



OREGON OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

# THE GATED WYE

OCTOBER 2021



## Fire Prevention Month brings focus to sounds of smoke alarms

Every year October is designated as fire prevention month across the state of Oregon. During this time, the OSFM and our fire service partners across the state focus on a central message to help prevent house fires.

This year is no different. The Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal is rolling out a campaign that mirrors the National Fire Prevention Week focused on the sounds of fire safety. **[READ MORE ON PAGE 2.](#)**

### OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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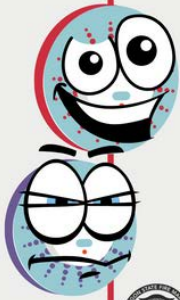
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**YOUR SMOKE ALARM IS  
TRYING TO TELL YOU  
SOMETHING.**



**#KnowYourBeepingAlarm**



**ЕСЛИ МЫ  
ПОСТОЯННО ИЗДАЕМ  
ТРИ СИГНАЛА БЕЗ  
КАКОЙ-ЛИБО  
ПРИЧИНЫ, НАС  
НУЖНО ЗАМЕНИТЬ.**



**#Очемпищитдатчик**



## ALARMAS MOLESTAS

#ConozcaSuDetectorDetectorSonoro



### NUNCA MANIPULE UN DETECTOR DE HUMO

Las alarmas molestas a menudo son  
causadas por una colocación incorrecta

### ¿QUÉ ES LA MANIPULACIÓN INDEBIDA?

La manipulación puede incluir retirar una batería o  
sacar un detector y colocarlo en un armario.



### CONSIDERE LOS DETECTORES DE HUMO EN LA COCINA

Colocarlo demasiado cerca de un horno  
puede causar pitidos al cocinar.

### COLOCACIÓN ADECUADA

Colocarlo demasiado cerca de un baño  
puede causar pitidos debido al vapor.



# October means Fire Prevention Month is here

It is 9:00 p.m., and you hear your smoke alarm let out a single chirp, a minute later, another one. What should you do? Chances are the alarm might need a new battery, or there could be an issue with the power source. What if your smoke alarm is firing off recurring beeps, but there is no fire or smoke around? It could mean the unit is ready to be replaced. Our Office's campaign will focus on residents' actions when their smoke alarm is trying to say something.

Each year in Oregon, October, is designated as Fire Prevention Month. This year's theme is knowing the sounds of your smoke alarm. The Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal has designed a campaign to teach and learn what your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are saying; and what you should do when you hear each sound.

In September, fire districts and departments across the areas had the opportunity to order boxes filled with items to help promote fire safety. We also sent out a social media kit to the fire service to help spread the messages. The social media kit is available in six languages: English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Simplified Chinese, and Traditional Chinese to reach as many Oregonians as possible. Each week has a themed message to address and teach people about what their alarms are saying. The OSFM has also put together a smoke and CO alarm guide, which is also available in six languages.

# House fires in Oregon by the numbers

Having a properly working smoke alarm in the home can mean all the difference in the event of a house fire. Stats from 2020 show a working smoke alarm was present in only 42 percent of reported house fires across the state. No smoke alarm was present in 14 percent of home fires. These stats illustrate the importance of continued education around the proper installation, use, and maintenance of smoke alarms. Here are some tips to keep in mind.

- Smoke alarms are required in every home in Oregon.
- Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- Test all smoke alarms monthly.
- Replace smoke alarm batteries with the same type of battery that was removed
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

## TOP 5 CAUSES OF HOUSE FIRES IN OREGON

1. **Cooking**
2. **Heating**
3. **Intentional**
4. **Smoking**
5. **Appliances**



## 2020 HOME STRUCTURE FIRE SMOKE ALARM FAILURE REASONS

Undetermined	32%
Missing Batter/Disconnected	25%
Other	17%
Battery Discharged or Dead	13%
Lack of Maintenance	9%

**FAST  
FACT**

THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL  
MONTHS OF SEPTEMBER  
AND OCTOBER ARE  
PARTICULARLY RISKY;  
THESE TWO MONTHS  
MAKE UP 22% OF ANNUAL  
FIRE INCIDENTS.



## OSFM urges college fire safety

As students in Oregon return to college campuses across the state, the OSFM reminds students to be safe and help prevent campus fires. Many students are moving away from home for the first time. It is essential to be aware of and know what to do if there is a fire.

87 percent of fires in college housing are caused by cooking. As a result, the OSFM has developed targeted social media messaging geared towards students to share tips and facts related to college fire safety. You can check those out on [OSFM's Instagram account](#).



# 2021 Oregon wildfire season brings challenges and success



The 2021 fire season in Oregon is winding down, thanks to a change in weather in mid-September. However, this summer was a very busy one for the Oregon Fire Service. Through the OFMAS, 57 task forces were mobilized, and nine conflagrations were declared.

