



OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

NOVEMBER 2022



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH FIRE SAFETY IN MIND

The holiday season is just around the corner, and that means more Oregonians will be cooking in the kitchen. Each year around this time, firefighters are called to hundreds of cooking-related fires.

To help in the kitchen, the Office of State Fire Marshal offers several tips to ensure a safe and happy holiday filled with joy. **MORE ON PAGE 2.**

OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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THE SECRET INGREDIENT IS FIRE SAFETY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



The holiday season is fast approaching, and Oregon families will be coming together for a time of celebration. The hours spent in the kitchen preparing turkey, mashed potatoes, pies, and all the other fixings come with an increased risk of household fires.

Here are ways to keep you and your family safe in the kitchen this holiday season.

Safety tips to remember when cooking:

- Keep an eye on what you're cooking; don't leave cooking unattended.
- Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (potholders, food packaging, towels, etc.) and wipe up surface spills.
- Create a three-foot kid- and pet-free zone around the stove.
- Older children should only cook with permission and under the supervision of an adult.
- Have a lid or cookie sheet within reach while cooking to smother flames in case of a fire.

Safety tips for if a cooking fire does start:

- Put a lid on it! Slide a lid over the pan from the side, then turn off the burner.
- Don't move the pan until the fire is completely extinguished and cooled, and don't try to transfer the pan to the sink.

If you cannot extinguish the fire:

- Get yourself and your family safely out of the house.
- If you can, close doors as you escape to help contain the fire.
- Call 911 from a safe place outside.

FRY IT RIGHT

- Never use a deep fryer on a wooden deck, under a patio cover, in a garage, or in an enclosed space.
- Fryers should only be used outdoors on a sturdy, level surface isolated from anything that could burn.
- Keep children and pets out of the 3-foot radius around your fryer to protect against burn injuries.
- The pot, lid, and handles of a turkey fryer can be incredibly hot. To protect hands and arms against burns, wear long, well-insulated cooking gloves.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby, and never use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and thoroughly dried before it is placed in a fryer. The water from a frozen turkey will not mix with the oil in the fryer and can be an explosion hazard.



TEAM SENT TO HELP WITH HURRICANE IAN RETURNS HOME

The 13 incident management team members sent to Florida to help with Hurricane Ian's response and recovery returned home on October 13. The team was in Hardee County, Florida for two weeks and helped emergency managers and the sheriff's office with logistics, planning, communication, and other tasks.

On September 28, the OSFM mobilized the team following the Florida Division of Emergency Management's request for aid through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), administered by the Oregon Department of Emergency Management. The OSFM immediately went to work to fulfill the request. The team was led by Incident Commanders Ted Kunze and Ian Yocum.

"We are thankful to the Oregon fire service and our all-hazard IMTs for answering the call to help Floridians," Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple said. "I want to thank the team members, their families, and the Oregon fire service for supporting this mission. Our IMT members train year-round to be prepared to assist in any emergency or disaster, including hurricanes. Our office stands ready to help protect lives and communities. We are keeping those in Florida impacted by this storm in our thoughts."

Hardee County was hit hard with flooding. The storm knocked out power to 99 percent of the county. Working alongside their partners in Florida, the team was able to help coordinate recovery and put communities on a successful path forward. The OSFM is proud of this team and their dedication to helping others.

[CLICK TO WATCH A SHORT VIDEO ABOUT THE TEAM'S EXPERIENCE.](#)

HURRICANE IAN RESPONSE



RECRUITMENT OPENS NOV. 15 FOR OSFM IMT PROGRAM

Are you looking for an exciting opportunity to grow your skill set, work in a team environment, and help communities across Oregon? The OSFM will open recruitment for the Incident Management Team Program on **November 15, 2022**.

Do you meet the minimum qualifications? Visit our qualification criteria page to find out!

On November 15, the OSFM website will be updated with applications and instructions to apply, and an email will be sent to the Oregon Fire Service and our partners. Information will also be available through the Daily Dispatch and in the December Gated Wye.



The OSFM will recruit for select positions:

- Incident Safety Officer
- Line Safety Officer
- Public Information Officer
- Division/Group Supervisor
- Logistics Section Chief
- Communication Tech
- Resource Unit Leader
- GISS
- Situation Unit Leader

TRAVIS WALKER JOINS OSFM TEAM

Travis Walker joined the OSFM as a fiscal analyst. For the past two years, he's built his budget knowledge at the Oregon Dept. of Revenue and the Oregon Dept. of Education. Before that, he worked at a CPA firm in Eugene for four years doing tax preparation and audits.

