

**From:** [Denise Wright](#)  
**To:** [HWREC Exhibits](#)  
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Our Story - Thank you for giving us the opportunity to tell "Our Story"

The morning of September 8, 2020, almost 100 degrees and 50 mile an hour winds---- Paul and I headed to the town of Phoenix to get our flu shot. This was 11:30 in the morning. We got on Hwy 99 and I saw smoke on the bike path. I mentioned to Paul, wow there's a fire! I also mentioned I don't see firetrucks or hear sirens! By the time we got to Phoenix, the smoke was intense and the winds were horrific. The traffic lights were out and the power went out in Rite Aid.

We arrived back home to Talent. The time is 1:00.

The fire now is NOT far from our street. We live on Gangnes Drive, right off of Talent Ave. All the neighbors and us are out in the street, saying WHAT do we do NOW? There was NOTHING ON the TV, or our CELL PHONES .and my JACKSON COUNTY SCANNER.

The retardant bomber was flying over our house and the helicopter. STILL, no sign of police, firetrucks. They have closed off I-5 and Hwy 99. So all the traffic was on Talent Ave.

Big semi trucks etc. We and the neighbors decided we better get out of here. Paul & I decided to take both our vehicles and attach our R-POD (trailer) to our truck. We grabbed our two kitties, some important papers a change of under ware. We were going to our daughter in laws in Medford and spend the night. Planning on coming home the next day.

By this time, it is 3:30 in the afternoon. It took us another 1\2 hour just to get out on Talent Ave, Then another hour and 1\2 to get to Medford.

In the mean time, we had not seen or heard any NEWS on what was ,going on. This was a true NIGHTMARE...So Scary too.

In the mean time, our Daughter lives in San Francisco, We were Face Timing her most of the day and evening. She was receiving information, that we could not receive here in Jackson County. That was BULL SHIT!! Probably about 11:00 that evening she contacted us and said Mom and Dad, Talent is gone... This was the house we had lived in for 33 years. We raised our Son and Daughter in this house. AND our daughter had to call us to tell us this awful sad news!!!

Luckily we took our trailer with us that horrible day. For 42 days we stayed and camped up at Howard Prairie. In the meantime we needed to find a place to live. We applied to an apartment complex here in Central Point. It wasn't built yet. So that is why we were in our trailer for so long. But I feel we were one of the fortunate people to have a place to live. Not only were we sad sick of what we had and lost it all, but everyone in our community, people, business' etc. This was NOT ACCEPTABLE TO US ALL!!

Where was our EMEREMERGENCY SYSTEM???????? WE DIDNT EVEN HAVE WATER IN OUR FIRE HYDRATES!!!!!!

We don't know what the future will bring us. Yes, we lived in our home for 33 years We were renters believe it or not. We had some Renters Insurance. Thank Goodness. Never planned on using it for TOTAL DESTRUCTION!

Thank you again for letting me tell our story

Paul and Denise Wright  
650 N Haskell Street #8  
Central Point, Oregon 97502