The first conflagration in 2021 was declared on June 30th for the Wrentham Market Fire near Dufur. The fire quickly raced across 7,200 acres. Three task forces were mobilized to help protect homes in the area. Another three task forces were mobilized for a new start and conflagration for the Sunset Valley Fire.

The month of July was a very taxing month for the Oregon Fire Service. On July 6th, the Bootleg Fire sparked in Klamath County. Pushed by gusty winds and extremely dry conditions, flames ripped across the landscape. For several days massive pyrocumulus clouds towered over the town of Bly. At one point, the Bootleg Fire was the largest fire in the country and the number one priority for resources. The response from the fire service was tremendous. Through OFMAS, 12 task forces were mobilized, including 153 firefighters, 44 engines, and 15 tenders. In addition, structural firefighters from 3 states, California, Washington, and Utah, were called in. In total, 307 structural firefighters, 72 engines, and 17 tenders were assigned to help protect life and property. In July and August, structural firefighters would also be called to help with several wildfires on the west slope of the Cascades. In addition, the Skyline Ridge Complex, Middle Fork Complex, and Devil's Knob Complex would get firefighters busy in Douglas and Lane Counties.

The exceptionally dry conditions in South Central Oregon and new fire starts prompted two conflagrations in August and September. Nine structural task forces from Oregon and two from Washington were mobilized for the Patton Meadow Fire outside Lakeview. In early September, the Cougar Peak would ignite and chew through more than 60,000 acres in one night. 10 task forces were mobilized to support structure protection for several hundred homes.

A welcome sight for fire crews would come in mid-September, a soaking rain across the state.

# Prepositioning, Immediate Response prove helpful during '21 wildfire season



For the 2021 wildfire season, the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal implemented a new initiative, Response Ready Oregon. The initiative goal is to bolster the capacity and response of the Oregon Fire Service. Part of that initiative is prepositioning resources ahead of elevated fire danger and mobilizing resources through Immediate Response.



This summer saw success in having the ability to preposition resources and mobilize resources more quickly. The OSFM prepositioned resources seven times over the summer months. As part of the prepositioning, firefighters learned the area they were sent to, train, and helped with wildfire mitigation projects. Firefighters from Clatsop and Clackamas County propositioned in Chiloquin were able to help with a long-term structure risk assessment program. Firefighters from California prepositioned in Ashland, when Oregon had no additional resources, responded to two fires during their time and kept those fires small.

With Immediate Response, through OFMAS, the OSFM mobilized firefighters and apparatus to nine incidents to bolster initial response capacity. An example of this success was when the OSFM utilized aircraft for a fire in the Junction City area. The use of that resource helped to slow growth and helped prevent a conflagration. On three Immediate Response mobilizations this summer, crews prevented three conflagration declarations. The OSFM continues to look at how the initiative worked through the summer and will evaluate what worked and what did not work as the agency works to carry out the mission of protecting life and structures.





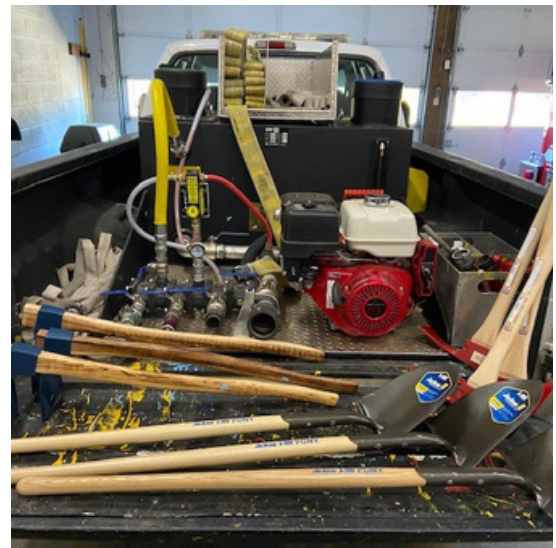


# WUI Grant Program helps better equip firefighters for wildfire

To boost the state's response to wildfire, the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal has awarded nearly \$5 million in grants to local fire departments impacted by the 2020 wildfires and under-resourced departments across the state.

The state legislature allocated money for Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grants to help departments buy equipment to prepare and build capacity for wildfire season. In total, 93 fire service partners were awarded grants. As a result, OSFM awarded \$2.6 million to 31 departments directly impacted by the 2020 wildfires, \$1.4 million has been awarded to 61 departments that are under-resourced and may not have the funding to purchase equipment for their firefighters, and 7 departments received \$812,000 in additional funding.

The money is being used to purchase things like radios, personal protective equipment (PPE), fire shelters, training, and apparatus, among other things. OSFM received 148 applications as part of the WUI Grant Program.



