



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

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AGENCY INTRODUCTION

LEADERSHIP

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ADVISORY GROUPS

The Oregon State Fire Marshal engages with numerous issue-specific advisory groups; several are described in subsequent sections of the report.

The primary advisory group is the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council, created in accordance with ORS 476.680, which has the following mission and issue statements:

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide advice and guidance on issues of common interest, policies, and affairs that affect the fire protection and life safety of the people of Oregon.

ISSUE STATEMENT: A healthy unified fire service is important to the citizens and governmental leaders of Oregon. Services can be improved, and efficiencies realized through collaboration and developing better partnerships.

More information about other advisory bodies is available upon request.

OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL MISSION AND VALUES

The **mission** of the Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal is to protect people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.

Our **vision** is a prepared, protected, and resilient Oregon.

Our **values** are central to our identity as a department. We are committed to them in our daily activities as public safety professionals.

- **Integrity**—We believe in being honest, fair, and doing the right thing in everything we do.
- **Dedication**—We are committed to performing our work the best we can to support our mission, customers, stakeholders, the public, and each other.
- **Leadership**—We are committed to being a leader in the Oregon fire service, leading our organization, and leading ourselves as individuals in our day-to-day work.
- **Partnerships**—We believe our success and the success of others depends on collaboration with our stakeholders.
- **Service to others**—We believe that serving others is a cornerstone of our mission and our day-to-day work and is all-inclusive.

STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2024, the department updated its five-year strategic plan by adding an objective for environmental justice in goal 3: diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The plan can be found on the Oregon State Fire Marshal's [website](#).



MESSAGE FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Every Oregonian deserves a fire service that is prepared, protected, and resilient—one that puts people first. In 2025 we turned that commitment into action, centering environmental justice: prioritizing areas with the greatest risk; communities with high social vulnerability and limited organizational capacity.

A highlight of the year was the Ridgetop to Rooftop Summit, an interagency convening that deepened statewide collaboration under the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The summit advanced shared responsibility, inspired leadership, and accelerated progress toward fire-adapted communities and landscape resilience—work that will pay dividends in every corner of Oregon.



Prevention remained at the heart of our work. Through the defensible space program, staff and partners completed more than 3,200 assessments last year, helping families understand how small changes around homes can significantly increase wildfire resiliency. We also launched Oregon Community Risk Assessment Fire Tools and added new interactive dashboards, giving local fire agencies data-driven insights to plan smarter, local prevention efforts.

Education and equity went hand in hand. The Oregon Life Safety Team distributed more than 100 community risk reduction kits and partnered with 26 fire agencies to install 1,000 smoke alarms statewide, with targeted outreach in high-risk areas. Our teams met people where they are, at events like the Oregon State Fair and Ag Fest, so critical safety messages reached the communities that need them most.

Our regulatory and preparedness partners continued strengthening the foundation for safer communities. Local Emergency Planning Committees met across Oregon, forming new committees and conducting tabletop and full-scale exercises that reflect realistic hazardous materials scenarios—work that builds capacity in rural, remote, coastal, and under-resourced areas.

Across the state, deputy state fire marshals conducted more than 5,000 fire and life safety inspections, focusing on places where vulnerable Oregonians live, learn, and receive care—from assisted living and adult foster homes to schools, hospitals, and correctional facilities. Fire investigators completed more than 340 investigations, turning lessons learned into better prevention, training, and education.

Our vision is clear: a prepared, protected, and resilient Oregon. Our values shape every decision we make. In the years ahead, we will continue integrating environmental justice principles across all programs and strengthening collaboration with the Environmental Justice Council and partners statewide. Together, we will deliver measurable outcomes, inclusive engagement, and safer, more resilient communities for every Oregonian.

