



SENATE BILL 762

BIANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 2023





MISSION

To protect people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.

VALUES

Integrity, Dedication, Leadership, Partnerships, and Service to Others

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Oregon Revised Statutes
Chapters 336, 453, 470, 476, 478, 479, 480

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BY THE NUMBERS

STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS



\$81 MILLION

One-time investments in wildfire risk reduction, firefighter capacity, and equipment



\$2.7 MILLION

Community wildfire protection plans



\$13.5 MILLION

2023 Oregon Fire Service Capacity Grant



\$6 MILLION

2023 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant



\$18 MILLION

Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant



\$25 MILLION

Engine Program



\$4.5 MILLION

Oregon tribal nations partner investments



\$3 MILLION

Oregon firefighter apprenticeship program

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE & PRE-POSITIONING

This is the third year these two tools have been available to the OSFM and Oregon fire service.

2023

Immediate Response: 9 mobilizations

Pre-positioning: 0 mobilizations

2022

Immediate Response: 12 mobilizations

Pre-positioning: 6 mobilizations

2021

Immediate Response: 9 mobilizations

Pre-positioning: 7 mobilizations

As of July 31, 2023

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Provided **171** fire agencies with **460** fire danger signs



Completed **13** assessing structural ignition potential (ASIP) classes



Launched a **defensible space program** and free assessments



Facilitated **66** projects in **25** counties for community wildfire risk reduction investments



Coordinated material distribution for **100** fire agencies for Wildfire Awareness Month

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSESSMENTS

Total Assessments Completed: 199
Total Assessors: 108
Total Agencies: 41

Since June 2023



SENATE BILL 762 REPORT OVERVIEW

Statute requires the Oregon State Fire Marshal to provide the Oregon legislature with biannual reports to document work relating to 2021's Senate Bill 762 (ORS 476.398). Senate Bill 762 codified wildfire prevention, community risk reduction, and proactive emergency response tools for the OSFM.

This report provides status and financial updates for:

- **FIRE ADAPTED OREGON**
 - Community risk reduction and the establishment, administration, and enforcement of defensible space requirements.
- **RESPONSE READY OREGON**
 - Mobilizations, pre-positioning, immediate response, and conflagration costs.
- **INVESTMENTS**
 - Money expended during the year for:
 - Community risk reduction and the establishment, administration, or enforcement of defensible space requirements.
 - Fire suppression on wildland-urban interface lands.
- **STATE FIRE MARSHAL RECOMMENDATIONS**
 - Including but not limited to legislative action, current or future resource and funding needs for community risk reduction, and establishing, administering, or enforcing defensible space requirements.



FIRE ADAPTED OREGON PROGRAM UPDATES

The OSFM's Fire Adapted Oregon initiative creates community-based programs to build resiliency to wildfire impacts for people and communities while prioritizing vulnerable populations and areas of the state. These programs work together to give Oregon the best opportunity to protect people and property from wildfire.



DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

- Launched a defensible space assessment program in June 2023 offering Oregonians a free property assessment to provide recommendations on improving defensible space on their property. Assessments can be requested [online](#).
 - The new defensible space website also provides wildfire preparedness best practices, education, and tips.
- Conducted 199 defensible space assessments to date.
- Trained 108 defensible space assessors, representing 41 fire agencies, to provide assessments to community members across the state.



FIRE ADAPTED OREGON PROGRAM UPDATES

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Developed and gave 460 fire danger signs to 171 structural fire agencies to provide awareness of current wildfire conditions and fire danger weather.
- Completed 13 Assessing Structural Ignition Potential (ASIP) from Wildfire courses statewide about wildfire behavior, structure exposure, the home ignition zone, and structure ignition potential.
- Coordinated and facilitated strategic investments in 25 counties for shovel-ready community wildfire risk reduction projects identified in 66 community wildfire risk preparedness plans.
- Facilitated discussion while serving as ambassadors and technical assistants to the 106 recipients of the \$18-million Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant, focused on protecting high-risk and high-vulnerability projects for the built environment.
- Provided funding to the local structural fire service for 14 fire prevention staff and three firefighter and prevention positions through the \$13.5 million Oregon Fire Service Capacity Grant. These positions provide training, education, and outreach to prevent human-caused fires and provide defensible space assessments at homes and businesses.
- Developed regional and statewide strategic operational plans to move the Fire Adapted Oregon initiative into the 2023-2025 biennium.
- Collaborated with key agencies to support and promote May's Wildfire Awareness Month in communities across Oregon providing materials, webinars, and events across the state.

