



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

APRIL 2024



APRIL: FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY IN OREGON

The Oregon State Fire Marshal offers an array of education and other resources to Oregonians and the fire service. These resources have the goal of protecting people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.

This month, we are highlighting some of the great work our team is doing around fire and life safety education and the services we offer to carry out our mission.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 2.](#)

OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fire Safety • P.02

Training Success • P.05

Smokey Bear • P.06

A&I Data Help • P.07

Engine Program • P.09

Codes Corner • P.15

From the Internet • P.18

Contact Us • P.20



COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION: MAKING OREGON SAFER TOGETHER

The Oregon State Fire Marshal and our partners are dedicated to keeping our communities safe from fire hazards. Community risk reduction is a tailored approach that focuses on reducing risks within each fire agency's unique service area. It revolves around the 5 E's: education, engineering, enforcement, emergency response, and economic incentives. Let's break down how each of these elements works:

Education: Sharing knowledge about fire and life safety is key. This can include events like Fire Prevention Month, wildfire awareness campaigns and outreach efforts in schools, and public presentations.

Engineering: Designing buildings with fire safety in mind, such as installing smoke alarms, and sprinkler systems, and creating defensible spaces, helps minimize fire risks.

Enforcement: Adhering to codes like the Oregon Fire Code ensures that safety standards are met. Fire inspections help identify potential risks and ensure compliance with regulations.

Emergency Response: Being prepared to respond quickly to emergencies with proper equipment and trained personnel is crucial in minimizing risks.

Economic Incentives: Offering incentives can encourage individuals and businesses to make choices that reduce fire risks, such as installing fire sprinklers.

By using the 5 Es framework, fire agencies can effectively identify and address risks within their communities, guided by data-driven strategies.

HOW THE OSFM USES THE CRR APPROACH

The OSFM uses data to analyze and enhance community risk reduction programs throughout the state. The agency provides tools and resources to assist fire agencies in reducing risks and injuries. In 2023, the OSFM Fire and Life Safety Education Division restructured how it operates to focus on educational programs geared toward community risk reduction. With this change comes many updated educational materials for the fire service.

Need fire prevention educational materials? You can [order them on our website](#).

OSFM PILOTING NEW COOKING SAFETY PROGRAM

To tackle Oregon's top cause of residential fires—cooking-related incidents—the OSFM has launched a **Cooking Fire Safety Program** to help Oregonians at greatest risk of home fires. This program, piloted by 10 fire agencies, provides kits containing essential cooking safety items and consistent messaging based on NFPA standards.

Oregon agencies who are piloting the cooking program kit include: Gresham Fire & Emergency Services, Medford Fire, Bend Fire Department, Keizer Fire District, Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District, Pine Valley Rural Fire Protection District, Polk County Fire District No. 1, Salem Fire Department, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Grand Ronde Tribal Fire Department. Legacy Emanuel Burn Center has also joined this mission to expand burn prevention topics.

If your agency is interested in participating, please contact [Laura Chaffey](#).



MAKE A DIFFERENCE: JOIN **OLST** TODAY

To help coordinate prevention messaging and how to best use the community risk reduction framework, the **Oregon Life Safety Team** works together to develop resources and practices for reducing risk.

The 27-member committee is made up of stakeholders from various fields. If you are interested in joining the team, contact [Sara Jasmin](#).

By joining this team, members contribute to making Oregon safer for everyone.

JOIN THE OSFM **SMOKE ALARM** INSTALLATION PROGRAM

Is your agency interested in joining the OSFM's Smoke Alarm Installation Program? The program provides smoke alarms to Oregon fire agencies to install in homes that do not have them.

There are several opportunities to learn more about the program during free webinars. Participants will learn about program eligibility and requirements, smoke alarms and installation information, project planning and ideas, and safety materials available to order. The one-hour live webinar training is required for fire agencies to participate in the program.

Click the dates below to register.