- Mariana Ruiz-Temple, State Fire Marshal

AGENCY INTRODUCTION

BUDGET & REVENUE

The Oregon State Fire Marshal is supported by General Fund, Other Funds, and federal funds revenue. The department's primary sources of Other Funds revenue are from the fire insurance premium tax (FIPT), hazardous substance possession fee, and petroleum load fee. The department also receives a small amount of federal funding for hazardous material emergency preparedness from the U.S. Department of Transportation. During the 2025 legislative session, the department also received funding from interest earned on the rainy-day fund and from an oral nicotine products tax, both deposited in the Community Risk Reduction Fund.

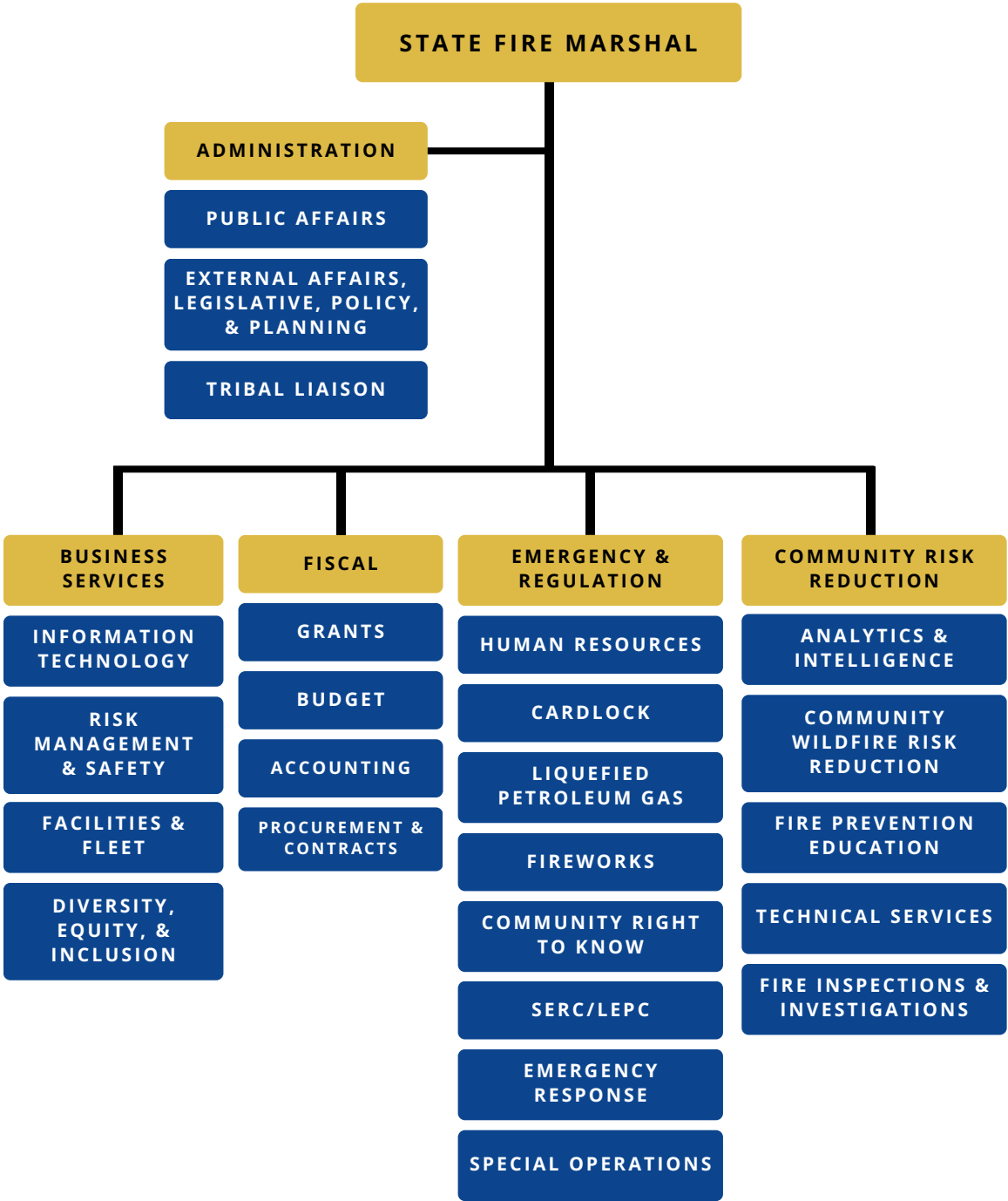
For the 2025-27 biennium, the agency received \$51.9 million in General Fund appropriations, \$66.9 million in other funds limitations, and \$629,548 in federal funds limitations. The General Fund is used in part to issue grants to local agencies for the 2026 Wildfire Season Staffing Grants and to fund deposits into the Community Risk Reduction Fund for community risk reduction efforts. The department comprises 159 positions across six divisions, is headquartered in Salem, and has staff living and working throughout Oregon.



