

When the Power Goes Out

You've probably seen all the news stories about how entire cities were (or still are) without power. Add to that unusually high temperatures, and you've got a lot of problems.

The Snowish County Public Utility District No. 1 in Washington State put together some excellent **tips** for dealing with power outages.

- Stay at least 30 feet away from any fallen power lines, including lines that are sagging or broken. Also, don't cut up fallen trees that are entangled with power lines. The safe thing to do is assume all power lines are alive and can be a killer if touched.
- If there is a life-threatening situation or medical emergency, call 911.
- Try to remember what was turned on at the time the power went out and turn the switches to those items to the "off" position. It's especially important to turn off anything that has a heating element, such as the electric range, an iron, or a toaster oven. Turning items off will prevent a fire when the power is restored.
- Unplug sensitive electronics to prevent damage from potential electrical surges. It's not necessary to turn off hot water heaters.
- Don't try to power your house by plugging a portable generator into a wall outlet. The generator will back feed electricity through the meter and out into the neighborhood, which will cause a severe safety hazard to neighbors and line workers. If using a portable generator, make sure

the appliances being powered are plugged directly to the generator or make sure your home is disconnected from the electric system with a transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician.

- Make sure you have fresh batteries for flashlights. Always exercise extreme caution if you use candles or oil lamps. Never leave them unattended and keep them away from furniture, drapes, and other flammable materials.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible. The contents should be good for at least 24 hours if the door is kept closed. After that, use dry ice for the continued protection of your food.
- Conserve water, especially in areas where well pumps and pumping stations may be without power.
- If you use a portable heater that burns liquid fuel, make sure you have a window open for ventilation.
- Listen to your local radio stations for outage report updates. **E**



From the Editor

If you've been watching the news lately, you probably won't be surprised by many of the articles that are in this issue of Every Needful Thing. It seems like every night there was a news story about a wildfire in the West and more homes being evacuated, or hurricanes "baking" in the Pacific, or heat waves ripping through the East.

Although my home was never evacuated because of a wildfire, hurricane or heat wave, four of my work colleagues had fires pretty darn close to their homes, two of which had to be evacuated for a day or two. It was from some of their experiences that I put together some of these articles, and they even contributed some photos for the articles.

I think that as each of us take a few minutes to watch the news and see what is happening around the world, it encourages each of us to do our part to be more prepared.

Hopefully the content of this newsletter is something that you are using to become more prepared, and that you are passing along to family and neighbors so they, too, can be prepared in the event of a disaster. **E**



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Do you have something you would like to share in an upcoming issue? Email it to us at newsletter@sunoven.com

Making Your Home and Community FireWise

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HOME IGNITION ZONE

The Home Ignition Zone begins with at least 30 feet of space immediately around the home and extending out as far as 100 to 200 feet depending on the characteristics of the surrounding forests or grasslands. Creating and maintaining the Home Ignition Zone reduces or eliminates ignition hazards presented by vegetation (by thinning or spacing, removing dead leaves and needles and pruning shrubs and tree branches) and combustible construction (wooden porches, decks, storage sheds, outbuildings, swing sets and fences).

WHY? Reducing ignition hazards improves the chances that the structure will survive a wildfire...

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LEAN, CLEAN, AND GREEN LANDSCAPING

With Firewise landscaping, you can create survivable space around your home that reduces your wildfire threat. Prune large trees so that the lowest branches are at least 6 to 10 feet high to prevent a fire on the ground from spreading to the tree tops. Within the Home Ignition Zone, remove flammable plants that contain resins, oils, and waxes that burn readily: ornamental junipers, pampou, holly, red cedar, and young pine. A list of less-flammable plants can be obtained from your local state forester, forestry office, county extension office, or landscape specialist.

WHY? Although mulch does help retain soil moisture, mulch and other landscape materials can become flammable when too dry...

3

FIRE-RESISTANT ROOF CONSTRUCTION

Firewise roof construction materials include Class-A asphalt shingles, metal, slate or clay tile, and concrete products. The inclusion of a fire-resistant subroof adds protection. Make a periodic inspection looking for deterioration such as breaks and spaces between roof tiles. Keep the roof, gutters, and eaves clear of leaves and other debris. Make sure under-eave and soffit vents are as close as possible to the roof line. Box in eaves, but be sure to provide adequate ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew.

WHY? Something as simple as making sure that your gutters, eaves, and roof are clear of debris will reduce your fire threat...



A FIREWISE HOME HAS THESE SEVEN FEATURES

Be sure to reduce the ignition hazards on your property to the extent of the Home Ignition Zone (100-200 feet).

For more information, visit the web site



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FIRE-RESISTANT ATTACHMENTS

Attachments include any structure connected to your home, such as decks, porches, or fences. If these items attached to a home are *not* fire-resistant, then the home as a whole is vulnerable to ignition.

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FIRE-RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION

Wall materials that resist heat and flames include brick, cement, plaster, stucco, and concrete masonry. Tempered and double-pane glass windows can make a home more resistant to wildfire heat and flames. For more information, see the Firewise Construction Checklist on the other side.

WHY? Firebrands (embers) collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials...

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A DISASTER PLAN

The time to plan for any emergency is prior to the event. Take time to discuss with your family what actions you will take. Post emergency telephone numbers in a visible place. Leave before it is too late. Decide where you will go and how you will get there. Have tools available (shovel, rake, axe, handsaw, or chain saw). Maintain an emergency water source. Have a plan for your pets. Practice family fire drills.

