



OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

# THE GATED WYE

OCTOBER 2022



## FIRE PREVENTION MONTH IS HERE!

It's October and that means it is time to, Plan, Practice, and Be Prepared with a home fire escape plan! The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal is kicking off a month-long campaign for Fire Prevention Month to show how important and simple it is to have a home fire escape plan.

In this month's issue of the Gated Wye, we're talking tips and tricks to get you out of your home in the event there is a fire. **[READ MORE ON PG. 2.](#)**

OSFM'S MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

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# PLAN, PRACTICE, BE PREPARED WITH A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

In the event of a fire at home, those inside have less than two minutes to escape. Each year in Oregon, an average of 32 people die in home fires. This statistic is one reason why the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal is urging Oregonians to create and practice a home fire escape plan as part of Fire Prevention Month this October.

The OSFM is kicking off a campaign called “Plan, Practice, and Be Prepared with a Home Fire Escape Plan” to educate and highlight the importance of having a plan.

To support the OSFM’s campaign, Oregon Governor Kate Brown proclaimed October as Fire Prevention Month.

“We know that home fire escape plans save lives,” Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple said. “This October, we are asking everyone to create a plan and practice it with all household members to be prepared if there is a fire inside their home.”

The OSFM has several resources about home fire escape plans and a social media campaign to help educate and prepare Oregonians.

HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLANS SAVE LIVES

ON AVERAGE  
32 PEOPLE DIE  
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IN OREGON  
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PRACTICE  
YOUR  
2-MINUTE  
DRILL



PLAN  
PRACTICE  
BE PREPARED  
WITH A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN.



PRACTICE

TIME TO BEAT! 

PRACTICE YOUR HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN  
WITH A TIMER. CAN EVERYONE GET OUT IN  
TWO MINUTES OR LESS?



PLAN  
PRACTICE  
BE PREPARED  
WITH A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN.

## HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN TIPS

- Ensure your home has working smoke alarms and check them monthly.
- Make an escape map, showing every window and door, and share it with everyone in your household.
- Know two ways out of every room.
- Designate an outside meeting place a safe distance from the home where everyone should meet.
- Everyone needs a plan: If you have children, elderly, or differently-abled people in your home, plan for their escape. Consider other challenges like second-story bedrooms.
- Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year during the night and day.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out; never go back inside for others or pets.
- Once outside, call 9-1-1.



## OSFM SENDS TEAM TO HELP WITH HURRICANE IAN RESPONSE

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) mobilized 13 incident management team (IMT) members to support the response to Hurricane Ian in Florida. The team left Portland on the evening of September 28 and arrived in Tallahassee, Florida on the morning of September 29.

The team was briefed at the State Emergency Operation Center (EOC) operated at the Emergency Management Department of Management Services. Paige Levati, who oversees the IMT program for the Florida Department of Emergency Management, briefed the 13 on the mission. The OSFM IMT has been assigned to Hardee County to support critical services with a focus on logistical support and mission management.

During the briefing, OSFM IMT Incident Commander Ian Yocum stated, "Oregon is here to help communities and lives while remaining flexible and committed to the dynamic conditions and needs of the communities affected by Hurricane Ian."

Hardee County was hit hard by the hurricane. Extensive flooding compromised both water and hospital infrastructure. The EOC building sustained severe water damage, but communication was functioning. Conditions at the time were described as "primitive" and the team was told to prepare to be self-sufficient for an indeterminate amount of time.

On September 30, the OSFM team arrived in Hardee County. The team said on their way into Hardee County, they passed several flooded areas and were getting settled in to support the recovery effort.

Along with Oregon, three other out-of-state IMTs are supporting surrounding counties including Virginia, New York, and Ohio.

# HURRICANE IAN RESPONSE



# 2022 WILDFIRES WIND DOWN WITH COOLER TEMPS, RAIN



With fall in full swing, cooler temperatures and rain helped quell an active end to the 2022 fire season. Firefighters from across Oregon were kept busy in September with several fires and an east wind event that fanned flames.

This month, we want to look back at the 2022 wildfire season and share some of the great work accomplished by the Oregon fire service and the OSFM incident management teams. Thanks to a wet spring across Oregon, significant wildfires didn't happen until the end of June. The Miller Road Fire in Wasco County was the state's first conflagration. Dry conditions and several heavy lightning busts swept across the state in July and August to ramp up initial attack.