[April 25, 2024](#)

[June 27, 2024](#)

[May 30, 2024](#)

OSFM OFFERING **NEW** EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

In February, the OSFM's education division launched a new program with the goal of reducing smoking fires. In 2022, smoking was the third leading cause of fires in Oregon. Program staff hosted a webinar introducing the program to fire service partners. You can watch the recording [here](#).

This program provides printable resources that can be cobranded for your community members. To learn more about the program, [visit our website](#).

Contact [Paula Shelly](#) for more information about the program.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2013, the Smoke Alarm Installation Program has provided more than 10,000 smoke alarms to people across Oregon

Contact [Connie Biggs](#) for more info.

FIRES SPARKED BY CIGARETTES, CIGARS, AND PIPES ARE A BIG PROBLEM IN OREGON.

yearly fires caused by cigarettes, cigars, or pipes

1,599

\$5.1 MILLION
average yearly losses caused by smoking material fires

199 STRUCTURE FIRES
caused by smoking materials each year in Oregon

35% of deaths from smoking-related fires are caused by smoking on medical oxygen

top months for smoking fire incidents
JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

8% of fire deaths are caused by smoking





DSFMS SEE **SUCCESS** IN TRAINING

Training is a vital part of the Oregon fire service and the OSFM. Together with our partners, we work to ensure fire responders, investigators, and others have the skills and knowledge they need to save people and property during emergencies. By training regularly, we can all stay up to date on new methods and equipment, making us all better prepared to handle different situations.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal, the Oregon Fire Marshal's Association, and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, provide various training opportunities for professional development. These trainings come in different formats to suit various needs.

People may choose to take classes simply to gain confidence in their skillset or to explore advancement opportunities. Most often, classes are taken because specific certifications are required as part of the OSFM competency recognition program.

In 2024, these training opportunities are continuing with both in person and online classes. Through the Oregon Workday we offer classes like Authorities and Responsibilities, Fire Department Access and Water Supply, Basic Building Code, Basic Mechanical Code, and Fire Department Company Inspector. Some classes, like Fire Investigation for First Responders and Fire Inspector 1 and 2, are only available in a classroom setting. Many classes count toward ICC-preferred provider credit. For more details on available classes, [click here](#).

The OSFM and its partner agencies emphasize the importance of training not just to ensure everyone has the same level of knowledge across the state, but also to create a positive work environment, boost morale, and better serve the public through a culture of learning. You can sign up for these training opportunities to take advantage of them.

BY THE

- Fire service partners completed **343** online training sessions, **31** in-person classes, reaching **540** attendees.
- OSFM provided updates on the 2022 Oregon Fire Code to **283** code enforcement people across **10** locations
- **60** ODHS staff received training on adult foster home regulations.
- The OSFM healthcare unit delivered presentations to over **140** people on survey citation and fire drill requirements.

NUMBERS

DSFM KRAUSE TO THE RESCUE

During a fire investigation in Curry County, Deputy State Fire Marshal Aubrie Krause stumbled upon a small puppy coming out and going back under a trailer near the aftermath of a fire. With some gentle coaxing, the puppy emerged for some much-needed cuddles and a snack, earning the name Blaze. Fortunately, the little lady was not hurt during the fire and was cared for until her family could reunite with her.

As DSFM Krause continued her work, the local fire chief informed her that several puppies were still missing, with three adult dogs tragically dying in the fire, including the puppies' mother. Determined to locate the missing pups, Aubrie continued her search and spotted a little black puppy watching from a distance.

"Looking up the hill from the scene there was a little black puppy watching me between two trees," Krause said. "I went to pick up the puppy and could smell severely burnt flesh from feet away. When I picked him up, I could see he was swollen in the face, and one eye was completely shut. He had all his puppy pads burnt away. The other firefighter and I assisting in the investigation got in my pickup and took the puppy to the local vet."

