



FOREST-TREE LEADER

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Quarterly Newsletter

WINTER 2015

President's Corner

DEREK CRAVEN

The 36 Pit fire was finally declared contained at the end of October, but not before burning more than 5,500 acres. For some residents of rural Clackamas County, it was a bit of a wake-up call. Large fires have been occurring in the Mt. Hood



National Forest on a semi-regular basis in recent years, usually on the drier east side of the mountains or at higher elevations where lightning strikes are more common. This one was just eight miles out of Estacada and the smoke was definitely noticeable in our communities.

For some residents east of Estacada, the fire closed roads and lead to evacuations. For the rest of us it's a reminder that fire can occur on the westside and to recommit to fire preparedness on our own woodlands. This winter, consider contacting the

Oregon Department of Forestry or your local fire district for some advice on creating defensible space around your house and other structures in the woods. Good information is available online as well at the Firewise website (www.firewise.org). With a little bit of advanced planning, you can reduce the chance that a wildfire can spread onto your land. ■