



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

MAY 2024



WELCOME TO **WILDFIRE** AWARENESS MONTH

May means warmer weather and summer around the corner. May is also designated as Wildfire Awareness Month in Oregon.

The OSFM and other state agencies and partners are asking Oregonians to take this month to prepare for wildfire and focus on things like creating defensible space and brushing up on fire prevention tips.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 2.](#)

OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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BE #WILDFIREAWARE FOR WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH

May is Wildfire Awareness Month, and the Oregon State Fire Marshal is encouraging all Oregonians to prepare for the upcoming wildfire season. Creating defensible space is one of the most important things you can do to protect your home and increase the chances it will survive a wildfire.

The OSFM offers free defensible space assessments to Oregonians who want to start creating defensible space or those who want to optimize their current plan. For a limited time, people living in select areas of the state may be eligible for a \$250 payment after receiving an assessment. [Read more on page 3.](#)

“Creating defensible space might feel overwhelming, but taking it one project at a time can go a long way in protecting your home,” Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple said. “May is a great time to tackle these projects before the heat of summer arrives.”

A few projects to consider this month include:

- Space and prune trees.
- Remove leaves, needles, wood, bark mulch, and other debris from within 100 feet of buildings or to the property line.
- Remove leaves, needles, and other debris from roofs and gutters.
- Move flammable material away from the outside of your home, including mulch, flammable plants, leaves, and needles.
- Prevent plants from growing directly under the eaves; a minimum of five feet away is recommended.
- Keep firewood piles and lumber at least 30 feet from any structure.
- Maintain the plants in your yard. Clean old leaves or pine needles from your plants and prune away dead parts.

When creating defensible space, you may have debris to get rid of. The OSFM suggests chipping, composting, or recycling it. If you must burn the debris, follow all local burning restrictions and be safe when using fire. Escaped debris burns are the number one cause of human-sparked fires in Oregon.

For more information about Wildfire Awareness Month, [check out our webpage!](#)





2024 WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING GRANT RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

To boost the number of firefighters across Oregon before wildfire season, the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) announced it has awarded \$6 million in grants to 191 local fire agencies across the state.

The 2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant program is in its third year. Local agencies in the Oregon structural fire service were eligible to apply for up to \$35,000. The funding will allow agencies to bring on additional firefighters or increase on-duty hours during the 2024 fire season. A list of agencies awarded funding can be [found here](#).

The 2023 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant program was integral to the success of protecting communities, adding more than 1,500 paid firefighters to the Oregon fire service. These added resources allowed agencies to attack fires and keep them small and away from communities. They added capacity to respond to other calls, ultimately saving lives. Read about the successes [here](#).

This 2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant program is part of a multi-pronged approach to combat wildfire in Oregon. Over the last three years, the OSFM has made strategic investments to modernize the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System and help communities become more wildfire-adapted.

This grant is part of the OSFM's Response Ready Oregon initiative. The OSFM is looking for sustained funding for this program and is exploring all options to continue this highly successful grant in 2025 and beyond.

BY THE NUMBERS

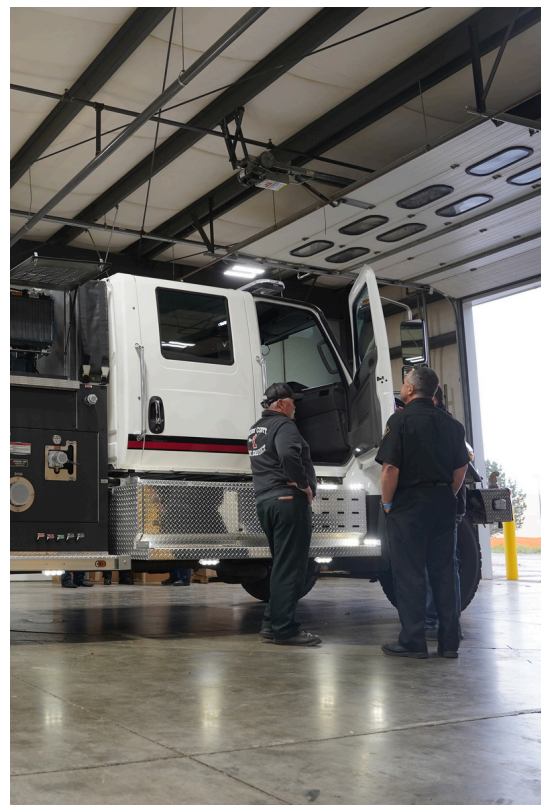
- **191** agencies funded
- **\$6** million in grants
- Agencies received up to **\$35,000**
- Added **1,500+** firefighters last year

OSFM ENGINE PROGRAM UPDATE



The OSFM delivered new type three engines to Wy'East Fire District and Marion County Fire District One in early April. These two engines were the seventh and eighth deliveries of the OSFM Engine Program.

