



State of Oregon Advancing Wildfire Protection

Office of Governor Tina Kotek





State of Oregon
Wildfire Programs Director - Quarterly Report 1
Advancing Wildfire Protection in Oregon

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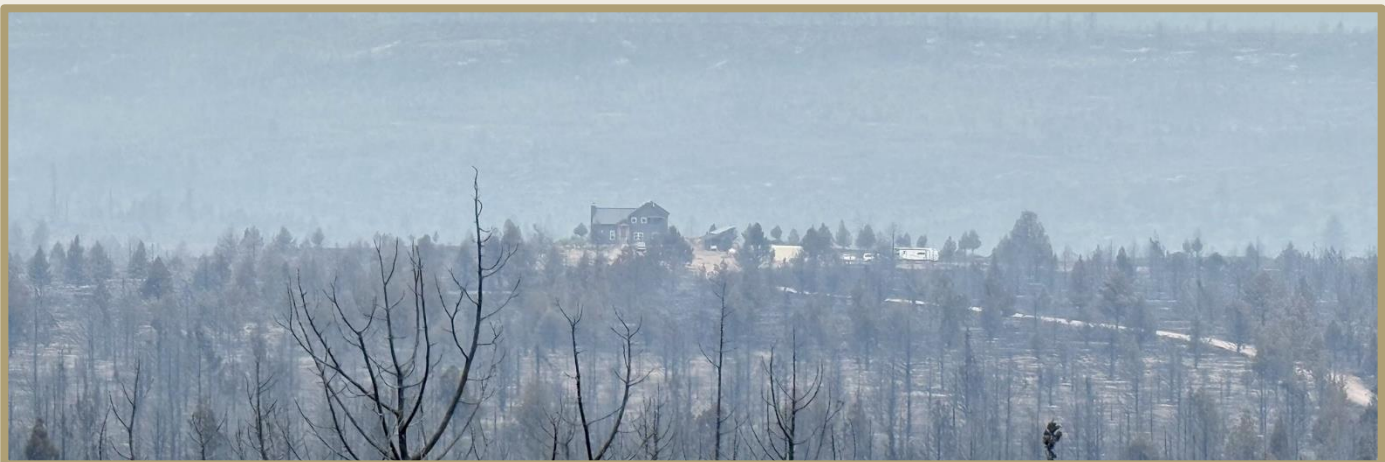
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Implementation Agencies

- Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS)
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)
- Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
- Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)
- Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM)
- Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
- Oregon State University (OSU)
- Public Utility Commission (PUC)
- Wildfire Programs Advisory Council (WPAC)



Executive Summary

As required by SB 83 (2025), this is the first quarterly implementation status report produced by the Wildfire Programs Director for the Governor, the Presiding Officers of the Oregon Legislature, and the chairs of relevant legislative committees. Previous reports can be found here: [Oregon Wildfire Programs](#)

Wildfire Program Highlights

1: Fire season 2025 has officially ended as fall rains have set in during mid-October. In summary: fire season began early and aggressively with May, June and July fire activity outpacing what we would expect for that time of year. In July, we lost 56 primary residences in the Rowena fire along with additional structures. In August, the Flat fire burned over 23,000 acres and consumed 5 primary residences, however this fire put on display the interagency cooperation that resulted in the protection of over 800 homes within and around the footprint of this fire. In total, we lost 205 structures during the 2025 wildfire season.

The Flat Fire represented the culmination of several biennia of investments by the Legislature to evolve the State's Wildfire Programs. ODF and OSFM highlighted this fire during September Legislative days: [Oregon Legislative Video](#) (28.50-38.30). The agencies emphasized how effective wildfire readiness and response, coupled with state supported and local engagement in wildfire mitigation efforts such as managing hazardous fuels through landscape resiliency programs along with establishing defensible space and home hardening can avoid catastrophic wildfire losses.