## WUI Grant Recipients

Adair RFPD	Falls City FD	La Grande FD	Rocky Point Fire & EMS
Alfalfa FD	Garibaldi FD	La Pine RFPD	Rogue River FD
Aumsville Fire	Gaston RFPD	Lafayette Fire	Sauvie Island FD
Aurora RFPD	Gates FD	Lake Creek RFPD	Siletz Valley Fire
Baker RFPD	Glide RFPD	Lakeview VFD	Silver Lake RFPD
Brownsville RFPD	Gold Beach Fire	Lyons RFPD	Silverton FD
Burns F & R	Grants Pass Fire	McKenzie River Fire	Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD
Camas Valley RFPD	Greater Bowen Valley RFPD	Medford Fire	Stayton RFPD
Canyon City VFD	Haines RFPD	Medford RFPD #2	Sublimity FD
Chemult RFPD	Halsey-Shedd FD	Merrill RFPD	Sumner RFPD
Chiloquin-Agency Lake	Heppner Fire RFPD	Mill City RFPD	Sutherlin Fire
Clackamas Fire	Hubbard RFPD	Mohawk Valley RFPD	Swiss home-Deadwood RFPD
Colton FRPD	Huntington RFPD	Monitor RFPD	Tenmile RFPD
Confederated Tribes	Idanha/Detroit FD	Mosier Fire	Tri City RFPD #4
Grand Rhonde	Illinois Valley FD	Mt Angel Fire	Turner RFPD
Coos Bay Fire	Jackson Co FD #3	Myrtle Point Fire	Tygh Valley RFPD
Crescent RFPD	Jackson County FD #5	Newport RFPD	Umatilla Co. FD #1
Depoe Bay RFPD	Jacksonville Fire	North Lincoln F&R #1	Upper McKenzie RFPD
Drakes Crossing	Jefferson Co FD #1	North Powder RFPD	Vale Fire & Ambulance
Dufur Volunteer Fire	Juniper Flat RFPD	Ontario F&R	Wamic RFPD
East Umatilla F&R	Kellogg RFPD	Pilot Rock RFPD	Warm Springs
Echo RFPD	Keno RFPD	Pine Valley RFPD	West Side RFPD
Evans Valley	Klamath Co. FD #3	Prospect FD	Williams RFPD
		Prospect RFPD	Woodburn FD
		Reedsport Fire	



# OSFM launches a Statewide Needs Assessment

The Office of the State Fire Marshal continues the work of implementing the new mandates in Senate Bill 762. Utilizing the most recent legislative investments, OSFM will create, support, and sustain fire-adapted communities, modernize our response systems and technology, and build on our Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS) structure and processes. To achieve the mission set before us, OSFM needs to gain a picture of the capacity and

needs of the Oregon Fire Service, which will guide strategic investments into communities and fire service agencies. To accomplish this, our Office will be reaching out to fire chiefs and fire defense board chiefs to assist us in capturing data relative to communities and response equipment. Currently, there are two concurrent need assessments underway.

First, the OSFM is looking to capture what type and where firefighting apparatus is across Oregon. With that information, the OSFM, through funding by the legislature, plans to make strategic investments in new wildland firefighting apparatus and position them in areas of Oregon where they would provide the most benefit to the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS). The apparatus purchased will be strategically placed to help with day-to-day capacity



for fire agencies and bolster extended response. Ownership of the apparatus purchased by OSFM will be transferred to local fire agencies through an intergovernmental agreement.

Second, to ensure we have a full grasp of the needs for Community Risk Reduction, OSFM will be reaching out to fire service agencies in high and extreme risk areas across Oregon by phone. By understanding the risk reduction needs of local communities, OSFM's Fire Risk Reduction Specialists will work to design local solutions. This analysis of risk reduction needs will give OSFM a springboard to identify local risks, develop community risk reduction plans, and use an integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce fire occurrence and impact.



# New OSFM members sworn-in in September

On September 7th the OSFM officially welcomed four new members to the ranks. Mariana Ruiz-Temple swore in Deputy State Fire Marshal Tim Stacy and Mobilization Coordinators Sara Rubrecht, David Call, and Alan Fitzpatrick. Congratulations!



## HMEP Grant Applications Open

The FFY 2022-23 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant application period is now open until Friday, December 31, 2021. The recipients of the current HMEP Grant Cycle (FY 2021-22) are just beginning their grant projects, but preparations for the FY 2022-2023 HMEP Grant Cycle (for projects completed between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023) are starting now.

