



# State of Oregon Advancing Wildfire Protection

*Office of Governor Tina Kotek*





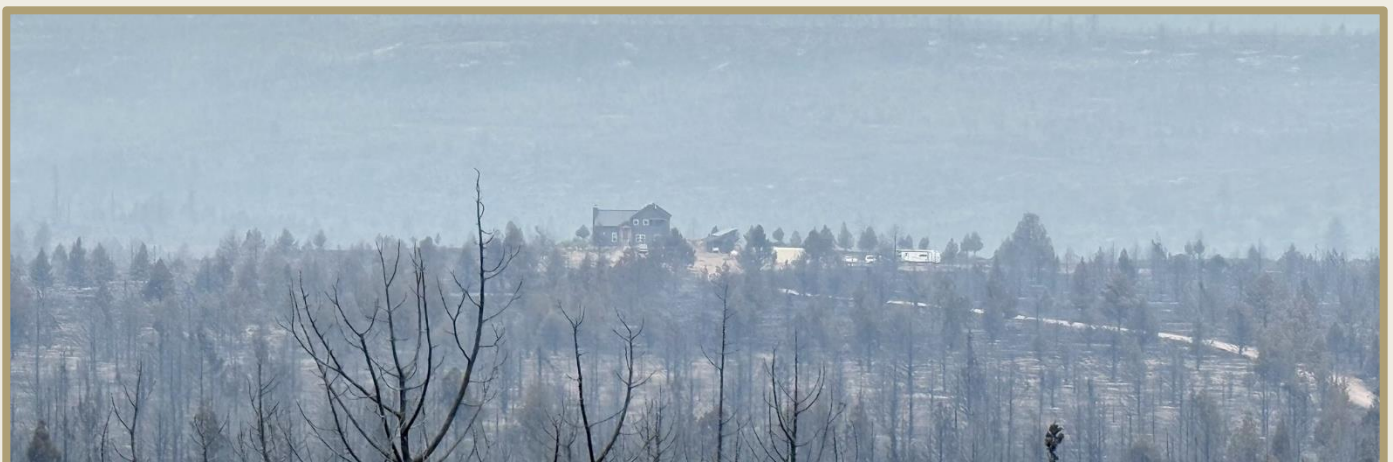
State of Oregon  
Wildfire Programs Director - Quarterly Report 3  
**Advancing Wildfire Protection in Oregon**

# Contents

Executive Summary.....	4
Duties of the Wildfire Programs Director.....	5
Roles of the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council .....	5
Wildfire Programs Implementation Status .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>

## 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 [SB83](#) (2025), this quarterly implementation status report is produced by the Wildfire Programs Director for the Governor, the Presiding Officers of the Oregon Legislature, and the chairs of relevant legislative committees. [Wildfire Programs Advisory Council](#)

## Wildfire Program Highlights

The WPAC met on April 17 for their first in-person meeting. The focus of the meeting was to hear from the City of Sisters and Deschutes County, as they both consider community wildfire risk reduction through the application of home hardening and defensible space codes. As directed in SB83, both the statewide model code for home hardening and defensible Space are now available for local adoption. The City of Sisters and Deschutes County reported on their adoption of the Home Hardening code, which is in effect for new construction starting April 1, 2026. Both also shared their ongoing consideration of the defensible space code.

The WPAC closed the meeting with a tour of the 2025 Flat fire where members saw firsthand how wildfire mitigation and adequate wildfire response, work together to protect communities and natural resources from catastrophic wildfire losses. Over 800 homes within the footprint and on the perimeter of the Flat fire were spared, due to the prioritization of wildfire preparedness and response within this region.

The council meeting was well attended by members and guests. The WPAC set their agenda for the remainder of the year in support of their statutory charge of “providing advice to dramatically reduce wildfire risk in the state”. The WPAC will be assessing the five Agency reports required by SB 83 (2025); links provided in the Implementation Status section. Through these assessments, the WPAC plans to focus their attention on several topics including wildfire



programs within utilities, recent legislative investments in wildfire mitigation, wildfire smoke impacts and response strategies where limited fire protection capacity exists.

Regarding wildfire season readiness, the lack of snowpack along with its impact on a growing drought across the state is concerning. Additionally, forecasts suggest dryer and warmer than normal conditions over the next several months. All indications suggest a more challenging fire season ahead of us. Over the past couple months, I have travelled the state and visited Oregon’s wildfire protection system partners including tribal, local, state and federal government officials, range and forest protection associations, no-profit organizations, fire contractors and landowners both small and large. All are acutely aware of the fire potential ahead and are preparing accordingly.