Program staff also held a webinar for recipients in April to review updates and changes to the new engines. To watch the webinar and read more updates about the program, check out the [OSFM Engine Program webpage](#).





1,285 DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED STATEWIDE

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

Since the defensible space assessment program launched earlier this year, the OSFM and fire service partners conducted 524 assessments statewide.

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 information about the defensible space program, which communities are eligible for an incentive, and how to sign up, 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
GET A **FREE ASSESSMENT.**





FIRE IN THE HOLE!

In early April, as part of our deputy state fire marshal quarterly in-service, our deputies did some post-blast investigation training with Oregon State Police explosives and arson units. The training provided an opportunity to finalize some of our newer deputies' task book requirements for certification. This was done through an overview of the different types of explosives, post-blast evidence collection techniques, and some field training (where things went boom!).

This is extremely valuable training for when our deputies are out doing fire origin and cause investigations across Oregon that may involve explosions. Huge thanks to Oregon State Police for this training!

OSFM LAUNCHES HEALTH AND SAFETY COLLABORATIVE

The OSFM is thrilled to announce the launch of the Oregon Fire Service Health and Safety Collaborative, a groundbreaking initiative to better support the Oregon fire service. This program marks a significant step forward in prioritizing the well-being of our firefighters and local fire agencies across the state.

In the demanding field of firefighting, where physical, psychological, and environmental challenges are routine, ensuring firefighter health and safety is paramount. The Oregon Fire Service Health and Safety Collaborative will work to address these challenges by coordinating resources and providing support to our dedicated fire service personnel.

At the core of this initiative lies a vision to create a collaborative framework that caters to the diverse needs of all fire service personnel in Oregon. By focusing on behavioral health, physical wellness, cancer prevention, and incident safety, we aspire to build a resilient and thriving firefighting community.

The collaborative operates on several key principles, including creating a forum for stakeholders to contribute equally, coordinating efforts among various agencies, and representing the breadth of perspectives within the Oregon fire service. Through these principles, the OSFM will foster a culture of collaboration, support, and continuous improvement.

So, how can we assist you? The Oregon Fire Service Health and Safety Collaborative is here to serve as a centralized hub for resources, making it easier for you to access the support you need. Whether you're looking for information on behavioral health services, cancer prevention strategies, or incident safety protocols, we've got you covered. We will also compile work created by other groups and offer ourselves as a dedicated resource to those in need.

As we embark on this journey together, let us reaffirm our commitment to the health and safety of our firefighters and the communities they serve. The Oregon Fire Service Health and Safety Collaborative is more than just a program; it's a testament to our collective dedication to excellence and resilience. [Learn more here.](#)



MOLALLA FIRE CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

It is a big year for Molalla Fire! The agency is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