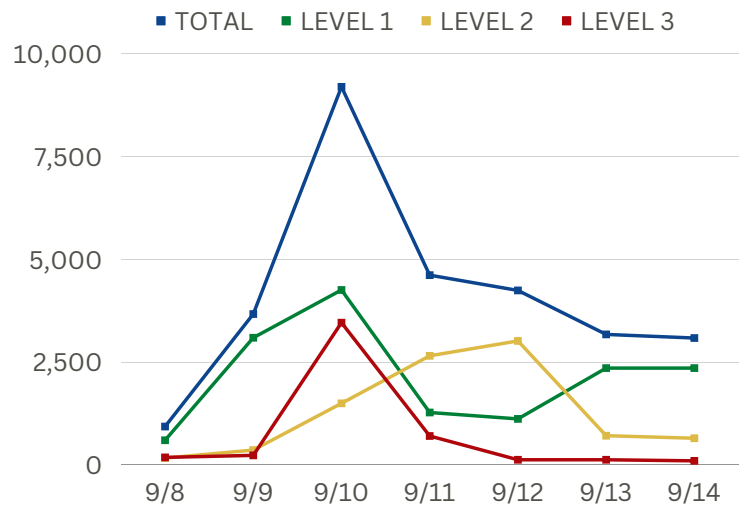
Dry conditions continued into September. An east wind event, which many state and local agencies were staffed up for, happened on September 9-10. Wildfires fanned by gusty east winds kept fire crews busy. According to the Department of Emergency Management, at the peak of the wind event, 9,197 addresses were under some level of evacuation notice on September 10.

Because of the great work of Oregon's fire service, these fires were quickly subdued. This year, the Oregon fire service added capacity through the 2022 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant. The OSFM estimates the grant added 450 paid firefighters across the state to respond to fire and other calls.

In total, Oregon had five conflagrations. More than 650 firefighters were mobilized this summer to support these conflagrations, Immediate Response, and pre-positioning assignments.

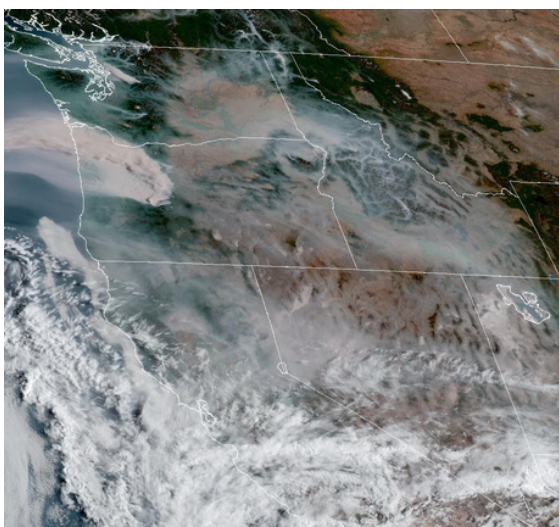
The OSFM extends deep appreciation to those who stepped up to help their fellow Oregonians this summer.

## EVACUATION NOTICES BY DAY



Data provided by the Dept. of Emergency Management

# PHOTOS FROM THE FIRE LINE



## PROTECTING OREGON COMMUNITIES FROM WILDFIRE

In 2022, the OSFM launched a new grant for the Oregon fire service to keep fires small and away from communities. This is their story.

John Hendricks  
September 20, 2022



## OSFM LAUNCHES STORYMAP TO CELEBRATE STAFFING GRANT SUCCESSES

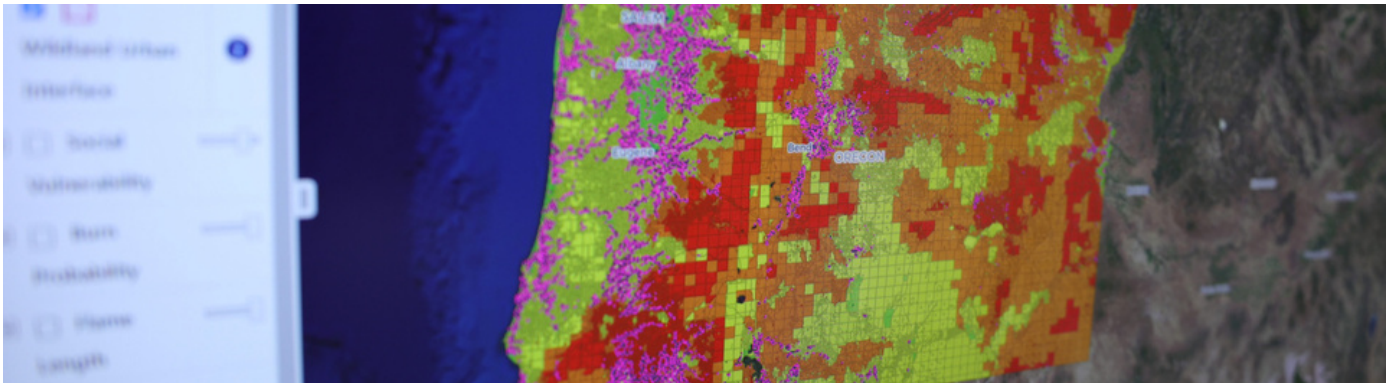
Earlier this summer, the OSFM launched a \$6 million 2022 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant. Local fire agencies were able to apply for up to \$35,000 in one-time funding to hire extra staff and increase staff hours during the 2022 wildfire season. The goal of the program was to keep fires small and prevent them from impacting communities.