Statewide, Oregon's first responders deployed to over 2900 wildfire fires (well above our season average) with just over 322,000 acres burned (less than half of our season average). Regardless if this fire season will be perceived as a "good" fire season with less acres burned and under our allotted funding for large fire suppression costs, or a "bad" fire season as you consider the 64 primary residence lost to wildfires this year, one thing is



for sure: Oregon's fire seasons continue to grow more complex and I am thankful for the dedicated first responders and to all who support evolving Oregon's wildfire programs to address these perplexing issues.

2: During the 2025 legislative session, three primary wildfire bills passed:

- SB 83 - Hazard Map repeal, Wildfire Advisory Council and Program updates including annual reports for 5 agencies. These reports are now scheduled in the Implementation Status section on page 7 of this report.
- SB 85 - Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program development through partnerships with the insurance industry to address the rising costs of insurance.
- HB 3940 – Comprehensive wildfire funding modernization and establishes the Wildfire Prepared Structure program.

3: Federal Wildfire Advancements: Following Congress's Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission's 2023 report [On Fire](#) identifying 148 recommendations to advance fire protection nationally, the non-profit [Alliance for Wildfire Resilience](#) (AWR) was established to leverage the Commission's report as a roadmap to pursue national policy changes and program development to reduce the long-term consequences of wildfires in the United States. I will continue to follow this effort to re-shape the nation's fire protection systems and participate where appropriate.

Duties of the Wildfire Programs Director

- Oversee implementation of the Wildfire Programs.
- Coordinate activities across all wildfire implementation agencies.
- Ensure compliance with deadlines.
- Monitor and assess the equity of any financial impacts from implementation activities on local jurisdictions.
- Supervise council staff and develop director reports every two months.
- Explore current and future opportunities to reduce wildfire risk.



Roles of the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council

- Advise and assist the Wildfire Programs Director.
- Monitor Wildfire Programs implementation and evaluate agency reports.
- Advise on changes necessary to dramatically reduce wildfire risk and ensure regional defensible space, building codes and land use applications are appropriate.
- Strengthen intergovernmental and multiparty collaboration including government, stakeholders and the public.
- Assess how Oregon's wildfire risk map may inform building codes and land use laws, rules and decisions in a regionally appropriate manner.
- Assess the application of defensible space requirements to vineyards, crops and other cultivated vegetation.
- Review the findings and recommendations in the DLCD's October 2022 report and make additional recommendations to land use planning, local comprehensive plans, and zoning codes to minimize wildfire risk.
- Report every October to the Governor and appropriate committees or interim committees of the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

Wildfire Programs Implementation Status

2025

Date	Responsible Party	Required Action	Implementation Status
Feb (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space SB0762	(Complete) OSFM report Jan 2025
Feb 20 & March 3	ODF/OSFM	SB 5701 (2024) Budget note # 5, established a Wildfire Funding Workgroup to consider options for sustainable wildfire funding and report to Legislature: W&M Public Safety and Natural Resources Sub-committees	(Complete) Wildfire Funding Report 2025
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor & relevant legislative committees SB0762	(Complete) Wildfire Programs Advisory Council Annual Report October 2025



2026

Date	Responsible Party	Required Action	Implementation Status
Jan 31	ODF	Annual report to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. SB0083	(On Track)
Jan 31	DEQ	Annual report to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. SB0083	(On Track)
Jan 31	OSFM	Annual report to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. SB0083	(On Track)
Jan 31	HECC	Annual report to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. SB0083	(On Track)
April 1	PUC	Annual report to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. SB0083	(On Track)
Feb 2	DCBS & OSFM	Report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly: SB0085 Insurance and Community Risk Reduction Assessment	(On Track)
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor & relevant legislative committees SB0762	(On Track)



Helpful Links:

Wildfire Mitigation:

Community Risk Reduction and Insurance:

[Defensible Space - OSFM](#): Sign-up for a free defensible space assessment and protect your home from wildfire. (*see graphics on following page*)

[Home Hardening](#): Protect your home from wildfire embers, by assessing and updating your exterior building materials.

[Insurance - DCBS](#): Understanding your insurance policy before the fire arrives.