Rushing him to the nearest vet, Aubrie reached out to her friend Jennifer at the local humane society for immediate assistance. Despite the severity of his burns, the group refused to give up on him. With daily visits and dedicated care, the pup began to show remarkable improvement.

As much as DSFM Krause wanted to keep him, she couldn't. Enter Fire Chief Corey Bryant from Greenacres Fire & Rescue who expressed interest in adopting the resilient pup. With the family's blessing, "Smokey Bear" found his forever home within Oregon's fire community, where he'll play a crucial role in fire prevention education, using his own scars as a powerful reminder of the importance of fire safety.

Smokey's journey is a testament to resilience and hope, turning tragedy into an opportunity to save lives through education. Let his story inspire us all to prioritize fire safety and cherish the furry heroes who teach us invaluable lessons along the way.



LET'S TALK ABOUT DATA AND HOW THE OSFM CAN HELP

The Analytics & Intelligence Unit (A&I) has been working to modernize the tools and methods the Oregon State Fire Marshal uses to share data with the fire service. The most immediate areas these enhancements are noticeable are a quarterly NFIRS submission report and fire incident-related dashboards.

QUARTERLY NFIRS SUBMISSION REPORT

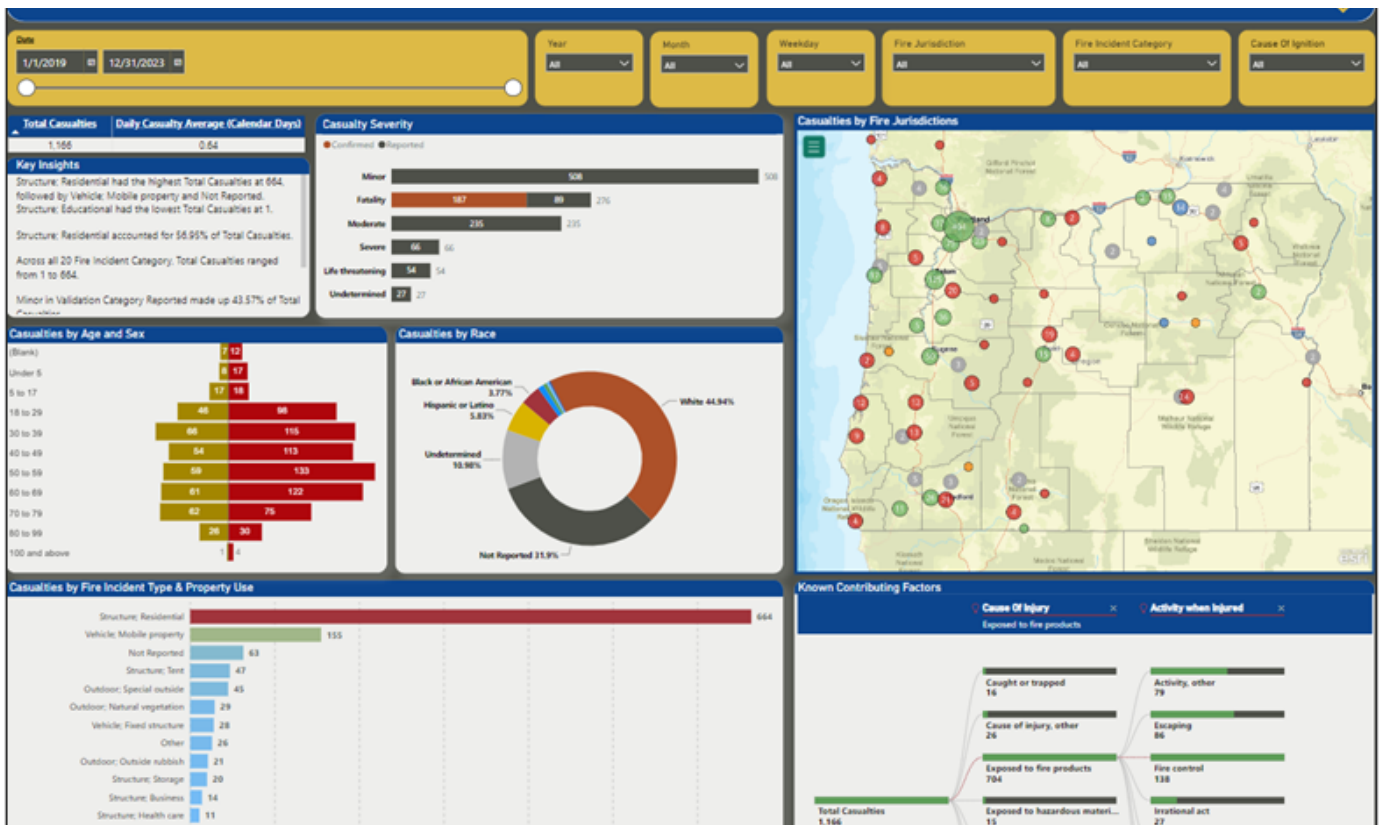
The A&I Unit developed and tested a new quarterly NFIRS reporting process to show you the data in our fire incident repository for your agency. This quarterly report will help provide an at-a-glance look at your agency's NFIRS submissions and enhance reporting quality. Near the end of April 2024, agency fire chiefs should receive an email summarizing your agency's fire incident data.

