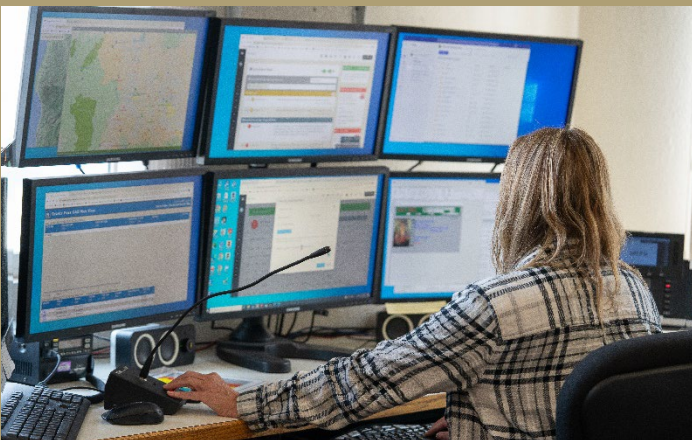




State of Oregon Advancing Wildfire Protection

Office of Governor Tina Kotek





State of Oregon
Wildfire Programs Director - Quarterly Report 4
Advancing Wildfire Protection in Oregon

Contents

Executive Summary..... 4

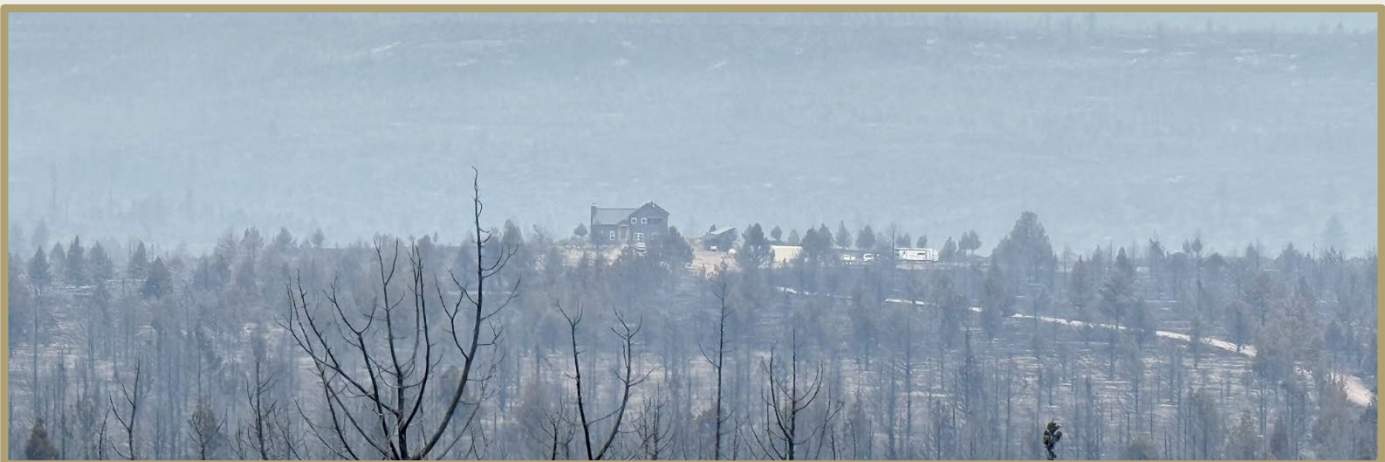
Duties of the Wildfire Programs Director 5

Roles of the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council 5

Wildfire Programs Implementation Status 6

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](#)

Fire Season Update

Oregon's 2026 fire season has quickly become one of the most severe on record. Record-low snowpack, persistent drought, and early-season heat dried vegetation weeks ahead of normal, and a surge of lightning storms intensified the crisis - sparking fires that spread rapidly and strained local, regional, tribal and federal resources. By mid-July, firefighters were contending with fast-moving flames, unpredictable lightning ignitions, and an unprecedented demand for personnel and equipment.

As of August 1st, all fire protection jurisdictions in Oregon have responded to 1,350 fires with approximately 2 million acres burned. Our 10-year average for the year is approximately 2000 fires at 660,000 acres. We currently have 32 active large fires (*large fire is over 100 acres in timber and 300 acres in grass*) with 12,000 personnel assigned to fires across the state. Over 20,000 residences are under an evacuation notice and we have lost 40 residences, along with an additional 126 outbuildings across 13 Oregon communities. Approximately 66% of the nationally available resources for mobilization were operating in Oregon during one of our peak lightning events in late July.