WHY? The need to evacuate can occur without notice. When wildfire conditions exist, be ready to take action...

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EMERGENCY ACCESS

Identify your home and neighborhood with legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Include a driveway that is at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet and a slope of less than 5 percent to provide access to emergency vehicles.

WHY? So emergency personnel can rapidly find the location of the emergency...

Your home is probably your largest asset. So knowing there are simple steps you can take to protect it from an approaching fire can provide you the peace of mind you may need.

FireWise has put together numerous resources for homeowners and businesses on landscaping techniques that will provide barriers to keep the fire at a safer distance from the home.

This document was pulled from www.FireWise.org. Access this document in its entirety, or access additional resources by [clicking here](#).

Just because you live in the city, doesn't mean landscaping can be a home-saver. Here's a little info put together by FireWise on that very question:

I don't live in a "wildland" -- is my home really in danger?

- The terms "wildfire" and "wildland fire" can be misleading when it comes to the chance that your home could be ignited by a fire that starts outside in brush, grass or woods.
- With just the right conditions – a dry, hot, windy day – and an ignition source -- a spark from a vehicle, machinery, or a carelessly tossed cigarette – your home could be in fire's path faster than you might imagine.
- See NFPA's Brush, Grass and Forest Fires report to learn more about the frequency and locations of fires that could threaten your home.

Join us in thanking the firefighters for all their hard work this fire season by sharing this newsletter with a neighbor, because the more people that prepare, the better off we will all be. **E**

BE FIREWISE™ AROUND YOUR HOME

July's Solar Cooking Recipe: Solar Chicken Dinner

A cross between a cracker and a cookie, these super easy to make, slightly sweet squares go well with cheese, soups, or even yogurt.

INGREDIENTS

- Fresh rosemary
- Garlic
- Salt
- Pepper
- 1 lemon
- a drizzle of olive oil
- Some baby potatoes
- Two stackable pots

PREPARATION

Set Global Sun Oven out to preheat.

Peel the garlic, slice up the lemon; put some under the skin of each piece of chicken along with a sprig of rosemary, toss a few more cloves of garlic, a sprig or two of rosemary, and any remaining lemon on top, season with salt and



pepper, add a drizzle of oil, cover and roast it in the Sun Oven until the skin is golden and the meat is fall off the bone tender.

In the other pot roast some baby potatoes, prepare a salad while everything is cooking and you've got dinner. 🍽️

Emergency Need for Donors

The Red Cross blood supply has reached emergency levels with 50,000 fewer donations than expected in June. This shortfall leaves the Red Cross with half the readily available blood products on hand now than this time last year.

The Red Cross is calling on all eligible blood donors – now more than ever – to roll up a sleeve and give as soon as possible. All blood types are needed, but especially O positive, O negative, B negative and A negative in order to meet patient demand this summer.

An unseasonably early start to spring may be a contributing factor to this year's decrease in donations. Many regular donors got an early start on summer activities and aren't taking time to give blood or platelets.

In addition, this year's mid-week Independence Day holiday has

reduced the number of scheduled Red Cross blood drives. Many sponsors, especially businesses, are unable to host drives because employees are taking extended vacations.

Unfortunately, patients don't get a holiday from needing blood products. The need is constant. Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion. Blood and platelets are needed for many different reasons, including accident and burn victims, heart surgery patients, organ transplant patients, premature babies – when there are complications during childbirth – and for patients receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease.

Help prevent a summer blood shortage by making an appointment to #givenow. 🍷

Help prevent a summer shortage

All blood types are needed but there is short supply of the following blood types:

- O-Negative
- O-Positive
- A-Negative
- B-Negative

If you have one of these blood types, and are eligible, please **make a donation.**

We encourage EVERYONE to do their part to helping those in need this summer. DONATE BLOOD.

You've got 10 minutes to evacuate your home. What do you grab?

Have you ever thought about what you would grab if police came to your home and told you that you had 10 minutes to evacuate your home?

There have been countless news stories this summer about families that have been in this exact situation. Wildfires have been approaching neighborhoods across the West, and brave firefighters have been answering the call, fighting to protect the possessions of thousands of families.

Despite all their efforts, sometimes the fire wins, and can gut a home in a matter of minutes. The house itself may be replaceable, but family heirlooms and photos may not be. But are they what you should grab when you head out the door?

Here's a simple activity you can try with your family.

1. Gather your family in the living room.
2. Inform everyone in the house that you are executing an evacuation drill and



they have 10 minutes to gather whatever belongings they would grab if it were real.

3. After 10 minutes, gather everyone in the driveway (or back in the living room) and have them explain what they

grabbed and why they grabbed it.

4. Spend a few minutes chatting about what is important and readily accessible, so that if that was a real evacuation, the right items would be "saved" from a potential disaster. **E**

The Sun Oven as a Camping Tool

Last time you were packing your duffle bags, ready to hit the road for a family camping trip, did you consider bringing your Sun Oven? With the fire dangers in place across the West, many campsites prohibit open fires, regardless of having a defined fire pit.

The Sun Oven requires no fuel - only the power of the sun. So when you get back to camp after a long day hiking or fishing on the lake, preheat the Sun Oven while you clean the fish, then stick in your main course, or even a nice brownie or cake dessert.

The Sun Oven is as portable as a small suitcase and carries the cooking pots inside itself. Give it a try the next time you head out into the woods. **E**