During the application period, 180 agencies from across Oregon received a grant. This investment proved successful during the wildfire season. Many agencies across the state shared stories of how these funds made a big impact, not only in their community but across the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System. To share more about the grant and its success, the OSFM created an [ArcGIS StoryMap](#). These stories are just a fraction of those shared by the fire service.

## WELCOME RICH HOLLOWAY

Rich Holloway joined the OSFM on October 3 as a deputy state fire marshal in Douglas County. Rich's passion for fire prevention and fire investigation led him to the OSFM. He worked his way up through the ranks as a captain and training officer to become the fire chief of Riddle Fire Protection District in Douglas County. He also worked 10 years as a wildland firefighter. Since 2018, Rich served as fire marshal for Rural Metro in Josephine County. He holds many certifications including Oregon Fire Marshal, Fire Officer II, Task Force/Strike Team Leader, and NFPA Fire Investigator. In 2012, Rich received the distinguished service award from the International Association of Arson Investigators; in 2014, he completed the Oregon Fire Chiefs tool box and received the medal of valor in 2017. Rich enjoys going camping and spending time with his wife, two kids, and granddaughter.





# OREGON, ODF OUTLINE NEXT STEPS FOR WILDFIRE MAP

Based on robust stakeholder feedback from an earlier version of the wildfire risk map, the Oregon Department of Forestry and other state agencies are revising their timeline for implementing key components of Senate Bill 762, including the wildfire risk map. The changes come as Oregon communities work to make their homes and neighborhoods more resilient to the increased risk of wildfire statewide.

**October through February 2023:** State agencies will engage the public and stakeholders with outreach and education. This includes informing Oregonians about safety measures to preserve life and property during wildfires. Agencies will conduct one-on-one outreach to areas most vulnerable to catastrophic wildfires and identify opportunities for investments in wildfire prevention. Language for building codes and defensible space standards will be completed. The ODF will review appeals received and share feedback received for wildfire risk map adjustments as needed.

**March 1, 2022:** The ODF will launch a new draft wildfire risk map and state partners will solicit feedback from stakeholders and the public.

**March through September 2023:** State agencies will host public outreach, engagement, and education on the draft wildfire risk map. This includes working with the ODF, the OSU College of Forestry, local governments, planning departments, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), and the Building Codes Division (BCD) to review the draft map. These agencies will outreach to and educate the affected communities and local governments.

**October through December 2023:** The final wildfire risk map will be shared publicly for implementation, initiating a 60-day appeals process, and those in most high-risk areas will be notified about the steps needed to protect their homes and properties from catastrophic wildfires and how to meet standards and building codes.

The revised plan and timeline is in collaboration with Oregon State University's College of Forestry, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal, the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, and the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

[READ THE ODF NEWS RELEASE HERE.](#)



# OSFM WRAPS UP DEFENSIBLE SPACE TOWN HALLS

In September, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal wrapped up a series of 17 town hall meetings focused on the 2022 Oregon Defensible Space Code development.

Last month, the OSFM team hosted meetings in Wilsonville, Hood River, The Dalles, John Day, and Burns. Between the town halls, the OSFM estimates roughly 2,000 people attended.

The OSFM is working through an open public process with the Oregon defensible space code development committee, a diverse group of stakeholders, to develop the new code based on the framework established through SB 762.

To learn more about the defensible space code development process, [click here](#). Virtual town halls are scheduled for October. Be sure to check [our website](#) for dates and times.



**TOWN HALL LOCATIONS**

## SIGN UP TODAY FOR UPCOMING ASIP COURSES



*Attendees practice lessons learned at the Stayton ASIP course.*

The OSFM and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) are offering an exciting opportunity for fire service members and others to learn about the home ignition zone (HIZ). The OSFM will resume these classes this fall.

Those interested in attending a course can register through [OSFM's website](#). Please note registration closes 14 days before the start date of each course.

The Assessing Structure Ignition Potential for wildfire (ASIP) is an NFPA training that discusses wildfire behavior, structure exposure, the concepts of the HIZ,

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 how to make recommendations for proper mitigation measures.

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

For a full list of upcoming ASIP courses, please check out the [OSFM website](#).

# 2023 HMEP GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD NOW OPEN

The Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant application period opened on October 1 and closes on Saturday, December 31, 2022. Recipients of the current HMEP grant (FY 2022) are just beginning their projects, but preparations for the FY 2023 HMEP grant (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024) are starting now.