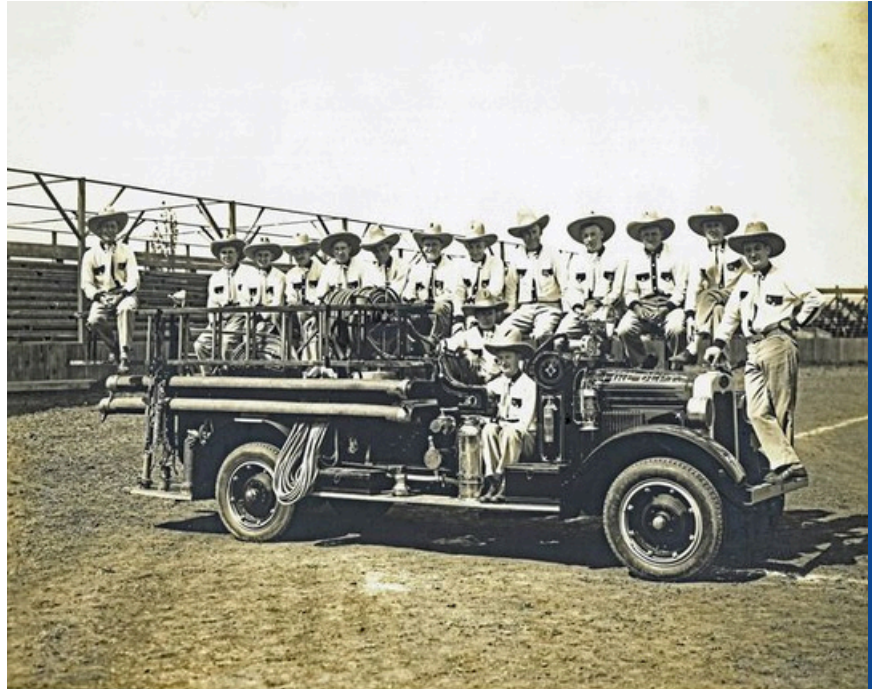
An organized fire department was formed under Chief Masterton in 1924. Before this, firefighting in Molalla was limited to neighbors forming bucket brigades. In 1914, the city installed a fire hydrant system and purchased two hose carts for public use.

In 1925, the volunteer firefighters started the 4th of July Roundup (now known as the Molalla Buckeroo) and the Firemen's Dance to raise money to buy a firetruck and equipment. The volunteers took possession of their new firetruck in January of 1926. The Buckeroo eventually grew too large for the fire department to continue running and was turned over to a new rodeo association. The Firemen's Dance continued into the 1990s.

100 years later, Molalla Fire still holds strong ties to their rodeo history as can be seen by the bull rider on their logo and patch, and the photo proudly displayed in their station lobby.

Molalla Fire continues to provide first aid booth coverage for the Buckeroo each year.

Congratulations, Molalla Fire, and thank you for serving your community!



MOBILE FOOD UNIT SAFETY

The OSFM is working to remind all mobile food unit owners of the January 1, 2025 deadline to meet the 2022 Oregon Fire Code requirements. These code requirements were adopted after more than three years of partner meetings and public input and will significantly increase the safety of food carts across Oregon.

OSFM deputy state fire marshals have been working with mobile food unit owners and operators to educate them on the requirements and answer questions.

The OSFM created a checklist to help people in identifying what they need to do. That checklist is available in five languages and can be [downloaded here](#).



PLEASE WELCOME EMMA BRICKELL TO THE OSFM TEAM

Emma Brickell joins the OSFM as a program assistant for programs in regulatory services.

For the last eight years, Emma worked at an inbound call center doing administrative work and strategic planning for staff. She is very excited to join the OSFM team.

She has three dogs, a nine-year-old German Shepard, a five-year-old Great Dane/Mastiff, and a tiny baby Pug puppy. In her free time, she enjoys playing video games and trying to cook.



LET'S TALK FIREWORKS

As the 2024 fireworks season approaches, the Oregon State Fire Marshal wants to update our partners on the responsibilities and roles our agency and local authorities have when it comes to fireworks.

OSFM Roles

ORS 480.111-480.165 governs fireworks and delegates authority to specific organizations for various activities. Under these statutes, the Oregon State Fire Marshal is tasked with issuing permits for agricultural (pest control), public fireworks displays, and the sale of both display and consumer fireworks in Oregon. Our Regulatory Services Division offers support by providing information on fireworks regulations, coordinating with the Oregon State Police when necessary, and advising local law enforcement on how to handle the seizure, storage, and retrieval of fireworks.

Local Agency Roles and Authorities

State regulations grant local authorities the power to oversee fireworks in their jurisdiction. According to ORS 480.140, supervision of fireworks displays is managed by local fire and police departments, or by county courts in areas without local coverage. ORS 480.160 (4) allows rural fire protection district governing bodies to regulate fireworks locally. OAR 837-012-0860 (9-11) states that local authorities must postpone or stop fireworks displays if adverse conditions, poor crowd control, or significant weather issues arise that could impact safety. ORS 480.120(2) mandates that state, county, or municipal law enforcement enforce these fireworks statutes.

[Download a helpful roles and authorities graphic here.](#)



PLEASE WELCOME STEPHEN WEPPRICH TO THE OSFM TEAM

Stephen Wepprich joined the OSFM team as a GIS specialist.

