers and how to assist their communities to be prepared for wildfires.