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## 612-2021

Report

### Accept report from Fire Marshall on houselessness and fire safety protocols

Accepted

Amended by Council

At the direction of Commissioner Hardesty, the Fire Marshall's office has developed a pair of protocols to help mitigate the risk of fires that can be caused by outdoor houseless camping. These protocols balance the need for compassion towards the houseless community and the ever increasing serious risk of fires in the city and the need to mitigate this risk. This report explains the details of the protocols while also walking through the process of how they were created.

#### Documents and Exhibits

 [Fire Risk Mitigation and Houseless Camping Report As Amended](#)

(866.81 Kb)

 [Example of the Report that Fire can generate for the work they do at various camps.](#) (1.04 Mb)

 [Draft map of the wildfire risk areas](#) (1.82 Mb)

 [Example of zoomed in Hot Spot Camping Map](#) (1.69 Mb)

#### Impact Statement

 [Impact Statement](#) (22.36 Kb)

#### Agenda Items

##### 612 Regular Agenda in [July 28-29, 2021 Council Agenda](#)

Accepted As Amended

Motion to amend report to replace Street Roots with community groups:  
Moved by Hardesty and seconded by Ryan. (Y-4; Wheeler absent)  
Motion to accept the report as amended: Moved by Hardesty and seconded by Ryan.  
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty Yea

#### Introduced by

[Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty](#)

#### Bureau

[Portland Fire & Rescue](#)

#### Prepared by

Derek Bradley

#### Date Prepared

July 20, 2021

#### Requested Agenda Type

Regular

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Yea

Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea

### General information

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📞 [503-823-4000](tel:503-823-4000)

🗎 [711](#) Oregon Relay Service

City of Portland, Oregon



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# PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE



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## PROCEDURE

### PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE - PREVENTION

JULY 15, 2021

#### MITIGATING FIRE & LIFE SAFETY HAZARDS AT HOUSELESS CAMPS

I. Unauthorized camping in high risk urban wildfire hazard areas

The increasing pace of climate change creates large risks for the city's forested areas. While Portland Fire & Rescue is working to increase wildfire awareness for residents living within the wildland-urban interface, unauthorized camping in our designated wildfire hazard zones poses an acceptably high threat of potentially catastrophic wildfire incidents. A wildfire in these forested areas would not only place the lives of the houseless community at risk, but also the lives of residents who recreate in the forest and live in the developed areas that surround them.

To mitigate this risk, PF&R is working with stakeholders and community partners to develop a procedure to relocate unauthorized campers from high risk wildfire hazard areas. The framework of this proposed procedure is as follows:

- A. PF&R will provide maps identifying high risk areas
- B. Relocation efforts will revolve around the Wildland fire season or whenever a Burn Ban is declared by the Multnomah County Fire Defense Board
- C. Notification and outreach to campers for voluntary relocation assistance from wildfire hazard areas will be conducted by community groups.
- D. As a last and final resort, the Homelessness Urban Camping Reduction Program will relocate camper(s) who decline to voluntarily relocate from the designated high-risk wildfire hazard zones within the City.



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## II. Illegal burning and aggressive behavior to first responders on emergency calls

Safety is the number one challenge fire crews face on houseless fire calls. Crews are increasingly confronted with aggressive and violent behaviors and are routinely forced to balance the risks of physical confrontation against the risks posed by illegal burning.

To ensure the safety of our crews and to reduce the risk of physical confrontation, PF&R is proposing the following procedure:

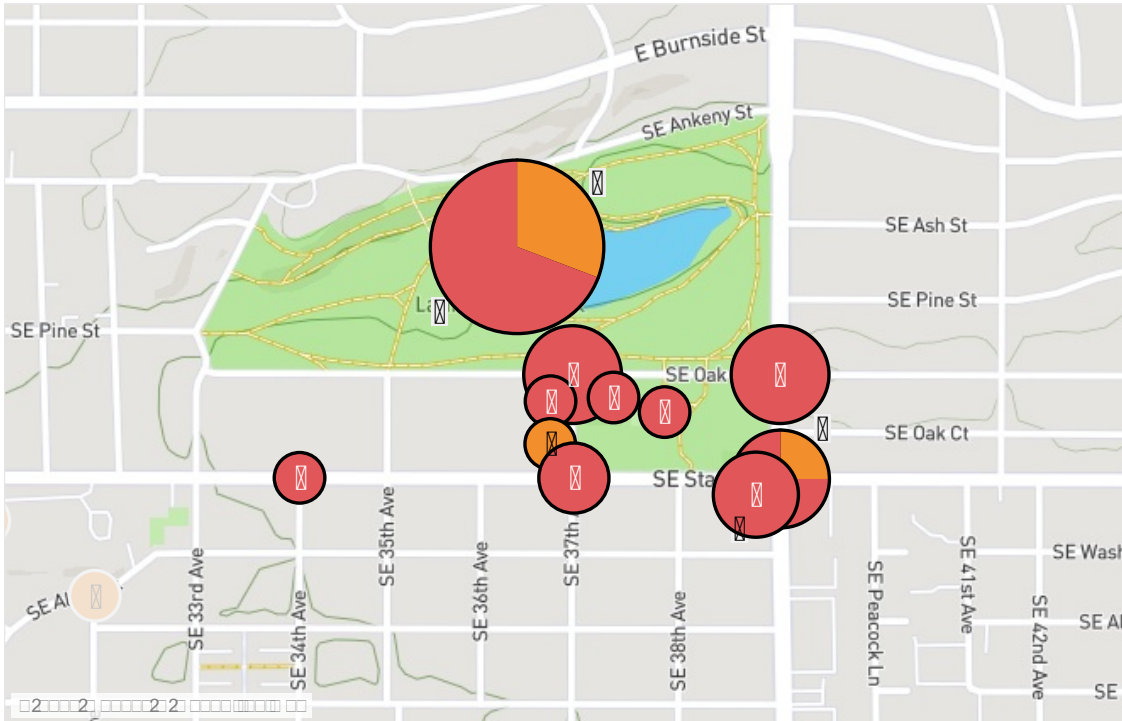
- A. Fire companies will refer illegal burning and aggressive behavior to the Fire Marshal's Office (FMO)
- B. Community groups will be engaged to provide outreach, education, and resources
  - a. Community groups and PF&R-FMO will develop protocol for referral process and follow up
- C. For second offenses, after Community groups outreach efforts, the Fire Marshal will request HUCRP relocation of campers
  - a. Documented by PF&R FMO referral for illegal burning and/or aggressive behavior.



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