



# PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE



Jo Ann Hardesty, Commissioner  
Sara Boone, Fire Chief  
AJ Jackson, Fire Marshal  
Prevention Division  
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## MEMORANDUM

Date: January 6, 2021  
To: Jonathan Lewis  
From: Fire Marshal AJ Jackson  
Re: Hazelnut Grove

Hazelnut Grove is situated between N. Interstate and N. Greeley Ave at the base of a slope in an area with dense trees and shrubs. The abundance of plant life provides fuel to burn, and the steep topography of the area creates the potential for significant fire hazards when combined with seasonal hot and dry winds.

However, since 2017 PF&R has routinely conducted safety walk-throughs and worked closely with Hazelnut Grove leadership and the Homelessness Urban Camp Impact Reduction Program to reduce fire risks at the site. Fire extinguishers have been supplied and smoke alarms have been provided for the sleeping pods. During the dry season, no open/recreational burning is allowed. The brush along the hillside is cleared to provide a 20-foot buffer between the village and surrounding vegetation.

While the current location of Hazelnut Grove is far from ideal, the community has been very responsive to the safety recommendations provided by our Fire Inspectors. Should the village be relocated, our primary concern is that the area becomes occupied by a community that is far less amenable to our input. Unmonitored use of open flames in the area could increase the risk of an uncontrolled fire.