

From: [Rachel Glass](#)
To: [HWREC Exhibits](#)
Subject: Alameda Fire comments for legislative meeting
Date: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 11:16:10 AM

Hello,

I'd like to provide a few comments regarding concerns we witnessed during the Alameda Fire this past fall:

1. We relied predominantly on Twitter and the @MedfordAlert account for the most updated information. The City of Ashland NIXLE alert system was helpful and we signed up for the County alert system too, but NIXLE only gave more infrequent updates which didn't help us feel comfortable understanding hour-to-hour changes other than just "being ready to evacuate" at the Phase 1 stage, etc. The Twitter account actually was summarizing where the active fire was, street by street, and of it was generally heading away from our location. Takeway: we need much more easily accessible news and updates from official agencies, as much as possible about the unpredictable development of a fire event- which way it's moving, etc, in order to be more well-informed to evacuate.
2. Evacuation routes: 99 and I-5 were totally closed off between Medford and Ashland- where are Ashland residents supposed to evacuate? If I-5 Exit 14/Siskiyou Summit/CA border is closed, where are residents supposed to head? We can't just drive up to Mt Ashland or the hills east of here towards Klamath Falls- really scary to feel locked in at the end of the valley. Need more transportation guidance, plan to allow residents a realistic detour route out of the affected area.
3. Overall Firewise land use planning between Jackson County and the Rogue Valley cities- if the County doesn't have strict enough fire mgmt landscape maintenance requirements to match adjacent City property, how are we going to be any safer in the future? We need a comprehensive, geography-based strategic plan for how to mitigate, contain and avoid wildfire spread across the Valley. Bear Creek Greenway and I-5 were disaster corridors with no fire breaks.
4. Water resources for fire fighters- Talent lost water pressure at hydrants and had to rely on Ashland and other water sources, now we are in a water curtailment status with our reservoirs. Where is the oversight to coordinate and ensure all municipalities and fire districts have appropriate resources needed to actually fight the fire successfully?
5. Smoke impact: would be great to have more financial support for the community to invest in air purifiers for homes- expensive to buy and low inventory available in local hardware stores.

Thanks so much!
Rachel Glass