Forecasts continue to show warmer and dryer than normal conditions through August and September. We are anticipating very challenging months ahead with continued drying of fuels and the rising potential for east wind events as we move later into the fire season, which typically comes to an end by mid to early October.



Suppression costs to date have exceeded our \$80 million, appropriated for this purpose at the beginning of the fire season. Currently, net suppression costs are estimated at over \$100 million for both ODF and OSFM. It is important to recognize that gross fire suppression costs are tracking at over \$150 million to-date. Gross costs are the total cost of fire suppression efforts that agencies must carry until other agency billings are recovered, including Fire Management Assistance Grants through FEMA that may take years to collect. It is difficult to predict total suppression costs for 2026 fire season, but our best analog year is 2024 where gross fire suppression costs exceeded \$300 million. The Agencies are filing their September emergency board requests to ensure the State can pay our fire suppression costs in a timely fashion. This includes paying for contracted firefighting resources and local fire department services during conflagrations.

Reports on "the true costs of wildfire" vary widely and are documented extensively in a variety of independent studies to be between 2 and 50 times the cost of suppression. This equation presents a multibillion-dollar conversation for Oregon over the next decade and trillions of dollars nationally. The 2026 fire season will undoubtedly stretch our understanding of the wildfire crisis and propel policy and budget action into the future. For now, this quarter's report is appropriately focused on the current fire situation. Critically important for future reports will be the need to focus on how Oregon's Wildfire Programs must evolve to meet our current and future wildfire challenges.

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 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.

2026 Implementation Status

Date	Responsible Party	Required Action	Implementation Status
Jan 31	HECC	Annual report to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. SB0083	(Complete) HECC Annual Conservation Corps Report
Jan 31	ODF	Annual report to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. SB0083	(Complete) ODF Annual Landscape Resiliency Report
Jan 31	DEQ	Annual report to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. SB0083	(Complete) DEQ Annual Smoke Report
Jan 31	OSFM	Annual report to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. SB0083	(Complete) OSFM Annual Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Report
Feb 2	DCBS & OSFM	Report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly. SB0085 Insurance and Community Risk Reduction Assessment	(Complete) DCBS_SB85_report 2025
April 1	PUC	Annual report to the Legislature, the Wildfire Programs Director and to the WPAC. SB0083	(Complete) OPUC Annual Wildfire Report
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor & relevant legislative committees SB0762	(On Track)

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.

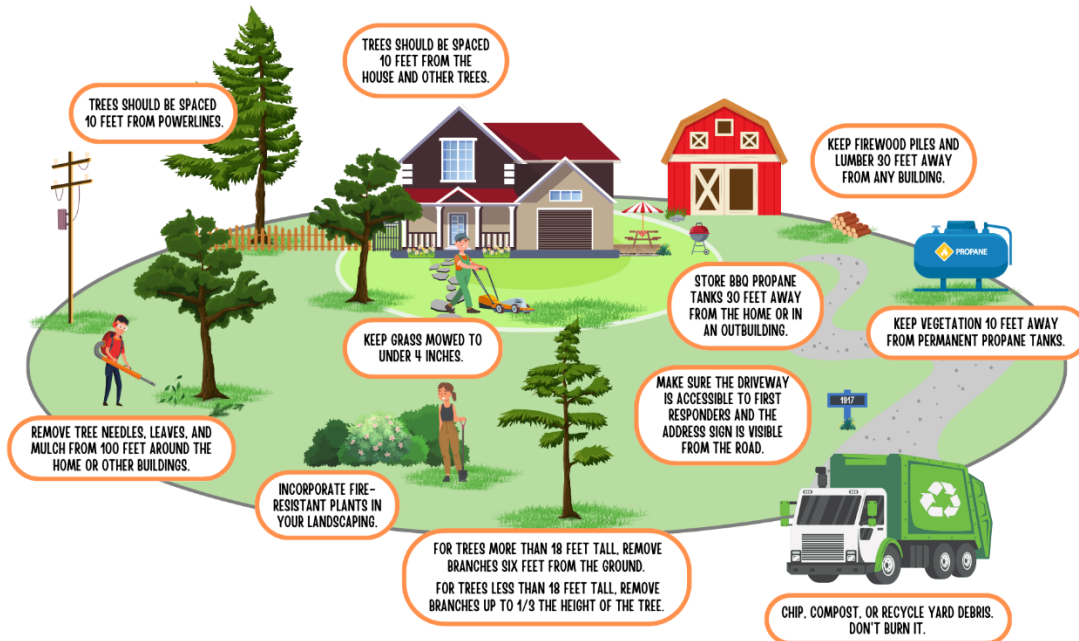
[Fire Program | OSU Extension Service](#): Explore the wildfire education tools available through OSU.

[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

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