Travis has lived in Oregon his entire life and is excited to learn about the OSFM as his father recently retired from being a firefighter in Eugene for more than 20 years. He enjoys reading, cooking, and hiking with his dogs, Rocky and Apollo.





REMEMBERING AMY ROACH

In October, the OSFM and the Oregon fire service lost a valued team member when Amy Roach passed away unexpectedly. Amy joined the OSFM family in 2013 and served as a member of the Fire and Life Safety Education Division. She was a vibrant light to those she worked with at the OSFM, the Oregon fire service, and their communities. Her adventurous spirit and contagious laughter brought joy to everyone she met. Since her passing, the OSFM has received many kind words from family, friends, and the Oregon fire service, sharing how Amy impacted them.

"We are so very sorry for the loss of Amy. She was a bright beacon for the OSFM team and the fire service in general. She always made sure that we had everything we needed to be successful for our community events and went out of her way to help. She will be missed."

"Amy was one of those one-in-a-million personalities who you want to call your friend."

"Such a beautiful soul and kind spirit. You will be deeply missed, Amy."

"I am so grateful to have known Amy both at and outside work. Her larger-than-life personality and positivity will never be forgotten."

The OSFM is walking alongside Amy's family as they and many she impacted go through this difficult time. She will be missed tremendously.



OSFM TEAM HUDDLE AT DPSST

For the first time in three years, the OSFM staff met in person as a team at DPSST in Salem. The all-staff meeting was an excellent opportunity for many staff members hired in the last few years to meet with coworkers face-to-face.

State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple spoke about the road ahead for the OSFM as it continues to transition to an independent state agency on July 1, 2023. Ruiz-Temple talked about the importance of this team and how each staff member plays a vital role, collectively offering the best service to Oregonians.

Jeff Johnson, retired chief and Western Fire Chiefs Association board member, delivered the keynote address. He echoed Ruiz-Temple's message to staff about the importance of teamwork and recognizing everyone plays a key part in collectively serving Oregonians.

The future is exciting for this team. They'll continue to serve Oregonians in every facet of day-to-day operations while, at the same time during the next eight months, continue the transition process to become an independent state agency.



WELCOME DEDREI OLDHAM TO THE OSFM TEAM

Dedrei Oldham joined the OSFM in the Community Right to Know Program as an office specialist II. Dedrei has years of experience serving customers as an office specialist and administrative assistant in state government.

She has a bachelor's degree, is a National Collegiate Honor Society member, and has owned and operated a hairdresser business in Keizer for 20 years.



THREE OSFM MEMBERS SWORN IN IN OCTOBER

On October 10, the OSFM made it official! The office held a swearing-in ceremony for Amber Cross, Mariah Rawlins, and Chris Sutton. Cross and Rawlins were sworn into their new positions as assistant chief deputy state fire marshals. Sutton was sworn in as our new community risk reduction manager.

Amber leads the Fire and Life Safety Education Division, and Mariah leads the Emergency Response Division.

MORGAN KEE JOINS OSFM AS GIS ANALYST

Morgan Kee joined the OSFM as a GIS analyst. He's been in the mapping and GIS field for almost five years in the municipal and private sectors. Morgan's background includes risk mitigation projects, capital project support, critical infrastructure management, emergency response, and community engagement.

Morgan graduated from the University of Louisville in 2015 with a B.S. in applied geography and GIS. Prior to college, he served four years in the U.S. Army in the 101st Airborne and 1st Cavalry Divisions in reconnaissance roles. Morgan was married this fall, and he and his wife are moving from Indiana to Oregon. They are avid hikers and are looking forward to exploring Oregon and the PNW.



DEADLINE FOR OREGON FIRE SERVICE CAPACITY PROGRAM APPROACHING

Applications for the Oregon Fire Service Capacity Program are due on November 30, 2022. The grant program is intended for small to medium-sized agencies that have a need for increased permanent firefighter and/or fire prevention staff.

This competitive grant opportunity is available to local fire agencies in Oregon. These agencies can apply for funds to support up to two firefighters and two fire prevention staff over the next three years.

This grant program aims to increase local on-duty capacity through the next three years. The OSFM has a two-pronged approach to preparing and protecting Oregonians from wildfire by boosting the capacity to mobilize and respond to fires at the local, regional, and statewide level and preparing communities to be more resilient to wildfire.

For information on this and other grant programs, please check out the [OSFM's grant webpage](#).