The purpose of the HMEP grant is to:

- Increase state and local effectiveness in safely and efficiently handling hazardous materials accidents and incidents
- Enhance implementation of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA)
- Encourage a comprehensive approach to emergency planning and training by incorporating the unique challenges of response to transportation-related incidents

The grant is intended to provide financial and technical assistance and national direction and guidance to enhance state, territorial, tribal, and local hazardous materials emergency planning, and training.

[Click here](#) to access the online application.

The application deadline is 5 p.m. Saturday, December 31, 2022. For more information about the application process, 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, guidance on eligible planning and training expenditures, or other grant specifics, [click here](#).



## UPDATE FROM OSFM CARDLOCK

The nonretail fueling (cardlock) program issues cardlock licenses and regulates commercial dispensing of Class 1 flammable fuels. Onsite fire and life safety inspections and customer records audits are conducted at least annually. If fire code or administrative rule violations are identified, a notice of correction is issued with a required abatement date.

The current license year ended on September 30. Our two compliance specialists are closing their inspection and audit findings and approving new licenses for the upcoming license year, which began on October 1. They reviewed and refined their routes and schedules for efficiency. Beginning this month, they will begin facility inspections and records audits across the state. These are typically finished by the end of June or mid-July.



## CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN WITH FIRE SAFETY IN MIND

Halloween is fast approaching and it's time to start planning those costumes and Halloween events, keeping fire safety in mind. Below is a quick checklist to make sure you and your ghosts and goblins are safe this holiday.

- Choose a costume that doesn't have long trailing fabric.
- Is your kid wearing a mask? Make sure the eye holes are big enough so they can see out.
- The dark can be scary; make sure kids are equipped with a flashlight or include glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Dead plants make for a spooky scene. Make sure decorations like dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper are kept far away from heat sources and open flames.
- Light that jack-o-lantern with a battery-operated candle or glow stick.
- If you have a real flame in a jack-o-lantern, keep it away from anything that can burn and far enough out of the way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways, and yards.
- Headed to a spooky party or haunted house? Remember your home fire escape tips. Be sure to know two ways out.
- Don't block escape routes. Keep exits clear of decorations.
- Test and check those smoke alarms.

# FROM THE INTERNET: EUGENE SPRINGFIELD FIRE TAKES TO THE WATER

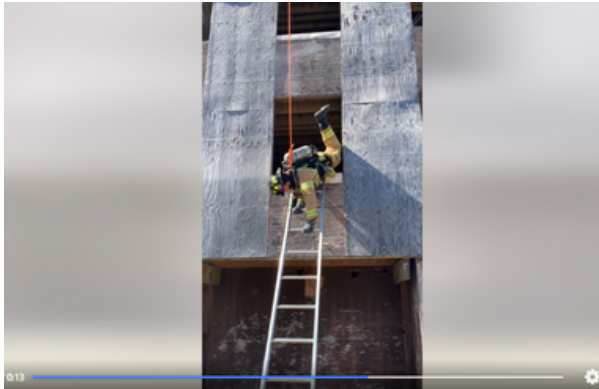
Eugene Springfield Fire took to the water to help respond to calls on the Cedar Creek Fire.

"We love partnering with other agencies to find creative solutions to support our region!

Eugene Springfield Fire staffed a Lane County Sheriff's Office search and rescue boat during the Cedar Creek Fire. Our crews of two provided standby medical evacuation support to fire personnel on Waldo Lake. The lake was the fastest way to access the remote spots crews were working in on the eastern side of the fire." [SEE THE POST HERE](#)



# COOS BAY FIRE PRACTICES LADDER BAILOUTS



Coos Bay had some fun teaching their interns how to do ladder bailouts last month. "If a firefighter is caught in a room fully involved with fire and has to jump out a window onto a ladder in a hurry, this is a necessary skill to have. Today we used a safety harness to ensure proper technique is achieved. Here is our intern Gabe Foltz getting it done. He's only 6'7". Nice job, big guy!!!"

[CLICK THE IMAGE TO SEE THE POST.](#)

## 2022 OFMA TECHNICAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

November 1-2, 2022

DPSST Salem, Oregon

Training will include 12 hours/1.2 CEU.

Refreshments provided both days;

lunch provided November 2.

\$285 OFMA Member Registration Price

\$400 Non-Member Registration Price

Please contact staff at [ofma1284@gmail.com](mailto:ofma1284@gmail.com) if you need assistance with renewing your membership, becoming an OFMA member, or help with your TEC registration.

Discounted pricing is available for OFMA members.



**NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

Oregon Boiler and Pressure Vessel Competency Recognition Roundtable Discussion

**NOVEMBER 2, 2022**

Kitchen Exhaust Systems



# **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.



## Contact Us

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

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