Landscape Resiliency:

[Landowner Grants - ODF](#): Reduce the spread of wildfire by managing hazardous fuels- learn about what grant programs can help.

[Oregon Youth Works](#): See how youth are reducing hazardous fuels around our fire prone communities.

Public Health:

[Oregon Smoke Information](#): Track air quality hazards and understand smoke impacts on your health.

Utilities:

[Public Utility Commission](#): See Oregon's utility wildfire mitigation plans and be prepared during public safety power shutoffs.

Wildfire Prevention and Readiness:

[Keep Oregon Green](#): Visit Oregon's non-profit dedicated to reducing human caused fires.

[Fire prevention: ODF](#): During wildfire season, know the fire restrictions before you leave home.

[Wildfire in Oregon: OSFM](#): Be "Wildfire Aware" and help reduce the impacts of wildfire in our communities.

[Emergency Management](#): Be "2-weeks ready" before the wildfire arrives.

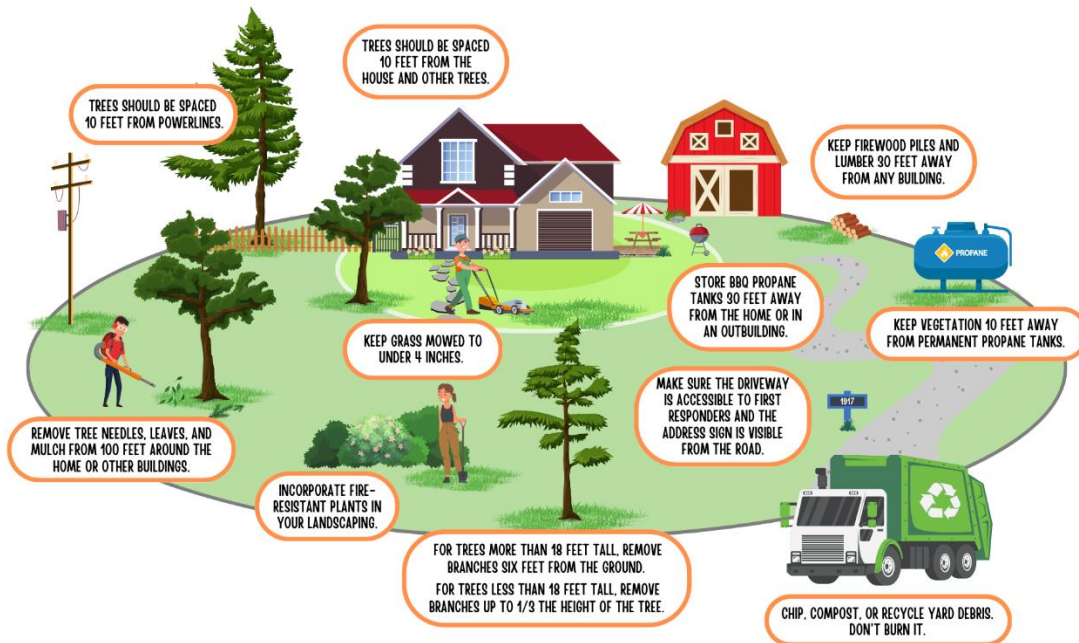
[Fire Program | OSU Extension Service](#): Explore the wildfire education tools available through OSU.

[Northwest Interagency Coordination Center](#): View the regions active fire map and analytics that support wildfire response – such as hazardous fuel and weather conditions.

Protecting Your Home from Wildfire:

DON'T GIVE EMBERS A PLACE TO CALL HOME.

Create **defensible space** and give your property an increased chance of surviving a wildfire.



DEFENSIBLE SPACE MAKES A DIFFERENCE.



Give your home an increased chance of surviving a wildfire, even if firefighters cannot reach your home.

Thank you.

The Wildfire Programs Director's Report is made possible by the dogged leadership of Oregonians across the state, the Legislature, and the Governor's office, working together to address the rising risk of catastrophic wildfire in Oregon.



Governor Tina Kotek
Wildfire Program

900 Court St NE, Suite 254
Salem, Oregon 97301