[READ MORE](#)

RESPONSE READY OREGON **PROGRAMS UPDATES**

The OSFM is tackling the challenges of the 2023 fire season through Response Ready Oregon and funding from Senate Bill 762. 2023 marks the third year the OSFM can mobilize resources outside a formal conflagration through two tools to keep fires small and away from communities, preventing large, costly wildfires.

- **Pre-positioning** places firefighting equipment and personnel in high-risk areas during brief periods of high fire danger.
- **Immediate response** sends equipment and personnel to growing wildfires. The OSFM mobilizes the Oregon fire service structural task forces and, through collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry and federal agencies, firefighting aircraft like air tankers and helicopters. This tool has proven effective in protecting our communities and limiting costs to the state of Oregon by minimizing catastrophic structural fires and wildfires.
- The **Engine Program** is nearing completion with 27 type 3 engines (midsize), 20 type 6 engines (smaller), and 30 tactical tenders in production. As the engine builds are finished, they will be strategically placed across the state to add firefighting capacity and critical response resources to protect our communities. We anticipate receiving some type 3 engines before the end of the year and the remaining engines in the first half of 2024.
 - In March, department selections were made by an external stakeholder group focused on three areas:
 - Increasing local response
 - Supporting regional mutual aid (departments helping other departments)
 - Statewide response
- In May, State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple met with the governor to brief her on what to expect this season and where the OSFM sees success in responding to wildfire and better-preparing communities. Early indicators show a potentially challenging 2023 fire season for the Oregon fire service and the OSFM is prepared.



RESPONSE READY OREGON CONFLAGRATION COSTS

CONFLAGRATIONS

June 13	Hat Rock Fire	\$755,000
June 13	Mount Hebron Fire	\$182,000
July 22	Golden Fire	\$1.47 million*

*Prior to the OSFM taking command, 48 homes and 69 outbuildings were lost.

*FMAG: Fire Management Assistance Grant

TOTAL: \$2.4 MILLION

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

9 responses

TOTAL: \$382,000

Estimated as of July 31, 2023



COMBINED TOTAL COST: \$2.78 MILLION

SENATE BILL 762 INVESTMENTS

Over the past two years, the OSFM invested \$81 million into grants and projects to protect Oregonians and their communities. *The following programs were from one-time funding made possible by Senate Bill 762.*

We are thankful for the opportunity to steward these funds to organizations statewide to protect Oregonians against increasing wildfire impacts. The Oregon legislature's foresight, vision, and leadership allowed a proactive response that benefits everyone in Oregon.

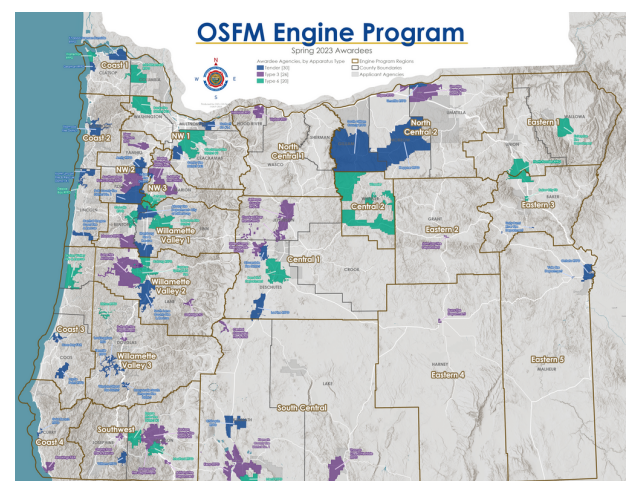
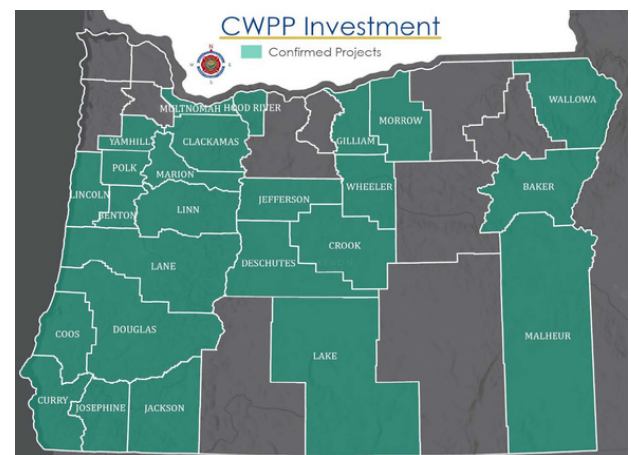
FEBRUARY 2023