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

AGENCY PROGRAMS

AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2025, the Oregon State Fire Marshal continued its work to protect lives, property, and communities across the state. From wildfire prevention and response to inspections, education, training, and data, the agency's work touched every corner of Oregon. This year's accomplishments reflect a strong focus on preparedness, partnership, and practical solutions.

Early in the year, Oregon's fire service made history with the largest out-of-state deployment ever coordinated by the Oregon State Fire Marshal. In January, 21 strike teams were sent to Southern California to support response efforts during catastrophic wildfires. The deployment included 370 firefighters, 105 engines and water tenders, and resources from 96 local fire agencies representing 23 counties.

At home, Oregon's wildfire season was another busy year, which required significant coordination. The state fire marshal mobilized resources to eight conflagrations and seven immediate response assignments, at an estimated cost of \$17.6 million. Over the course of the season, 64 Oregon structural task forces were deployed, along with 39 Engine Program apparatus.

June marked a major milestone with the final Engine Program deliveries. The program modernized fire service equipment statewide, delivering 26 type 3 engines, 20 type 6 engines, and 30 water tenders to local agencies.

Fire investigators completed more than

340 fire investigations statewide. Information from these investigations helps shape future training, education materials, and prevention efforts.

Another major accomplishment in 2025 was the successful adoption of the 2025 Oregon Fire Code, which took effect on October 1. The update followed more than 18 months of work by technical staff, building officials, healthcare representatives, private industry partners, and the public.

The defensible space program continued to grow, with more than 3,200 assessments in 2025 in areas most vulnerable to wildfire. The program emphasized education and outreach, providing tools and information to help community members understand how small changes around homes and properties can reduce wildfire risk.

Work also began on the Oregon defensible space code, which continues into 2026 and is expected to be available for local adoption in the first half of the year.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal supported and assisted, in partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry, in hosting the Ridgetop to Rooftop Summit, an interagency wildfire summit. The event strengthened collaboration using the strategies from the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, furthered conversation on wildfire resilience strategies, promoted shared responsibility, and inspired leadership and action toward fire-adapted communities and landscape resilience.

Fire and life safety education remained a cornerstone of the agency's work. Staff collaborated in conferences, community events, and outreach efforts across the state, including events with tribal communities. Statewide campaigns included Community Risk Reduction Week, Wildfire Awareness Month, Fire Prevention Month, carbon monoxide safety, and smoking-related fire prevention.

The Oregon Life Safety Team hosted quarterly summits and working groups focused on smoke alarms and the leading causes of fires. More than 100 community risk reduction kits were distributed to fire agencies, covering 35 of Oregon's 36 counties. The Smoke Alarm Installation Program partnered with 26 fire agencies, resulting in more than 1,000 smoke alarms installed across the state.

The Fire Prevention Education Unit trained nearly 500 real estate agents and property managers. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms were distributed in high-risk areas, and home oxygen safety partnerships were expanded. Planning also began for a thermal fuse pilot project scheduled to launch in 2026.

The Regulatory Services Division made improvements across several programs, including increased field presence, expanded public awareness, and modernizing licensing and permitting systems. Fireworks applications and payments moved online, and new partnerships supported the safer fuel and gas regulations implementation.