Within the attachments, you'll find an overview of NFIRS reporting statistics for your agency according to our state repository from the previous calendar quarter. The information for your agency within the report should include:

- The count of incidents OSFM A&I shows were submitted.
- The number of any "No Fire Incidents" report filings.
- Your agency's reporting format (direct entry or 3rd party vendor) that OSFM A&I shows on file for your agency.
- Whether your agency (according to our records) uses CAD integration.

If your agency has any partially validated incidents, there will be another report in the email with a list of validation error messages and their associated incident/NFIRS compliant numbers for your convenience.

When you receive this report, if you have questions or identify information that needs to be updated, please reach out to our NFIRS Program Coordinator Michelle Vold at michelle.vold@osfm.oregon.gov or 503-586-6568.



Each year, the OSFM publishes an Annual Report Supplement containing a series of charts, tables, and graphs related to fire and hazardous material incidents. Although the report was expansive, the data was presented in a PDF format, which is linear and static. In a world increasingly driven by technology, static PDF documents are no longer the most effective way to convey complex data. Enter dashboards, a modern solution that promises to greatly enhance fire incident analysis.

Dashboards provide dynamic visualizations, which allow fire chiefs, analysts, and policymakers to explore data interactively, adjust filters, drill down into specific incidents, and gain insights quickly. Imagine being able to filter incidents by location, date, or severity level, instantly revealing patterns and trends. PDFs limit the depth of analysis and the ability to collaborate. Dashboards, on the other hand, allow everyone to access the same data easily, gain and share insights, and collectively strategize. The ability to easily access data and gain insights will empower agencies to identify areas for improvement and allocate resources effectively (amongst other advantages).

LET'S TALK ABOUT DATA AND HOW THE OSFM CAN HELP

WILDFIRE INVESTMENTS

ENGINE PROGRAM ROLLS FORWARD

In March, the OSFM engine program saw several deliveries of type 3 engines. The most recent went to serve in Umatilla County. Umatilla County Fire District #1 picked up their engine on March 21.

The tenders the OSFM purchased are nearing completion. To the right is a photo of 17 of the new water tenders being built as part of the program. OSFM staff will be headed out to the manufacturer in April for final inspection. We're expecting the first tender deliveries later this spring.

A reminder to recipients: an informational webinar will be held on April 5. The webinar intends to provide program updates and address questions that have been received.

As always, be sure to stay up to date about the program, Check out the [OSFM Engine Program Webpage](#).



GET READY FOR WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH

The OSFM is gearing up for Wildfire Awareness Month in May. To educate and prepare communities for the upcoming fire season, the OSFM has updated its [Wildfire Awareness Month webpage](#).

