

From: [Marko](#)
To: [HWREC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Almeda Fire testimony
Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:21:08 AM

Dear hearing members,

My name is Mark Cook and I am a member and utility advocate with the Jackson County Fuel Committee. We advocate for our members who experience hardship paying their utility bills in Jackson County. I live in Talent and although I was NOT a direct victim of the Almeda fire, I saw the devastation that impacted and changed many of my neighbors lives. The fire missed my home by four houses.

Three items are forefront in my mind regarding the Almeda fire and its impact. One was the lack of a coordinated escape route for evacuees to leave the area. The escape route for the evacuees was uncoordinated and chaotic building fear and frustration with residents trying to escape the path of the fire.

Second, was the lack of the county authorities implementing the EAS system to interrupt the normal broadcasts on radio and TV to alert people of the developing disaster.

Third item on my list is the lack of response after the fire, from the State authorities and from FEMA to help those who lost their homes during the fire, particularly our neighbors in less affluent areas who were hit the hardest.

Although these tragic events are historically infrequent, I encourage the State of Oregon to develop a commission to assess and assist local government jurisdictions to have an emergency plan to be implemented in the event that this tragic event might happen again.

The commission would gather emergency organizations that would help counties create a plan of action for not only fire victims, but in the unfortunate event that an earthquake, Tsunami, flood, extreme weather event or another wildfire would occur.

Thank you for your participation and interest.

Be well, Stay well.

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Marko C



'Blues After Hours'

*Radio Show on KCIW 100.7fm Saturdays 10PM, Wednesdays 12noon in Brookings,
Oregon with your host, Marko*



JACKSON COUNTY FUEL COMMITTEE

Lead Utility Advocate, Benefit Coordinator and Board Member

Fighting poverty by providing firewood and advocacy for those members in need!

Rogue Valley Community Radio Collective



Board Chair

"No man is above the law and no man is below it: Nor do we ask any man's permission when we ask him to obey it." -Theodore Roosevelt

"The day the power of love overrules the love of power, the world will know peace."—Gandhi

"Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans" -John Lennon

"Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive." - Elbert Hubbard

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."- Albert Einstein