Emergency preparedness efforts continued through the State Emergency Response Commission Executive Committee and local emergency planning committees. Local emergency planning committees met across the state to review emergency

response plans, conduct exercises, and rebuild participation following the pandemic. Several new county and multi-county committees were formed, while existing committees held tabletop and full-scale exercises focused on realistic hazardous materials scenarios.

The Analytics and Intelligence Unit expanded the tools available to Oregon's fire service and the public. The launch of Oregon Community Risk Assessment Fire Tools gave agencies new ways to assess local risks and plan prevention efforts.

The team also prepared for Oregon's transition from the long-standing national fire incident reporting system to a modern replacement scheduled for 2026. New interactive dashboards were added to the agency website, and staff provided data and reporting support to more than 240 fire agencies statewide.

Across every division, 2025 showed a shared commitment to prevention, preparedness, and partnership. Whether responding to emergencies, strengthening codes, educating communities, or supporting local fire agencies, the Oregon State Fire Marshal continued to focus on practical actions to make Oregon safer.

That work will continue in 2026, building on the progress made this year.



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

ORS 182.550 Section 2: Increase public participation of individuals and communities affected by agencies' decisions.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal's incident management teams respond to emergency incidents across the state. In addition to increased response capacity and efficiency through state mobilization, team members are diverse, from local agencies of all sizes and compositions. Members provide unique insights and gain skills and knowledge through their responses. In turn, members bring this knowledge and experience back to their local communities, providing a valuable exchange. Teams hold public meetings in communities impacted by emergencies, often hybrid (in-person and virtual), to ensure all community members have access to updated information.

The Engine Program increases response capacity across Oregon and protects Oregonians and visitors by deploying firefighting apparatus to better prepare communities to respond to life-safety incidents. These apparatus are also central to community-based affirming activities like parades and food drives. Driven by insights from a comprehensive 2021 gap analysis survey, our program ensures a meticulous, inclusive approach to enhancing fire response at the local, regional, and statewide levels. A diverse committee of fire agencies helped develop the program to provide a well-rounded perspective, and 76 local fire agencies host and staff these apparatus across Oregon.

The Regulatory Services Division includes implementing the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, which created a provision requiring states to establish state emergency response commissions. The Department of the State Fire Marshal is established as the state emergency response commission in Oregon Revised Statutes 453.520. The state emergency response commission establishes emergency planning districts and a local emergency planning committee for each district. These groups develop emergency response plans for their districts that focus on potential hazardous materials incidents but can also include all-hazard pre-planning. Across Oregon, local emergency planning committees also increase the public's knowledge of and access to facilities' chemical information and provide an organizational structure for government and communities to work with facilities to improve chemical release preparedness to protect the public, the environment, and emergency responders. Several new county and multi-county committees were formed or are in the process of forming, while existing committees held tabletop and full-scale exercises focused on realistic hazardous materials scenarios.

Oregon Administrative Rule 837-095 established the State Emergency Response Commission executive committee. The State Emergency Response Commission executive committee was established to provide input and recommendations to the Oregon State Fire Marshal on EPCRA-related activities. The State Emergency Response Commission executive committee meets approximately three times a year. Membership demonstrates the interagency collaborative nature of the discipline and is comprised of representation from the following agencies and stakeholder groups:

- Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal
- Department of Emergency Management
- Oregon Department of Transportation
- Oregon State Police
- Office of the Oregon Governor
- Oregon Health Authority
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Local Emergency Management
- Oregon Emergency Management Association
- Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC)
- Industry
- Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
- Regional Hazardous Material Response Teams
- Oregon Sheriffs Association
- Tribes
- Association of Oregon Counties

The department coordinates the Oregon Life Safety Team, a collaboration of fire service agencies, associations, and state, federal, nonprofit, and private organizations. The group meets quarterly to implement fire prevention and safety education statewide.