WELCOME PAULA SHELLY TO THE OSFM TEAM

Paula Shelly joined OSFM as an office specialist II for the Fire and Life Safety Education Unit. Paula has 24 years of supply chain, inventory, and operational management experience in the private retail sector and is excited to be part of the OSFM.

Paula lives in Canby with her husband, son, and two dogs, Hemi and Gus. Aside from work, Paula and her family stay busy at her son's various sporting events (baseball being her favorite), and they always make time to check out all the amazing sites and adventures Oregon has to offer.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE STANDARDS UPDATE

In October, the OSFM wrapped up a series of 20 town halls, 17 in-person around the state and three virtual. These valuable opportunities to meet are helping shape what the future of defensible space looks like in Oregon. Roughly 2,000 people attended to share input, information, and perspectives we value.

Through Senate Bill 762, our office was tasked with developing defensible space standards using a transparent and open process.

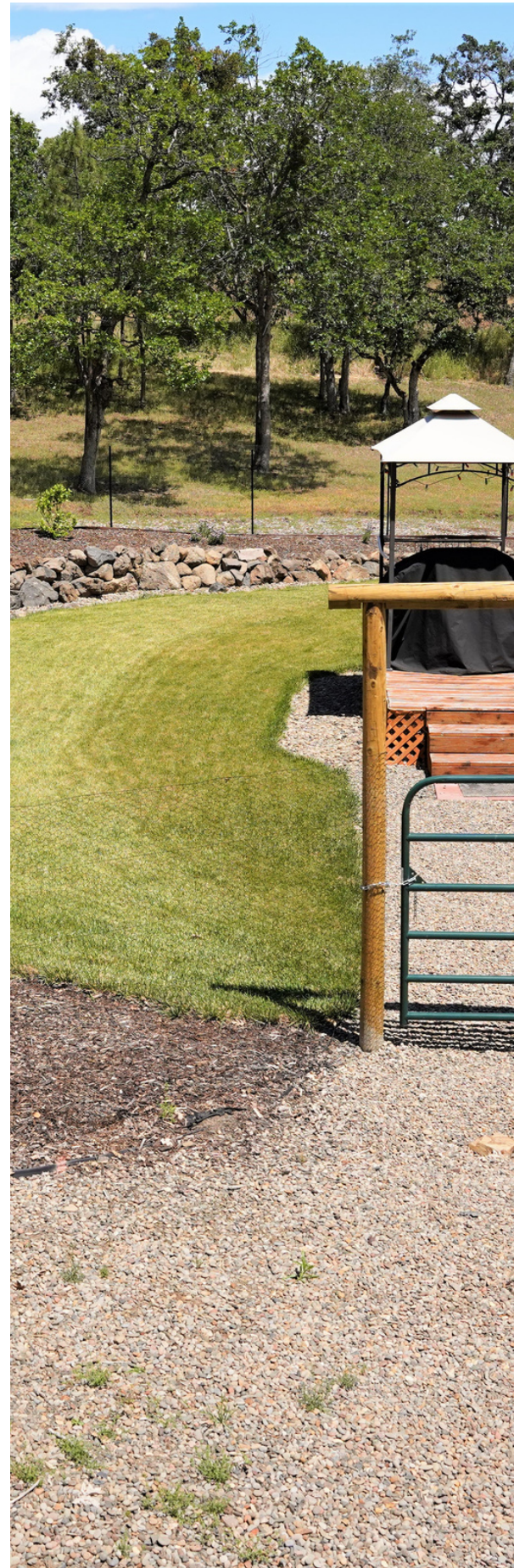
The goal is to create defensible space standards that better protect against wildfire, are inclusive, and reflect all Oregonians.

Overall, there was a positive response to defensible space as a practice. Most Oregonians are familiar with wildfire and understand the importance of having proper defensible space and protecting their properties for fire season.

The OSFM received helpful comments about area-specific ways to accomplish defensible space work and how to create a more wildfire-resilient Oregon. For example, property owners asked about getting help from bucket trucks and arborists to limb tree branches near their homes. Community leaders requested funding to rent chipper machines to remove debris and vegetation from citizens' yards and community spaces.

Because of the revised timeline for aspects of Senate Bill 762 and the Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) wildfire risk map, the adoption of defensible space standards is postponed until the final version of the wildfire risk map is released.

Between now and the release of the new map, the OSFM will educate Oregonians about defensible space best practices and wildfire preparedness. In addition, the OSFM is developing tools and services for property owners looking to create defensible space.





