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## OREGON

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **State gets new tool for firefighter training**

Thanks to a U.S. Department of Transportation Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant, the State of Oregon has a new training tool designed specifically to train firefighters for the various vehicle fires and hazardous materials emergencies they may encounter across the state.

The Mobile Vehicle Fire Simulator is a training prop designed to be transported to fire departments and rural fire districts across the state as part of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training's (DPSST) regional fire training program.

"Training firefighters on the Mobile Vehicle Fire Simulator will increase the effectiveness, safety and efficiency of emergency responders as they encounter a variety of flammable gas and liquid fires, and fuel leaks in vehicle emergency incidents," said Oregon State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace.

The vehicle fire simulator was paid for by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

"Due to the increasing value of scrap metal, it's more difficult for fire agencies to get donated vehicles for training," said DPSST Director Eriks Gabliks. "This will go a long way to filling this need."

The new training prop will also maximize transportation safety benefits to communities by allowing hazardous materials response teams and emergency responders to plan and practice their response to vehicle fires caused by hazardous materials.

DPSST officials expect the prop to be ready for its first training session in May 2012.

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