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Fire Captain
Fire Station 5
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Subject: Increased fire danger in the Hillsdale Area

As you know, drought conditions and high temperatures in Portland are predicted for many weeks to come. What can we do to support your efforts in protecting us and our neighborhood from a devastating fire caused by carelessness and/or an act of nature? Would it be helpful to form a coalition of businesses, merchants, churches, volunteer organizations, home owners associations, offices, schools, et al, in order to make Hillsdale "fireproof" this summer?

Although, no doubt, you already have many successful contacts, programs, and resources in place, it's possible you might appreciate some assistance as demand grows. For example, Hillsdale volunteers could serve as backup staffing for a hotline that area folks would use to report dangerous activity in our area. Another possibility might be for us to work with the Neighborhood Emergency Teams in reaching groups (HOA Boards, recreational facilities, etc.) who need to understand and to be committed to fire prevention guidelines. Your officers and NET could also teach us ways to protect our individual properties and the steps we should follow in case a fire starts in our neighborhoods.

Below is a list which includes groups/organizations/individuals in the immediate community (*and beyond*) with whom you may have worked before. In any case, all are well respected and influential; therefore, if you have an interest in exploring the coalition idea, they would be logical leaders we could try to recruit as organizers of such a venture. *(By the way, although these persons/groups had nothing to do with initiating my letter, all of them are the kinds of people who make Hillsdale [and Portland] a great place to live and who would be first-rate allies if they are available and willing to participate.)*

I'll follow up in a few days to hear your views. Meanwhile, please know how much you and your team are appreciated for your dedication and skill!! How can we help you carry the burden of increased responsibility, especially if it won't be possible to obtain commensurate increases in resources otherwise?

Gratefully,

Copies:

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