Wildfire Awareness Month begins in May and with most fires in the state being human caused, a full month of fire prevention is planned through Oregon State Fire Marshal, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Emergency Management and Keep Oregon Green [Keep Oregon Green](#) “Over 70% of fires are started by people and they are all 100% preventable”. Let’s spread the word to help prevent human-caused wildfires!

In closing, 2026 marks the first five years of the Wildfire Programs in Oregon. The Director and WPAC will take this moment to reflect on what we have accomplished to-date and where we need to advance over the next five years to “dramatically reduce wildfire risk in the state”.

## 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 quarterly.
- 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 DLCDC'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.

## 2026 Implementation Status

Date	Responsible Party	Required Action	Implementation Status
Jan 31	HECC	Annual <a href="#">report</a> to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. <a href="#">SB0083</a>	<b>(Complete)</b> <a href="#">HECC Annual Conservation Corps Report</a>
Jan 31	ODF	Annual <a href="#">report</a> to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. <a href="#">SB0083</a>	<b>(Complete)</b> <a href="#">ODF Annual Landscape Resiliency Report</a>
Jan 31	DEQ	Annual <a href="#">report</a> to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. <a href="#">SB0083</a>	<b>(Complete)</b> <a href="#">DEQ Annual Smoke Report</a>
Jan 31	OSFM	Annual <a href="#">report</a> to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. <a href="#">SB0083</a>	<b>(Complete)</b> <a href="#">OSFM Annual Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Report</a>
Feb 2	DCBS & OSFM	Report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly. <a href="#">SB0085</a> Insurance and Community Risk Reduction Assessment	<b>(Complete)</b> <a href="#">DCBS SB85 report 2025</a>
April 1	PUC	Annual <a href="#">report</a> to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. <a href="#">SB0083</a>	<b>(Complete)</b> <a href="#">OPUC Annual Wildfire Report</a>
October	WPAC	Annual <a href="#">report</a> to Governor & relevant legislative committees <a href="#">SB0762</a>	<b>(On Track)</b>

**Photo below:** *SB 85 Wildfire Home Ignition Demonstration (2025)*



# 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.

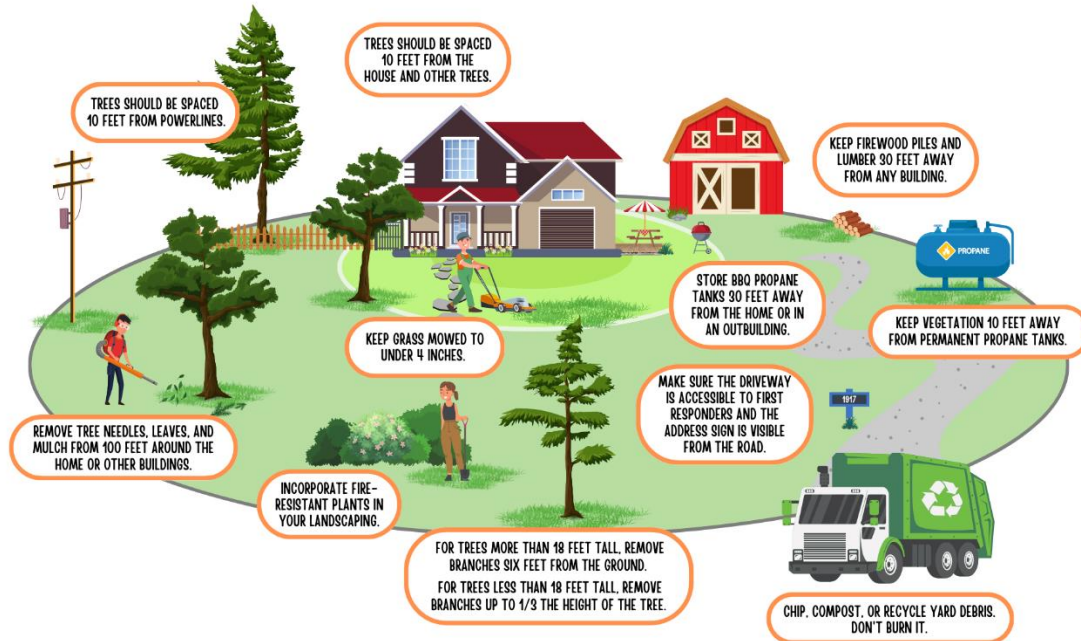
[Fire Program | OSU Extension Service](#): Explore the wildfire education tools available through OSU.

[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