The Governor's Fire Service Policy Council was established to provide advice and guidance to the governor and the state fire marshal on issues of common interest, policies, and matters affecting the fire protection and life safety of Oregonians. The council's membership is explicitly designed to include individuals and communities affected by agencies' decisions, with seats reserved for other public safety agencies, professional associations, local governments, related industries, and the public. An offshoot of the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council, the Oregon Fire Service Health & Safety Collaborative is working to help create a safer firefighting workforce in the state. This collaborative effort brings together volunteers, career personnel, and health professionals to tackle physical and behavioral health challenges unique to first responders.



The Fire and Life Safety Division leads the Oregon Fire Code adoption process every three years. The Technical Service Unit staff work with Oregon's Fire Service volunteers, building officials, private industry representatives, healthcare representatives, and the public to review the 650-page International Fire Code and make recommendations that form the Oregon Fire Code. These diverse volunteers from across Oregon spend countless hours reviewing and discussing each chapter line by line. The recommendations are given to the Oregon Fire Code Advisory Board for review, then submitted to the state fire marshal.

The Fire and Life Safety Services Division conducts multiple training sessions across the state that help Oregon's fire service agencies succeed. These trainings educate Oregon fire chiefs, fire marshals, and fire inspectors on specific fire and life safety topics to help them make positive changes in their communities. Healthcare surveyors provide training on fire and life-safety requirements for facilities and also conduct surveys during several conferences. Facility administrators and maintenance staff attend these training courses, which have proven beneficial for facilities of this type across the state. The audience that most benefits from these trainings is the least-resourced organizations and those in the most remote areas, leading to significant gains for environmental justice communities.



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND PROCESSES**

Does your agency have a public engagement process for promoting community participation in agency decision-making processes? What criteria trigger public participation?

The Oregon State Fire Marshal has a robust ecosystem for public engagement with tribal and fire service partners across Oregon, and each program includes public participation as a default. The department has dedicated subject matter experts, education specialists, and a public affairs team to develop and deliver large-scale public engagement campaigns for Wildfire Awareness Month in May and Fire Prevention Month in October. During wildfire responses, Oregon State Fire Marshal's incident management teams work with local communities to identify the need for public meetings, often holding them at multiple times and locations to reach as many people as possible.

Regional fire risk reduction specialists play a vital role in advancing Fire Adapted Oregon by helping communities proactively reduce their wildfire vulnerability. They support on-the-ground projects that increase wildfire resiliency and build and strengthen local partnerships. These specialists also provide education and guidance on creating defensible space, assist communities in developing and updating community wildfire protection plans, and lead local fire-prevention campaigns that raise awareness and encourage preparedness. They also help communities navigate and secure grants for wildfire risk reduction efforts. Altogether, their work is essential in ensuring Oregon communities are better prepared for, more resilient to, and increasingly adapted to the growing threat of wildfires.

Describe the current level and quality of public participation. Does your agency follow up with participants after decisions are made?

Department staff support the Defensible Space Program through education and outreach campaigns, town hall meetings, meetings with fire chiefs, presentations to counties and cities, and wildfire preparedness programs. They focus on providing information, tools, and knowledge to ensure statewide wildfire preparedness.

The Fire and Life Safety Education Division and other department staff participated in the Oregon State Fair for 11 days, sharing wildfire and fire safety information on topics including community risk reduction, home safety, and wildfire prevention actions they can take to keep themselves and their families safe. Overall, fair attendance increased by 37 percent from 2024 to 2025, expanding the reach and impact of our prevention messaging across Oregon.

Fire risk reduction specialists played an important role in providing educational resources for communities recovering from the 2025 wildfire season, including those affected by the Flat and Rowena fires. Their work helped communities navigate postfire needs, strengthen local capacity, and continue building long-term wildfire resilience.

The Oregon Ag Festival is a two-day event that supports fire and life safety messaging, like home fire escape planning, the importance of smoke alarms, and cooking education for youth and families. It is in collaboration with the Oregon fire service and partnering agencies. The largest attendance was 25,000.

The Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Unit hosted two community “sparkplugs” events in collaboration with the Oregon State University Extension Fire Program. These events covered ignition-resistant strategies for communities and allowed local groups to connect and form networks for fire adaptation.

The Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act requires programs administered by the Regulatory Services Division, including local emergency planning committees. These programs connect local organizations and members of the public directly with local fire service agencies and facilities handling hazardous substances. The direct connections this program fosters enable each community to develop plans and materials for its needs. These connections include working with school districts, local governments, media outlets, and community-based organizations to share information and improve response.

As noted above, the Community Right to Know program receives and maintains reported hazardous substance information at fixed facilities and provides it to emergency planners, first responders, health professionals, and the public to help protect Oregonians, their property, and the environment from the risks associated with these substances. Facility hazardous substance storage information is available 24 hours a day through an online portal, CHS Manager. This law also requires emergency responders to report to the Oregon State Fire Marshal incidents involving the release, or threatened release, of hazardous materials.

Community Right to Know publishes these hazardous-material incidents in an online, searchable database, giving the public access to the information 24 hours a day. The program provides training and outreach to numerous communities and organizations, including rural and remote communities, economically disadvantaged communities, other vulnerable populations, and environmental justice communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE EFFORTS

Does the agency have a defined process for incorporating environmental justice factors into agency operations and decision-making?

The Oregon State Fire Marshal's grants program continues to reflect our commitment to environmental justice by prioritizing funding for communities with high social vulnerability and limited organizational capacity. Together, these efforts demonstrate the department's ongoing dedication to integrating environmental justice principles into grantmaking, with a focus on measurable outcomes, continuous improvement, and meaningful community involvement.

In 2024, the agency established two program evaluation advisory groups to guide systematic assessments of program value, one for the wildfire season staffing grant and another for the community wildfire risk reduction grant program. These evaluations are guided by a panel made up of agency staff and external partners, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives and subject matter expertise. While challenges remain in reaching socially vulnerable communities, the community wildfire risk reduction grant program continues to focus on these populations through targeted outreach and support. We anticipate that the program evaluation findings will lead to more effective implementation strategies and improved equity in grant distribution.

In parallel, the department has been actively planning a new Home Hardening Grant Program, designed with environmental justice at its core. This program's goal is to support wildfire resilience efforts, specifically in socially vulnerable communities. Development efforts have included consultation with other states and partner focus groups to ensure the program is responsive to community needs and aligned with best practices. These planning activities show commitment to inclusive program design and proactive community engagement.

The Fire and Life Safety Education Unit is deeply committed to a community risk reduction approach that makes a tangible difference. This approach empowers the Oregon fire service and its partners to use data-driven strategies and educational resources and leverage partnerships to reduce loss of life, injury, and property in Oregon. The goal is to ensure the unit establishes consistent diversity and inclusion strategies for all program components for fire safety and community wildfire risk reduction, providing a strong foundation for community safety.

The Regulatory Services Division consists of eight programs related to safety and hazardous materials. Key aspects of the programs include inspections, audits, licensing, knowledge testing, and preplanning for hazardous material incidents. These programs provide customer service and equal enforcement through education first, ensuring the equitable protection of all Oregonians and the environment. A priority for regulatory programs is to include underserved or at-risk communities in preplanning dangerous-material incidents, demonstrating our commitment to fairness and justice.

The Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams program ensures that Oregon has access to highly trained, specialized technicians to respond to hazardous materials incidents, regardless of an individual fire agency's capacity to train and respond. This model ensures equal access to critical risk mitigation. Because our program provides coverage for the entire state, every community within Oregon has a hazmat team with statutory authority to respond and mitigate the threat to life safety associated with a hazardous materials incident. Hazmat teams are located in the valley and more populated areas of the state, along with two coastal teams and two eastern Oregon teams to ensure a swift response.

