
RE: Defensible Space Completion - Blefgen, 17710 Ox Spur Ct., Bend

From Steven Lord <SLord@sistersfire.com>

Date Mon 2/9/2026 11:18 AM

To Gary and Sara Blefgen <gblefgen@msn.com>

Cc Tom Fast <tfast@cloverdalefire.com>; Thomas Gilman <tgilly60@gmail.com>; Steve Wells <wells.steve711@gmail.com>; Jeff Puller <JPuller@sistersfire.com>

Gary and Sara,

Sorry for the delay in responding. The work you have done previously was outstanding and now your work should be an example for all homeowners in Greater Sisters Country.

We will not need to perform an on site re evaluation due to your photos. On that note, the level of detail in your documentation and the thoroughness of the mitigation—particularly the transition to FR decking and the removal of the high-heat juniper—is exactly what we hope to see. Your property is now significantly more resilient. I have officially updated your address in our system to reflect a completed 'Follow-up Assessment' with a 100% compliance rating.

On a final note, since your property now serves as a model of fire resiliency, I'd encourage you to share your experience with your immediate neighbors—especially those who may not have started their defensible space journey yet. Often, the biggest hurdle for homeowners is simply knowing where to begin. By showing them your 'before and after' photos or explaining the peace of mind that comes with upgrades like the FR decking and metal screening, you could be the catalyst that helps protect the entire cul-de-sac. Community protection is a team effort, and your leadership here is truly invaluable.

Safe travels on your trip south, and thank you for being such proactive partners in keeping our community safe.

Steven

From: Gary and Sara Blefgen <gblefgen@msn.com>

Sent: Friday, January 2, 2026 9:07 AM

To: Steven Lord <SLord@sistersfire.com>

Subject: Defensible Space Completion - Blefgen, 17710 Ox Spur Ct., Bend

Hi Steven,

This is Gary Blefgen at 17740 Ox Spur Ct., Bend ... just west of your place. You did a defensible space assessment of our property last May (see email below and attached assessment).

We have completed the recommendations in the assessment and as discussed. I have attached a pdf document with photos of the completed work as well as outlined below.

You had also mentioned you might be available to stop by our place to check out the completed work ... that would be great. We will be home this next week but will be heading south for a couple of months around Jan 10th.

Defensible Space Completed work:

1. No vegetation within 5 ft of house, shop and pumphouse. See photos in attached pdf.
2. No vegetation or organic matter around and under deck.
3. We have also replaced the deck with TimberTech's Reserve-FR (fire resistant) decking. See photos in attached pdf.
4. Screened open space below deck with 1/8" metal screening. See photos in attached pdf.
5. Pruned juniper tree NW of home next to well house to 10+ ft from structure and above the roofline. See photos in attached pdf.
6. Removed juniper tree NE of house. This tree met defensible space guidelines but was considered a significant heat source impinging on the house due to it's size and oily foliage.
7. Enclose storage area in open bay on N side of shop to minimize danger of airborne embers. See photos in attached pdf.
8. Relocate street number (from tree to stake) to make more visible.
9. Remove firewood from under juniper trees along north property line in addition to creating a firebreak along the north property line. See photos in attached pdf.

Please let us know if you have any questions, need additional information from us and/or would like to stop by to check out the completed work.

Thank you very much for all of your help.

Gary & Sara Blefgen
503-252-8391

From: Steven Lord <SLord@sistersfire.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2025 3:28 PM
To: Gary and Sara Blefgen <gblefgen@msn.com>
Subject: RE: Defensible Space

Gary and Sara,

Thanks for having me out today to view your property. You should be proud of the work you've done. My OCD felt so much relief as I walked around your property.

I've included the report which really only details the trees, shop opening and the screening.

After you've completed those projects, please reach out to me so I can update you address with a "follow up Assessment".

Regards,

Steven

<https://app.watchduty.org/>

<https://member.everbridge.net/892807736723736/login>

<https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/news/video/demo-shows-protect-home-wildfires-103680552>

From: Gary and Sara Blefgen <gblefgen@msn.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:38 AM

To: Steven Lord <SLord@sistersfire.com>

Subject: Re: Defensible Space

Hi Steven,

I will be helping Kiwanis move furniture, etc. to the fire Hall for the antique sale Thursday morning but will be available anytime after 11:00 AM.

Thanks Steven,

Gary

From: Steven Lord <SLord@sistersfire.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:22 AM

To: Gary and Sara Blefgen <gblefgen@msn.com>

Subject: Re: Defensible Space

Hi neighbors,

I think Thursday would work. Will you be around in the am?

I'll be available in the afternoon.

Regards,

Steven

Steven Lord

FF-EMT/ Community Risk and Fire Specialist

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On May 19, 2025, at 8:21 AM, Gary and Sara Blefgen <gblefgen@msn.com> wrote:

Hi Steven,

This is Gary & Sara Blefgen ... we spoke with you yesterday at the C4C Wildfire talk. You had mentioned that you could stop by our place to look at our defensible space, maybe on your way home Thursday or Friday or whenever might be convenient for you ... we live just west of you off Rock Island (and Hwy 20).

Our address is:

17740 O Spur Ct

Bend, OR 97703

We have done quite a bit of work towards defensible space but have some questions on whether we should go further, etc.

Thanks Steven,

Gary (& Sara) Blefgen

503-252-8391