The \$2.7-million investment in **community wildfire protection plans** was announced. Projects in 25 counties statewide were funded for community risk reduction, community education, defensible space projects, home assessments, media campaigns, signage, fuel mitigation programs, and local grant funds.

APRIL 2023

The \$25-million **Engine Program** recipients were announced. Across Oregon, 76 local fire agencies were selected to receive a new type 3, type 6, or water tender to boost firefighting capacity.

When responding to wildfires that could impact communities, the OSFM relies on the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS), a system of 300+ local fire agencies across Oregon. These firefighters and equipment are mobilized under the Emergency Conflagration Act, pre-positioning, or immediate response.



Click the maps for a larger image.

SENATE BILL 762 INVESTMENTS

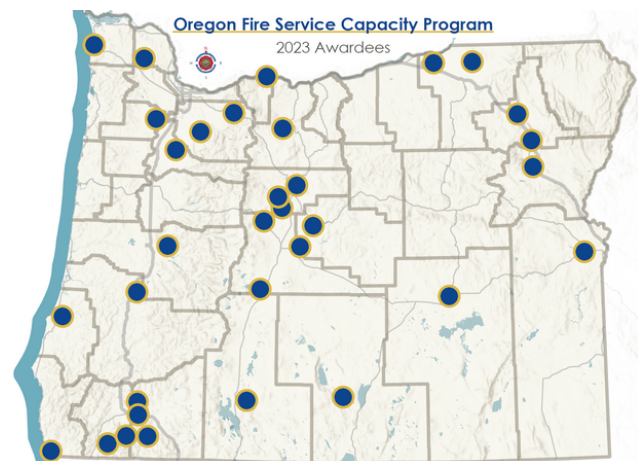
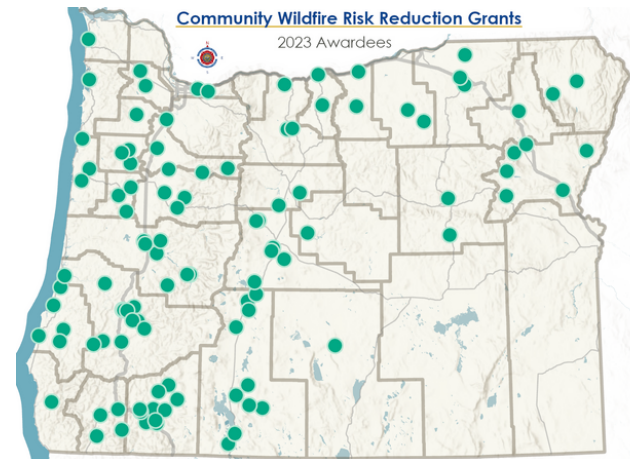
MAY 2023

The \$18-million **Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant** recipients were announced. 106 local governments, special districts, structural fire service agencies, and non-governmental organizations were funded to carry out projects to protect people, property, and communities.

The \$6-million **2023 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant** recipients were announced. This is the second year of the grant. The OSFM is funding 185 agencies to hire extra firefighters to help with the wildfire season.

The \$13.5-million 2023 **Oregon Fire Service Capacity Grant** awardees were announced. These grants were for small- to medium-sized agencies that need more permanent firefighters and fire prevention staff. The grant was available to Oregon's local fire districts and departments for funds to support up to two firefighters and two fire prevention personnel.

The two upstaffing grants are significantly impacting response to wildfire. During the last two wildfire seasons the state had an additional 900 firefighters. These grant-funded firefighters helped save lives and kept fires small and out of communities.