The defensible space program continues to increase wildfire resiliency for Oregonians. The program focuses on tailored education for homeowners, property owners, and renters to empower them to take steps before wildfire impacts. Since its start in June 2023, Oregon State Fire Marshal staff and partners completed more than 6,000 assessments, with 3,200 assessments in 2025 alone.

How does your agency keep track of environmental justice issues that have been identified?

In late 2024, the grants program took a significant step toward better understanding and measuring the impacts on communities. The program hired a program evaluator to establish a comprehensive evaluation process using the social vulnerability index and other measures. This thorough evaluation will assess the environmental justice outcomes of our grants, particularly how our funding supports vulnerable communities disproportionately affected by wildfire risk and other environmental hazards.

The top fire causes program supports local fire agencies in implementing community risk reduction efforts through modeling, materials design, and development to better reduce home fire loss from cooking, heating, or electrical fires. The program offers consistent messaging, educational kits with practical presentation props, data to support community risk reduction assessments and approaches, and partnership platforms to help identify high-risk demographics and outreach opportunities.

As noted in previous sections, the Community Right to Know Program plays a unique and crucial role in protecting Oregonians from the risks associated with hazardous substances. Created by the Oregon Community Right to Know and Protection Act (ORS 453.307 to ORS 453.520), this program requires Oregon employers that store reportable quantities of hazardous substances to submit an annual report to the program. The reported data, which includes amounts, storage locations, and descriptions of associated hazards, is then tracked and maintained by the program. This information is provided to emergency planners, first responders, health professionals, and the public to help protect Oregonians, their property, and the environment.

Deputy state fire marshals conducted more than 5,000 fire and life safety inspections in Oregon in 2025. Under the direction of the assistant chief deputy and three supervising deputy state fire marshals, the deputy state fire marshals worked to reduce the frequency and severity of fires and other life-safety incidents through a multidisciplinary approach, including education, inspection, enforcement, and investigation. The focus of these inspections includes vulnerable populations in assisted living facilities, daycare facilities, schools, and adult foster homes, and in places where many people gather, including churches, theaters, halls, grandstands, hotels and motels, and prisons. These fire and life safety inspections are primarily conducted in Oregon's rural, small, and medium-sized communities. One deputy focuses primarily on Oregon's prisons and conducted fire and life safety inspections in all these facilities last year; this is particularly relevant as Oregon's adults in custody are an example of a vulnerable population.

Fire investigators completed more than 340 fire investigations statewide. Information gathered from these investigations helps shape future training, education materials, and prevention efforts. Like fire inspections conducted by staff, fire investigations are primarily conducted in rural, small, and medium-sized Oregon communities. These investigations provide valuable information to the Fire and Life Safety Education Division, highlighting trends, common themes, and how fire impacts people. This information helps our fire service partners and multiple programs within the department to develop and refine training, educational materials, and outreach programs.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

How does your agency define environmental justice communities?

The department uses the definitions of environmental justice communities set out in ORS182.535 Section 10.4.

What tools does your agency use to identify and prioritize environmental justice communities? Does your agency measure the impacts of agency decisions on environmental justice in Oregon communities?

The Fire Prevention Education Unit has a program for local fire service agencies across the state that provides free smoke alarms and alarms for deaf and hard-of-hearing people to install in homes in their communities. Staff also work with local agencies to reach specific communities and provide educational tools and resources to promote fire safety and wildfire information.

The fundamental goal of the fire and fall prevention program is to engage and empower older adults living independently to reduce the risk of home fires and falls. The program champions education and works with partners to influence, support, and advocate for Oregonians' life safety. The team strengthened relationships, with priority in rural and underserved populations, and offered fall and fire prevention resources to 800+ participants throughout the state during Fall Prevention Month 2025.

The smoking material and home oxygen fire prevention program champions education and works with partners to influence, support, and advocate for proactive risk reduction strategies to improve the life safety of Oregonians at greater risk of home fire-related events.