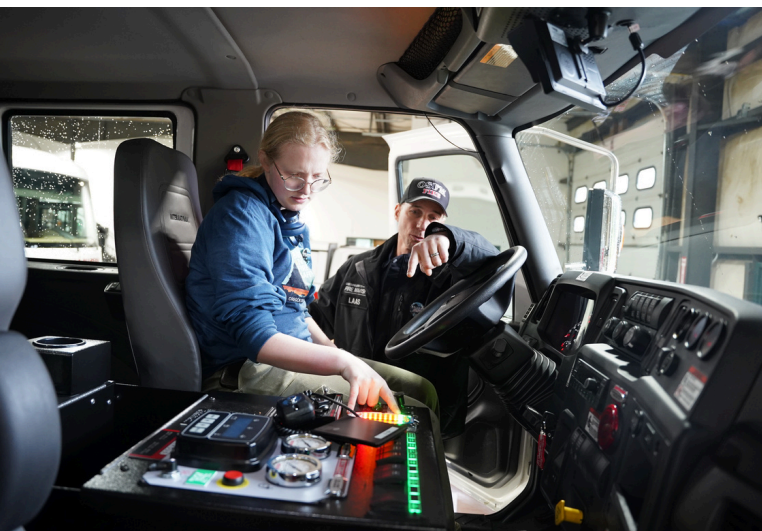
He grew up in Missouri and graduated from Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in Cartographic Science. He accumulated his GIS knowledge through roles in city, county, and state governments throughout his career. Stephen moved to Oregon last year from Arizona to be closer to his siblings. In his free time, Stephen enjoys cooking, hiking, and sailing.

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

The OSFM hosted quite a few kids for a fun-filled day at the Salem headquarters in April. Staff put together an interactive day for National Take Your Child to Work Day.

These young minds got to learn about how we help and support our fellow Oregonians. They got a look at public service and why the work is so important. The future is theirs!

The day would not have been complete without checking out one of our new type 3 engines and spraying a little water. Thanks to Marion County Fire District No. 1 for stopping by.





CODES CORNER

WALL AND CEILING INTERIOR FINISHES

You should think about Chapters 7 and 8 of the Oregon Fire Code as working in collaboration with each other. Chapter 7 provides requirements for the fire resistance of the structural members that provide the support for the building or provide separations within it. These are the effects of an established room fire on assemblies containing walls, doors, and dampers. The resistance is measured in hours.

Its companion, Chapter 8, is related instead to the spread of flames along nonstructural materials such as those covering walls, floors, and ceilings earlier in the fire's timeline, during its early stages. The measurement of that spread, appropriately called the Flame Spread Index (FSI), is sorted into 3 classes; "Class A" for slow spread of about 10 inches or less, "Class B" for moderate growth, and "Class C" for materials where flames are expected to spread rapidly, up to 6 ½ feet. Wood is a common finish or trim material and most bare wood is Class C rated. Some dense wood species can have a slower Class B rating. All properly treated wood can attain a Class A rating, although wood is never defined as being non-combustible.

Finishes such as wallpaper, artwork, furnishings, exposed heavy timbers and others do not require a rating, and other materials are also not rated because they are not suitable as finish regardless of their burning characteristics.

Look at OFC Table 803.3 to do an assessment of a room's wall and ceiling finish. Using the room's occupancy classification and its use you can determine which fire rating is required for the wall and ceiling finish. As you might expect, exit spaces have the strictest FSI requirements, and open rooms the least restrictive. Also as expected, areas with no fire sprinklers have stricter requirements than spaces protected with an approved NFPA 13 or 13R system.

CODES CORNER

Look even closer at Table 803.3. You can see that Class A-rated materials are indeed required in many non-sprinklered occupancies. In buildings protected with a NFPA 13 system that Class A rating is only required in the egress-related areas of jails and prisons due to their heavy reliance on them for prolonged periods of time.

You can also see from the table that most sprinklered rooms allow Class C finishes, but not the exits or corridors that extend from them. The exception are rooms in medical settings where the evacuation of patients may be delayed and reliant on the emergency preparedness requirements established in Chapter 4. Again, the FSI classifications heavily consider how the occupants use the space.

The Smoke Development Index (SDI) is also considered when allowing interior finishes but is not used in determining Class A, B, or C rating requirements.

A materials specification sheet will indicate its FSI rating and should be provided to you by the building owner. Look for compliance with the ASTM E84 test, or the similar UL 723 test which is also acceptable. Both measure the progress of a gas-fed fire along the ceiling of a 2-foot-wide tunnel lined with the test material.