With wildfires becoming increasingly common in the Pacific Northwest, the need for proactive measures to prevent and lessen their impact has never been more urgent. Join us for a webinar on our Defensible Space Program on Thursday, May 9 at noon. [Register here](#).

Be sure to check out the new webpage and share all the ways you and your community can be #WildfireAware this summer.





OSFM LAUNCHES INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR DEFENSIBLE SPACE

To help those living in communities more likely to be impacted by a wildfire, the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) launched an incentive program to help Oregonians pay for defensible space projects. Defensible space is one of the most effective ways to better protect a home during a wildfire. The OSFM understands that money may be a barrier for some to do these projects.

As part of the program, those who meet eligibility requirements will receive a \$250 one-time payment. Homeowners, renters, and property owners must live in select areas of the state and request and receive a free defensible space assessment.

The free assessments are given by a local fire service agency member or an OSFM representative. An expert will walk the participants' property with them and provide valuable one-on-one time to discuss how to build and increase their fire resiliency.

After the assessment, those who qualify will receive the payment in the mail for their participation. This incentive is designed to encourage people to implement the recommendations received during their assessment.

For a list of eligible communities, please read the program guidelines here. These communities were chosen based on their vulnerability to wildfire to get money to those who need it the most.

The OSFM's defensible space program is a crucial step toward building more resilient communities in the face of increasing wildfire risks. By empowering Oregonians to take proactive measures, we will reduce the impact of wildfires on lives, property, and the environment.

For more details about the defensible space program, visit www.OregonDefensibleSpace.org.

GET COMFORTABLE WITH **DEFENSIBLE SPACE.**



FIVE SPRING PROJECTS TO CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE:

- 1** **Remove** leaves, pine needles, and other debris from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck.
- 2** **Trim** tall plants and bushes growing directly under your eaves.
- 3** **Trim** trees and bushes to make sure they have adequate space from your home and other vegetation.
- 4** **Remove** dead and combustible plants and mulch, especially within the first several feet from the home. Replace with decorative rock or gravel.
- 5** **Cover** exterior attic vents, soffit vents, and areas below decks and patios with 1/8" metal wire mesh.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR
A **FREE DEFENSIBLE ASSESSMENT.**



SEVERAL **GRANTS** OPEN FOR OREGON FIRE SERVICE

As we continue our shared commitment to safeguarding our communities, we want to remind you of two significant grant opportunities with approaching deadlines:

2024 VOLUNTEER FIRE CAPACITY (VFC) GRANT

The 2024 VFC Grant application period is open until May 3, 2024. These federally-funded grants are designed to assist fire agencies in meeting their firefighting and emergency response needs. Notably, there's a special, one-time funding opportunity from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for slip-on tank purchases. If interested, complete page 5 of the application and include a narrative explaining the need.

For detailed guidance, application forms, and additional information, see the [2024 VFC Grant Manual](#) and the 2024 application. Any questions can be emailed to the VFC coordinator.

SAFER GRANT

The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants aim to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to enhance their firefighting capabilities. The fiscal year '23 SAFER application period is open until April 12, 2024, at 5 p.m. ET.

Learn more here: [Staffing For Adequate Fire and Emergency Response \(SAFER\) | FEMA.gov](#)



More than 200 career and volunteer firefighters from nearly 100 fire agencies throughout Oregon attended the 19th annual Winter Fire School at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem on Feb. 24 and Feb. 25, 2024.

The two-day event was hosted by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) and included nine classes offered by the National Fire Academy, DPSST, and the City of Dallas Fire & EMS Department. Attendees included firefighters from city and tribal fire departments, fire districts, and wildland firefighters.

Classroom training sessions covered a wide range of topics including leadership, incident command, health and safety programs, tactical decision making, fire prevention education, and community risk reduction. The event also included hands-on training sessions on vehicle extrication, flammable gas and liquid emergencies, extinguishing vehicle fires, forceable entry, firefighter safety and survival, pumper operator simulations, and heavy vehicle operation.