OSFM, PARTNERS HOST WILDFIRE DISCUSSION IN WASCO COUNTY

Thank you to everyone who attended and took part in the Wildfire in Wasco community event in Wamic on October 22.

The event was an example of partnerships between the OSFM, local fire agencies, ODF, and the USFS. The event was a way to share with local communities the different things they can do to better protect themselves and their property from wildfire.

The first 30 attendees received an evacuation kit; 55 people attended the event at the Wamic Grange.



SIGN UP TODAY FOR UPCOMING SPRING 2023 ASIP COURSES

Sign up today for the upcoming Assessing Structure Ignition Potential for Wildfire (ASIP) course. This is a free NFPA training that discusses wildfire behavior, structure exposure, the concepts of the home ignition zone, and structure ignition potential. This training is designed to increase understanding of wildland-urban interface fire mitigation, show how to assess risk to individual homes, and recommend proper mitigation measures.

These courses include a half-day field exercise, weather, and location permitting, where students will get hands-on experience putting their new knowledge into practice.

For more information about this training, [CLICK HERE](#).



Attendees practice lessons learned at the Hermiston ASIP course.

FROM THE INTERNET: DID SOMEONE SAY ROPE RESCUE TRAINING FROM A LIGHTHOUSE?

Far out! Check out this rope rescue training Newport Fire Dept. held on October 14. The agency shared these pictures on their Facebook page, saying, "Lincoln County Technical Rescue Team training at the Yaquina Head Lighthouse today!"

[Check out the post here.](#)



FITNESS IS LIFE: ALBANY EDITION



Work it out. Albany Fire is testing their fitness. They shared these pictures on Facebook, saying, "Work it out. You can get your fitness on at Albany's new Burkhart Park Fitness Court. AFD tried it out alongside APD, SamFit, and Benny the Beaver. It was easy to use and free!!"

[See their post here.](#)

CHARLOTTE GABRIEL JOINS THE OSFM TEAM

Charlotte Gabriel joined the OSFM as an accounting tech. Charlotte has more than nine years of state government experience, eight years with the State Nursing Board in LEADS backgrounding and accounts payable, and one year with the Oregon State Police payroll department. Prior to state government, Charlotte was with the Seattle Police Department in payroll and administrative services for 12 years.

Charlotte and her family live in Newberg and own a custom automotive fabrication business. Outside work, you can find Charlotte at her daughter's swim meets, driving her kids to their sports and extracurricular events, and volunteering on the Tigard Tualatin Swim Club board as head of fundraising.





WELCOME TERESA ELMER TO THE OSFM!

Teresa Elmer joined the OSFM as the Oregon Safety Assessment Program (OrSAP) assistant on September 12. She has 18 years of state government experience. Prior to the OSFM, Teresa worked for the Oregon Employment Department for 12 years working with the document management system, and six years with the Oregon State Police, one year with their ABIS Unit and five years with their CCH Unit.

Teresa and her husband and live in Lyons. She enjoys spending time with family and is very excited about joining the OSFM team.

SHERI HUBERT TO LEAD OSFM EMPLOYEE SERVICES

Sheri Hubert joined the OSFM as our new employee services director on October 17. She comes to us with more than 27 years of human resources experience with depth in every discipline. She was an HR manager at the Department of Administrative (DAS) where she supported multiple agencies, boards, and commissions. Prior to her tenure at DAS, Sheri worked in human resources for the Oregon Youth Authority (10 years) and Fairview Training (six years). Sheri has a small farm with her husband, Jeff, where she enjoys her horses, chickens, ducks, dogs, and cats.



KELLI VESPER JOINS OSFM EMPLOYEE SERVICES TEAM

Kelli Vesper joined employee services as a workforce and strategic planning consultant on October 10. Previously, Kelli worked in state government for more than 25 years in various HR roles. Kelli has experience in classification/compensation, project management, labor/employee relations, policy design/administration, and process improvement/change leadership/organizational redesign.

Kelli is excited to support the OSFM as it becomes its own department and looks forward to connecting with everyone in her new role. In her free time, Kelli enjoys traveling, reading, running, and dogs.

OSFM CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL - MULTIPLE OPENINGS

The Office of State Fire Marshal is hiring multiple full-time, permanent deputy state fire marshal positions throughout the state with each position located in a different district. This recruitment may be extended or used to fill future vacancies and locations based on agency need and approval.

ENGINE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Do you have a passion for the fire service? Do you know the ins and outs of fire apparatus procurement, construction, and maintenance? You might be just the person for this position!

Contact Us

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

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