### [FY 2022-23 HMEP Sub-Recipient Application Kit](#)

The application deadline is 5:00 PM Friday, December 31, 2021. If you need more information regarding the application process, please contact Terry Wolfe at 503-934-8245 or [terry.wolfe@osp.oregon.gov](mailto:terry.wolfe@osp.oregon.gov). To learn more about the HMEP Grant Program, guidance on eligible planning and training expenditures, and other grant specifics, visit the [PHMSA HMEP](#) grant webpage.

# **CODES CORNER**

## **Time for schools to review lockdown plans**



At the beginning of each school year, it is recommended to evaluate and review each school's lockdown plan with the school administrator and staff within your jurisdiction. Has the school plan changed, have authorized lockdown staff changed, how will staff communicate with teachers during a lockdown? These are just a few items required in a lockdown plan, (see OFC 404.2.3).

There are many components to having a successful lockdown plan. One of those components is communication. Communication between office staff and teachers is essential every day; however, it is even more critical during an emergency. OFC 404.2.3 #7 states that two-way communication between a central location and each area being secured during a lockdown must be provided. What does two-way communication look like for the schools you work with? Keep in mind that it may be different for each school within your jurisdiction.



Schools may choose to use cell phones to communicate during the lockdown. Almost every person has a cell phone today and they are an acceptable way for both school staff to communicate within the school or to responding emergency personnel.

Two-way radios are another way to meet the requirement of the code. Two-way radios allow a staff member to alert other staff members of potential danger on campus. Radios are lightweight and can be taken out during recess, during P.E., or on lunch breaks. Users can also override channels for emergency announcements.

There are other commercial items on the market that can be purchased for use as well. No matter what form of communication is chosen, its reliability must be tested as well as ensuring that there is adequate coverage throughout the building. Working with school administrators and staff will build partnerships, ensuring that lockdown and communication plans are up to date and that the school is off to a successful school year.



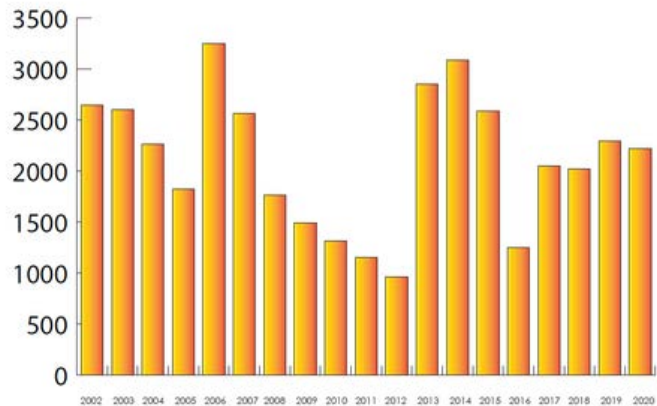
# Help ensure accurate NFIRS wildland fire data with tips from OSFM's A&I Unit

To better understand wildfires in Oregon, the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal Analytics and Intelligence Unit (A & I Unit) asks for help from the fire service to input data into the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Data on wildfires helps the office plan and better respond to these types of incidents.

As the OSFM looks to improve wildfire data collection and analysis, the OSFM A & I Unit has created step-by-step How-To Guides for reporting Wildland Fire Incidents. These guides will be sent to fire agencies by email and USPS mail in October, but you can also find them on our [Fire Service - Reporting Incidents webpage](#).

To track smaller wildfires, the NFIRS database includes a Wildland Fire Module. The Wildland Module is for fires in areas where development is essentially nonexistent, except for roads, railroads, power lines, and similar facilities. This Module is separate from the regular NFIRS Fire Module and helps OSFM collect wildfires not included in the National Interagency Fire Center data.

OREGON WILDFIRES PER YEAR



Source: National Interagency Fire Center

The graph above shows the number of Oregon Wildfires per year over the last 19 years using information from the National Interagency Fire Center. This graph does not include wildfires occurring on forestlands less than 100 acres or brushlands less than 300 acres.

**NFIRS**  
**CODING HELP?**  
**1-877-588-8787**  
**OSFM Analytics & Intelligence**  
**We're here to help.**

The graphic features a dark blue background with a grid of glowing blue and white dots, resembling a digital or data theme. At the bottom, there is a circular seal of the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

Generally, for fires in undeveloped areas with Incident Types 141 (Forest, Woods, or Wildland Fire), 142 (Brush or Brush-and-Grass Mixture Fire), and 143 (Grass Fire) file reports using the Basic and Wildland Fire Modules. For fires with these Incident Types in developed areas, the Fire Module should be used.

We appreciate all of your efforts to file Incident Reports timely and accurately. For assistance with NFIRS reporting, please do not hesitate to contact us at 1-877-588-8787 or [OSFMdata@osp.oregon.gov](mailto:OSFMdata@osp.oregon.gov).

# Contact Us

Have an idea for a story or subject you would like to know more about?

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