

**From:** [Melanie Rhoades](#)  
**To:** [HWREC Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 1:50:44 PM

---

Every birthday, anniversary, and Valentines Day, for the past two decades, my husband and I gave one another cards with sentimental words written in each. It is hard to describe the loss of those cards. They were the way our love took form, and now they are ash...along with my poetry, journals, wedding dress, and my husband's lifetime of collectibles, photos, and things from childhood. Unfortunately we also had slides and a projector that belonged to my parents in the house as well.

We lost our double wide mobile home in south Medford, the part that is just Jackson county. The mobile home park was called Pacific Village. Our back yard faced the back yard of a house with a Phoenix address. Our lot had nine trees. Three very tall Douglas firs, a tall cedar, four California laurels, and a peach tree that had given its best harvest just weeks before the fire. There were rose bushes, two other large bushes, vegetable beds, and lots of potted flowers.

When we got the knock on the door that it was time to evacuate, I had no sense/belief that it would be a fire that came anywhere near us, as we were west of South Pacific Hwy, and I imagined any fire staying

on the other side of it, closer to the bike path. I went outside to water my plants and water down the roof and trees. My husband loaded a few things into his van, and I drove my car. He took the cat, and I took our dog. I didn't even have a change of clothes.

The first week we spent at my parents, in shock. Then motels, as we did have insurance, though it was slow. Then a rental house in north Medford. It cost 2 and a half times what our space rent had cost! It had only one shower, so I started looking far and wide for something we could afford. Now we are in Green, in a mobile home. Our goal is to return to the rogue valley, but we don't know if we will be able to get the insurance company to cooperate. We also can't get the owners of Pacific Village to return our calls, so we have no idea if they will even continue to be a mobile home park. Is Jackson county going to allow them to use the land for some other purpose? Are there other parks that will commit to taking a new mobile in a year? If we order a new mobile home it will take a year until it is ready. The manufacturer wants us to know where we are going to put it. We simply don't know!

We have been luckier than some, less lucky than others. We just don't know where we will ultimately wind up. My husband worked in Medford until COVID, he has pre-existing conditions so when they

wouldn't let him work from home he had to resign, in good standing. He qualified for unemployment but that will run out soon.

We lost at least 1,000, perhaps 1,600 books. The insurance company wants us to remember every title! We also doubt that we will be compensated for our entire loss. Century National, or National General insurance has been extremely difficult to work with most of the time. We paid our premiums on time the entire 13 years we lived there, but we have had to wait and wait, especially in the beginning. Now I see in the paper people can get motels paid for—in September we could not get any help from either the insurance company nor any organizations we contacted.

One extremely upsetting thing that happened was that a motel we stayed at suddenly decided to no longer allow anyone with a local address to stay there! There ought to be a law that says that is not allowed, especially in a disaster!!

I don't know if you can respond to this testimony. These are the thoughts and questions we have at the moment. Any help would be greatly appreciated, even if it is just in the form of information. Thanks for this forum.

Melanie A. Rhoades and Michael J. Rhoades  
Formerly of 3966 South Pacific Hwy 75  
Medford, Or 97501  
541-292-0120

Artandbreath@yahoo.com