

## FireFree no-cost yard debris disposal dates set

*by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources*

FireFree is preparing for another successful year of sponsoring free yard waste and debris clean up days in Central Oregon. FireFree allows residents of Central Oregon the opportunity to recycle yard waste and debris at no charge at area landfills and transfer stations in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties. A date schedule is listed below.

In addition to cleaning up yard waste that has accumulated over the past year, and removing flammable vegetation, residents are encouraged to prune trees that present a hazard and clear any flammable vegetation that encroaches on the minimum 30-foot buffer zone –the defensible space–, around homes and other structures.

This is also a good time to relocate wood piles and leftover building materials that may spread wildfire; and cut any dry grass and weeds that are over 4â€• in height. All of these efforts will help in reducing the risk of loss from wildfires within our communities.

Mark your calendars and take advantage of these free clean up days!

Please remember to cover your loads! Drivers of uncovered loads and loads that lose debris along the roadways are subject to a large fine. Deschutes County Sheriffâ€™s Office will be on patrol during the Free Recycle Days.

For participating residents, please note that stumps larger than 12â€• in diameter, sod, manure, lumber or other wood products and land clearing debris are not permitted free of charge during these clean up days. They will be accepted although regular rates for these materials will apply. Also please note that sod is not accepted at transfer stations at anytime.

FireFree is a public education campaign designed to increase resident participation in wildfire defense and to mitigate losses due to wildfire. The annual clean up days are a key part of involving area residents in removing debris from around their homes and property, and increasing awareness about other steps they can take to reduce the potential for catastrophic wildfires reaching homes and neighborhoods.

The Central Oregon FireFree committee is sponsored by Project Wildfire and includes volunteers and partners from the Bend Fire Department, Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook County Fire Agencies, City of Bend Development Services, Deschutes County Dept of Solid Waste, Deschutes Recycling, the Deschutes National Forest, Oregon Department of Forestry and a number of local government organizations, private businesses and individuals.

For more information about FireFree activities in your area, call your local fire department or Project Wildfire at 541-382-1675.

2007 FireFree Clean Up Days  
April 21st through April 29th at Knott Landfill in Bend.

Hours are 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

May 5th and 6th at Deschutes County Transfer Sites:

Negus Transfer Station in Redmond

Fryrear Transfer Station in Cloverdale

La Pine Transfer Station in La Pine

Weekend hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

May 5th and 6th at the Sunriver Compost Site in Sunriver.

Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

April 21, 22, 28, and 29 at Box Canyon Transfer Site in Madras.

Weekend hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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