Neither the ASTM nor the UL test are required if the material documentation indicates it has not exceeded the NFPA 286 “room corner” test criteria listed in OFC 803.1.1.1. This test not only evaluates a fire’s spread during its early stages, but also a measurement of its smoke and heat as it exhausts through the test room’s ventilation duct, and whether the test eventually resulted in a flashover.

Most of us are reasonably comfortable with the requirements of Oregon Fire Code Chapter 7 and its maintenance of fire walls, doors, dampers, and other openings. Fewer of us are as comfortable with Chapter 8, but with a better understanding of it, you may greatly reduce the chance of a small fire from growing and impacting the structural components protected in Chapter 7.

TABLE 803.3 INTERIOR WALL AND CEILING FINISH REQUIREMENTS BY OCCUPANCY^k

GROUP	SPRINKLERED ^l			NONSPRINKLERED		
	Interior exit stairways and ramps and exit passageways ^{h, b}	Corridors and enclosure for exit access stairways and ramps	Rooms and enclosed spaces ^c	Interior exit stairways and ramps and exit passageways ^{h, b}	Corridors and enclosure for exit access stairways and ramps	Rooms and enclosed spaces ^c
A-1 and A-2	B	B	C	A	A ^d	B ^e
A-3 ^f , A-4, A-5	B	B	C	A	A ^d	C
B, E, M, R-1, R-4	B	C ^m	C	A	B ^m	C
F	C	C	C	B	C	C
H	B	B	C ^g	A	A	B
I-1	B	C	C	A	B	B
I-2	B	B	B ^{h, i}	A	A	B
I-3	A	A ^l	C	A	A	B
I-4	B	B	B ^{h, i}	A	A	B
R-2	C	C	C	B	B	C
R-3	C	C	C	C	C	C
S	C	C	C	B	B	C
U	No Restrictions			No Restrictions		



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 and pumps
- Air ops in the WUI
- Placarding
- Logistics and radios
- Electronic triage tools and mapping
- Fire season forecast
- Public information

REGISTER
HERE

Please register before
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

Zero, a curious Rottweiler puppy, chased wild turkeys during a walk and ended up over a cliff in North Bend. Alerted at 9:21 a.m., North Bend Fire & Rescue quickly deployed their rope rescue team. By 10 a.m., thanks to firefighters Chase Howerton, Jeremy Potter, Henry Hood, Cody Folsom, and particularly Lt. John Lucero who rappelled down the cliff, Zero was safely rescued and reunited with his owners. The incident showcases the skill and bravery of the first responders, ensuring a happy ending to a potentially dangerous situation.

WEDDING CRASHERS

A wedding party on the way to a ceremony faced an unexpected crisis when their vehicle suddenly caught fire. Quick thinking by the driver, who pulled off the road as smoke appeared, allowed everyone to safely get out before it was engulfed in flames.

Responding swiftly, Lane County Fire Authority's E101, with Engineer Jonsson and Lieutenant Holmes, arrived on the scene, put the fire out, and made sure everyone was okay. The car was a total loss.

Understanding the significance of the day, Jonsson and Holmes provided the distressed wedding guests a lift to the venue, ensuring the ceremony could proceed. To capture the day, the bride and groom requested a photo with their unexpected heroes, adding a memorable twist to a wedding they won't forget.



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 from 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 and 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](#) to secure your spot!

OREGON Fire Marshals ASSOCIATION

LEADING ~ SERVING ~ SUPPORTING



PLEASE WELCOME BRIAN QUEEN TO THE OSFM TEAM

Brian was born and raised in Salem, Oregon. After high school, Brian moved to Arizona to pursue a mechanical engineering degree. Once completed, he came back to Oregon as Arizona was way too hot!

He's proud to have a successful 30-year marriage to his wife Janet. They raised three daughters and recently became grandparents to a beautiful baby girl.

Brian started his state career in 1992 with the Oregon Department of Transportation's Motor Carrier Division as a compliance specialist. He is excited for the opportunity to begin a new chapter and challenge of his state service with the OSFM.



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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 2013, Smoke Alarm Installation Program participants have provided more than 10,000 smoke alarms across Oregon.

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

May 30, 2024

June 27, 2024



CONTACT US

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

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