Winter fire school is offered free of charge and is held over the weekend to accommodate the schedules of volunteers who comprise most of the Oregon fire service.



OREGON FIREFIGHTERS TRAIN AT DPSST IN SALEM



OSFM HEADQUARTERS
APRIL 11, 2024
 3-5 P.M.
[**RSVP HERE**](#)

REMEMBERING THE HARRIS'

Please join us as we gather to honor Eddie Harris and his wife Betty who both passed away in late 2023.

The event will be held at the Oregon State Fire Marshal headquarters at 3991 Fairview Industrial Drive SE Salem, Oregon on April 11, 2024, from 3 - 5 p.m.

The couple was married for 66 years. Ed was a graduate of North Bend High School and Oregon Technical Institute. He was a career firefighter and diesel mechanic with the North Bend Fire Department before joining the Oregon State Fire Marshal as a deputy state fire marshal.

We look forward to sharing memories and visiting with old friends. Please RSVP by emailing Sally Cravinho at Sally.Cravinho@osfm.oregon.gov.

OSFM IMT'S RECEIVE UNIT CITATIONS FROM GRESHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

In March, Gresham Fire honored our incident management teams that helped with the memorial services for two fallen firefighters. Our team members took volunteer assignments to help honor Brandon Norbury and Brian Flowers who died in the line of duty.

A special unit citation was presented to the team members in recognition of their exemplary service and professionalism.

We continue to hold Brandon's and Brian's families and friends in our heart and recognize the service they provided their community. They will never be forgotten.





CODES CORNER

OPEN BURNING AND DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Open burning has risks and can put the safety, health, or welfare of people near it in danger. Under Oregon Revised Statutes 478.960(1), the district fire chief has the authority to issue permits for open burning of commercial waste, demolition materials, domestic waste, industrial waste, land clearing debris, or field burning except in special control areas as defined in Oregon Administrative Rules 340-264-0100 through 340-264-0175.

The 2022 Oregon Fire Code (OFC), Section 307.2, says the fire code official is authorized to require an “open burning” operational permit in OFC Section 105.5.34 for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road, or other public or private ground. The OSFM [Joint Policy Bulletin No. 0005](#) details state agency collaboration and their objectives in managing open burning statewide.

Before starting an open burn, it's important to contact your local fire department, no matter where you are. This helps you learn the specific rules and limits for open burning in your area, which might differ from other places in the state.

By requiring permits for certain activities, the fire chief can ensure that operations are performed safely. Often, communities may limit the number of permits they issue to control the amount of burning and adequate resources in an emergency.

Open burning is prohibited when outdoor conditions or local circumstances make fires hazardous per OFC Section 307.1.1. This allows the fire code official to prohibit open burning when fires are hazardous because of weather (e.g., wind, temperature, relative humidity) or fuel characteristics (e.g., fuel moisture content). An exception allows prescribed burning to minimize the fuel load in wildland interface areas. Such prescribed burning is a common practice and is done with great planning and forethought and includes safeguards for proper fire control.

CONGRATS, CLARA!

We are so proud to share that OSFM Deputy State Fire Marshal Clara Butler was awarded the Partnership Award from the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District in March.

Clara works in Central Oregon and does fire investigations, code inspections, and much, much more. She exemplifies the mission of our agency every day to protect people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.

Congratulations, Clara!



SAVE THE DATE



The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) announced the dates for the upcoming spring conference. The conference will take place May 1-3, 2024 at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes in Bend.

Join fire chiefs and chief officers from across the state for 2.5 days of training, important updates from fire organizations, connection with fire service partners, and networking.

For registration and more information about the conference, check out [OFCA's Annual Conference page](#).



TASK FORCE LEADER SYMPOSIUM REGISTER TODAY

The 2024 OSFM Task Force Leader Symposium will be held at Spirit Mountain Lodge on Tuesday, May 21 - 22.