SENATE BILL 762 INVESTMENTS

MAY 2023

The OSFM announced a \$3 million investment in the **Oregon State Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Program** over the next two years. Klamath County Fire District No. 1 and Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue each received \$1.5 million dollars.

JUNE 2023

The OSFM invested \$4.5 million into the **nine federally-recognized tribal nations** in Oregon for each sovereign nation to boost fire prevention and response.

EARLIER INVESTMENTS

Earlier in the biennium, \$8 million was invested into programs including Immediate Response, Pre-positioning, local prevention pilot projects, Oregon mutual aid, and defensible space projects around critical infrastructure, including schools and hospitals. For more information about the OSFM grant programs, [click here](#).



2023 WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING GRANT SUCCESS STORIES

“

We assisted Banks Fire District 13 with a residential fire that spread to surrounding timber. We sent a water tender with one paid full-time firefighter and one seasonal paid firefighter. Special thanks to Oregon State Fire Marshal for the staffing grant, allowing us to hire three additional firefighters to increase staffing to 10 hours per day, seven days a week.

-VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



“

Thanks to the capacity and staffing grants from the Oregon State Fire Marshal, we responded to a vehicle fire in less than two minutes. It used to take 10-15 minutes for the first engine to respond. Overall, Paisley Fire responded with two engines and a tender with six personnel, assisted by an engine from High Desert Rangeland Protection Association. The fire was contained to the source thanks to programs offered by the OSFM to respond to emergencies like these much quicker and more efficiently.

-PAISLEY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

“

We received a call about a tractor fire. Staff were already at the station for drill and quickly went to the scene. Upon arrival, smoke and flames were observed. Seasonal staff and volunteers pulled a hose line and achieved a quick knockdown before fire engulfed the tractor or spread to surrounding vegetation. This was the second day on shift for our seasonal crew. These seasonal firefighters were hired for the summer fire season thanks to the staffing grant provided by the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

-TENMILE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT



2023 WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING GRANT SUCCESS STORIES

“

On July 17, crews quickly stopped a rekindled slash pile as it caught grass and an RV on fire. We received a smoke call and staff and volunteers quickly responded. The fire was stopped before any property was damaged. This slash pile was burned over a month ago, but hot coals in the soil, along with above-normal temperatures and high winds, caused the remaining slash to ignite. Embers carried by winds ignited dry grass 50 feet away, which went underneath a parked RV. The staffing grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal allowed crews to keep this fire small and from further damaging property.

-GARIBALDI FIRE & RESCUE



“

Keizer firefighters responded to a fast-moving brush fire in Marion County on July 18. An engine, brush rig, and brush truck responded as part of a county-based task force. Thanks to a staffing grant from the OSFM that allowed us to hire seasonal firefighters, we are better equipped to respond to these situations in our community and surrounding area. We are thankful for this grant, as it allowed us to improve staffing while facing record call volumes within Keizer.

-KEIZER FIRE DISTRICT

“

July 18 was the first day of having our Oregon State Fire Marshal upstaffing grant personnel. Good thing, because we had a 2+ alarm grass fire in town that threatened many houses and businesses.

-MOLALLA FIRE DISTRICT



STATE FIRE MARSHAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Continuous increased investment into wildfire community risk reduction and response is needed to keep pace with protecting Oregonians and communities.** If sustained funding is not acquired, the OSFM cannot maintain an adequate level of response and service to Oregon communities and the efforts to improve wildfire risk reduction statewide.
2. The OSFM will likely need to appear in future legislative sessions to adequately support Response Ready Oregon and the community risk reduction fund.

With ever-increasing risk, large and catastrophic wildfires impact communities and cost our state tens of millions of dollars to suppress. Senate Bill 762 focused on building fire-resistant communities where people have tools to protect themselves, augmented by increased fire response services.

For the new biennium, the OSFM's base budget and staffing are stable, but with a significant reduction in funding (85%) from Senate Bill 762 for the CRR program and grants for local communities, partners, and fire agencies, the impactful work and new programs are at risk of losing the hard-fought gains we achieved.

Programs and initiatives created from Senate Bill 762 funds caused communities to come together to protect themselves individually and as a whole, becoming more fire resilient and able to withstand the devastating effects of wildfire.





OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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