

From Risk to Resilience: Wildfire Preparedness for Public Water Systems Webinar

April 30, 2026, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm PDT

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Health Authority will host a two-hour webinar on coastal wildfire preparedness and resiliency practices. While the webinar is geared toward coastal public water systems, all public water systems are encouraged to attend as most content will be broadly applicable. Presentations will be provided by Oregon State University Extension Service, the Eugene Water & Electric Board, and Oregon Health Authority. County emergency managers will attend breakout sessions to share information about county-level wildfire planning. The webinar is free to attend and offers 0.2 continuing education units.

Time	
10:00 a.m.	Welcome
10:05 a.m.	<p>Aaron Groth, North Coast Regional Fire Specialist at OSU Extension</p> <p>“Strengthening Drinking Water Resilience Through Watershed-Scale Wildfire Preparedness”</p> <p>This OSU Extension talk will provide a systems-oriented overview — integrating watershed processes, community and governance dynamics, funding pathways, and cross-sector partnerships.</p>
10:35 a.m.	<p>Nancy Toth, Senior Environmental Specialist and Drinking Water Protection at EWEB</p> <p>“Pure Water Partners: Wildfire Response and Recovery”</p> <p>The 2020 Holiday Farm fire burned about 173,000 acres in EWEB’s McKenzie River drinking water source area. Learn about lessons learned from the experience and the partnership building that helped prepare the utility to respond quickly to secure resources and initiate recovery efforts.</p>
11:05 a.m.	<p>Chantal Wikstrom, Drinking Water Specialist & Emergency Coordinator at OHA</p> <p>“Drinking Water Emergency Response and Preparedness”</p> <p>Learn what Oregon Health Authority – Drinking Water Services does in emergency situations involving drinking water and what steps utilities can take today to help prepare for wildfires.</p>
11:25 a.m.	<p>Breakout Session: Small Group Discussions</p> <p>Learn about county level wildfire planning and mitigation efforts and how water systems can get involved. Discuss with other utilities, local partners, and state agency representatives about wildfire planning and mitigation efforts that water systems can pursue.</p>
12:00 p.m.	Adjourn

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