Demand for educational materials continued to grow, with 350 requests processed in 2025, a 30 percent increase from the previous year. Staff hosted 10 educational webinars, averaging 40 participants per session from local, state, and federal partners.

The seven regional mobilization coordinators work with the fire service and response partners statewide to ensure the mutual aid system remains healthy and robust. These coordinators provide rural, remote, coastal communities with limited infrastructure, and communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes with opportunities to increase the capacity, viability, and effectiveness of local emergency response. They are responsible for sharing statewide grant opportunity information and encouraging and organizing partnerships with surrounding jurisdictions. Staff work to build relationships and trust in these communities to ensure that needs and issues are understood and communicated at a broader level, helping formulate solutions and prepare for disasters of any scale.

Staff developed and led the Oregon Fire Service Health & Safety Collaborative, a group of professionals around the state focused on coordinating resources and supporting firefighters and local fire agencies in prioritizing health and safety. Their goal is to improve the lives of firefighters and strengthen the collective capacity to respond to emergencies.



The fire service has historically experienced health inequities. Cancer, cardiovascular disease, post-traumatic stress, and incident-related injury pose a significant threat to firefighters and first responders. Regular exposure to carcinogens and physically rigorous, mentally challenging, and operationally hazardous environments during emergency operations necessitates a comprehensive effort to manage these hazards. Fire service members can reduce these risks by implementing preventive measures and adopting healthy lifestyle practices. The collaborative offers an extensive collection of resources tailored to the needs of Oregon firefighters and first responders to minimize these risks, ensuring they can continue their critical work of protecting our communities while protecting their health.

The Fire and Life Safety Division focused heavily on protecting Oregon's most vulnerable populations. Deputies conducted more than 5,000 fire and life safety inspections in places where people live, work, learn, and gather. These included hospitals, assisted living and residential care facilities, schools, daycare centers, adult foster homes, hotels, correctional facilities, hemp and marijuana facilities, and large assembly spaces like churches and theaters.

More than 130 fire and life safety surveys were completed in healthcare facilities, including hospitals, nursing facilities, surgical centers, and dialysis clinics. Survey numbers were slightly lower because of a federal government shutdown earlier in the year. These fire and life safety surveys are conducted across Oregon, and the types of facilities surveyed benefit a variety of environmental justice communities.

OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MAPPING TOOL INVOLVEMENT

ORS 182.550 Section 5: USE the environmental justice mapping tool developed under section 12 of this 2022 Act.

How is your agency participating in the development of the environmental justice mapping tool?

The GIS and analytics and intelligence staff responded to the 2024 survey distributed by the Environmental Justice Commission staff liaison and the Department of Administrative Services Geospatial Enterprise Office coordinator. The Oregon State Fire Marshal has several public data sources that may be valuable for the environmental justice mapping tool under development, and during 2025, staff worked with Oregon Healthy Authority staff to develop the mapping tool to fully incorporate these data sources as requested.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LEGISLATION

The Oregon State Fire Marshal was not named in environmental justice legislation in 2025.



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL **CLOSING SUMMARY**

The Oregon State Fire Marshal values environmental justice as central to the agency's work. Collaborative governance, transparency, and interagency cooperation are paramount in protecting people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.

Programs across the department are built from the ground up around a dedication to providing equal access to information, response resources, and protection strategies across Oregon. This report summarizes data-driven insights into delivering mitigation, prevention, and education resources where and how they are most needed, especially for environmental justice communities. However, staff constantly refine those methods and recognize room for growth.

Consistent with the Five-Year Strategic Plan, the Oregon State Fire Marshal will integrate environmental justice principles and insights into its daily operations and across all programs. The department will strengthen its commitment to environmental justice through sustained collaboration with Environmental Justice Council members and partner agencies in the years ahead, prioritizing measurable outcomes, inclusive community engagement, and continuous improvement.



This report was prepared by:

OREGON DEPARMENT OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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