

The previous Owner of a local cannabis grow & processing was quoted on July 2019 in the Tucson Weekly News explaining that cannabis processing is not necessarily a new technique in science but a widely used process. "Crude oil is created with fractional distillation. The same process they use in the oil industry – that's the same process we're using here, but on a smaller scale". This is not a farming practice, this is a refining process involving the massive storage of flammable chemicals prior to refining, during the extraction process and disposal of waste chemicals.

A Google search will show you that at least 40 media documented fires and explosions have happened in Oregon, some of which was in rural areas and burned thousands of acres. Even "drying barns" are catching fire and laying waste to acreage. The Oregon State Fire Marshall has admitted they are behind the times and do not have a code in their system to track these fires, so the real number is unknown.

In May 2020, downtown LA had a processing lab explode which sent a wall of flame 30 feet high and 30 feet wide. It sent 11 fire fighters to long term hospital care and melted the fire truck out on the road. Youtube shows footage of the fire fighters scrambling back down a ladder which gets engulfed in the flames.

Tuesday of this week an ethanol plant in Cornelius exploded, despite the safety measures in place, and TV Fire had to wait for a foam truck from the airport to arrive because water wasn't putting out the fire. There were so many explosions they had to use a drone to develop a plan. Over 80 homes were evacuated & the toxic ash raining down required residents who were not evacuated to stay indoors. Ethanol is one of the chemicals used in cannabis processing.

2020 Wildfires burned than 1 million acres, the second most on record. The cost of fighting topped \$345 million. FEMA is sending the state \$13 million in new funding. The Chehalem Mtn fire was a 6 Alarm fire but TVFR told us they only had enough resources to respond to a 5 alarm. The cannabis grow & processing facility I live near was in the Chehalem Mountain fire & evacuation zone. The fire burned very close to this refinery and several residents had to call TV Fire to alert them to the dangers. According to TV Fire, we were extremely lucky as the wind changed direction and did not blow in its usual manner. A fire up here, exacerbated by flammable chemicals would be akin to the Columbia Gorge Fires with the addition of several communities of Newberg, Sherwood & Hillsboro.

Rural response times to fires are slower than densely populated areas and many stations are comprised of volunteers. Knowingly not protecting their lives with this danger is senseless.

As home owners, we have had to hire 5 attorneys and 2 hydrologist/geologist firms: collectively we have spent over \$150,000 fighting just (2) cannabis processing facilities in Yamhill County. The anxiety and fear of living like this or having to manage our businesses under this undo stress is a massive burden.

Please pass this legislation to protect the lives of our First Responders, your constituents, the lives of farm animals, wild life & the environment.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,  
Rick Noss