This training event is intended for task force/strike team leaders and trainees and will tentatively include sessions about:

- Operations – sprinkler kits & pumps
- Air ops in the WUI
- Placarding
- Logistics & radios
- Electronic triage tools & mapping
- Fire season forecast
- Public information

REGISTER
HERE

Please register prior to
Friday, May 10, 2024

An email with room reservation information was sent to the Oregon fire service. If you have questions, please email Jamie Kometz at jamie.kometz@osfm.oregon.gov.

The mobilization program's success relies on task force leaders to serve as exactly that – leaders to the personnel they supervise. The OSFM would like to thank our state's task force leaders for their dedication and recognize their time commitment during and outside of incident response. While the symposium does not provide a certification, it is an excellent opportunity to learn tricks of the trade and increase proficiency.



FROM THE **INTERNET**

Eugene Springfield Fire's aircraft rescue and firefighting crews received special live fire training at PDX in March. The training centered around the application of new firefighting foams that are poly-fluorine free. These new foams are intended to lessen the environmental impact of aircraft firefighting on the environment by removing forever chemicals. This training is being done in preparation of switching to new and more environmentally friendly foaming agents later this year. [Read more here.](#)

TO THE **LIMO!**

Training for car fires is super important for firefighters. They need to know how to put out fires safely and quickly. Amity Fire District understood the assignment and trained in March using a limo! Firefighters had a special training where they practiced putting out fires. This helps them get ready for real emergencies on the road. So, when there's a fire in a car, they know what to do to keep people safe. Check [out more photos here!](#)



REGISTER TODAY! OFMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Don't miss out! Join the Oregon Fire Marshals Association for their annual conference at Eagle Crest in Central Oregon on Monday, May 20 to Thursday, May 23, 2024.

FEATURING:

- Tim Dietz on enhancing resiliency
- Essential tracks by Scott Adams, Les Townzen, and John Swanson
- Vendor fair & networking opportunities
- OFMA annual business meeting, board elections, and awards

Lodging: Discounted rates at Eagle Crest, starting at \$120 per night plus tax. Book now!

Register [HERE](#) and secure your spot!

OREGON Fire Marshals ASSOCIATION

LEADING ~ SERVING ~ SUPPORTING



PLEASE WELCOME STUART MOSS TO THE OSFM TEAM

Stuart grew up in Beaverton and joined the OSFM as the warehouse coordinator. He has eight years of experience working for the Oregon Army National Guard. Most of Stuart's experience was as a logistics officer in charge of a maintenance platoon in Prineville.

Stuart has a bachelor's degree from Oregon State University in recreation management and a diploma from the U.S. Army Logistics University in Fort Lee, Virginia. Stuart also owns a small business in Salem as a professionally licensed tattoo artist.

In his free time, he enjoys fishing, painting, and spending time with his family.



The Oregon State Fire Marshal has extended the deadline to submit nominations for the **2024 Golden and Silver Sparky Awards**. The Golden Sparky recognizes a fire service member or fire agency for outstanding fire prevention or public safety education achievement.

The Silver Sparky recognizes a civilian or civilian agency for outstanding achievement in fire prevention or public safety education. *Nominations are open until May 1.*

These awards have a long and rich history marking the achievements of local champions in our field. You can see some of the past winners here.

The OSFM encourages you to nominate a worthy recipient in your community and ask your networks to do the same. [Click here for more information.](#)



DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR GOLD AND SILVER SPARKY AWARD



CONTACT US

Have a story idea or something you would like to know more about?

Kassie Keller, public affairs specialist
Kassondra.Keller@osfm.oregon.gov

John Hendricks, public affairs specialist
Johnathan.Hendricks@osfm.oregon.gov

Follow Us



[The OSFM on X](#)



[The OSFM on Facebook](#)



[The OSFM on Instagram](#)