
Drinking Water Services Late Fall Training

December 14, 2020



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PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Drinking Water Services


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Outline

- Program Update
 - Budget update
 - Federal update
 - Planned Rulemakings
 - PFAS update
 - Performance metrics
- Wildfire Response and Recovery


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Drinking Water

Oregon Drinking Water Services



STAY HOME. SAVE LIVES.

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 **OHA COVID-19 Updates:** Visit our [COVID-19 page](#) for Oregon updates and community resources, or visit our [healthcare partner resources page](#).

Oregon Drinking Water Services

Working to keep drinking water safe for Oregonians

Access to safe drinking water is essential to human health. Each person on Earth requires at least 20 to 50 liters of clean, safe water a day for drinking, cooking and simply keeping themselves clean. Oregon Drinking Water Services works to help keep drinking water safe for Oregonians.

Oregon Drinking Water Services (DWS) administers and enforces drinking water quality standards for public water systems in the state of Oregon. DWS focuses resources in the areas of highest public health benefit and promotes voluntary compliance with state and federal drinking water standards. DWS also emphasizes prevention of contamination through source water protection, provides technical assistance to water systems and provides water system operator training.

[Contact Us](#)[Sign up for DWS Alerts](#)[Water Advisories Map](#)[Data Online](#)

 [Guidance for Reopening Building Water Systems After Prolonged Shut Down - Updated October 7, 2020](#)

 [Public Water Systems and Novel Coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\) Frequently Asked Questions - Updated May 1, 2020](#)

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Budget Updates--Statewide

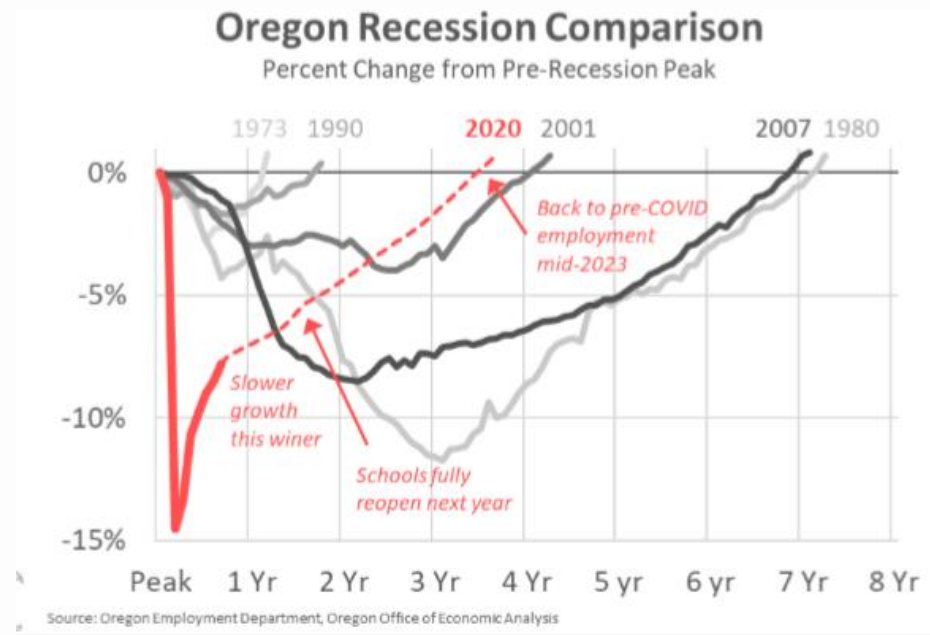
December 2020 Economic and Revenue Forecast

November 18th, 2020

Oregon Office of Economic Analysis
Mark McMullen
Josh Lehner

December Forecast—Key Takeaways:

- Recovery is likely self-sustaining
- Key risks:
 - Long-term unemployment
 - Business closures
- Job recovery by mid-2023
- Additional Federal Aid needed
- State revenue collection strong
- State reserves still healthy



Budget Updates--DWS

Annual Fee collection

- Collections are strong, despite pandemic, recession, wildfires
- 96% of amount invoiced has been paid
- Flat 20% increase in Partner funding under PE50
- Still need to improve equity in PE50 allocation formula

Annual Water System Fee Payment Summary (2020)

System Type	# Invoiced	# Paid	% Paid	\$ Invoiced	\$ Paid	% Paid
Community (C)	903	856	95%	\$ 1,108,865	\$ 1,092,815	99%
Non-transient Non-community (NTNC)	329	312	95%	\$ 49,275	\$ 46,800	95%
Transient Non-community (NC)	1,230	1,047	85%	\$ 184,200	\$ 156,750	85%
Non-EPA (State Regulated) (NP)	826	640	77%	\$ 62,575	\$ 48,475	77%
All Systems	3,288	2,855	87%	\$ 1,404,915	\$ 1,344,840	96%

Federal Updates



- Budget: Continuing Resolution, working on longer term budget deal and COVID relief package
- Revised Lead and Copper Rule
 - Final Rule promised by Dec 31??
- EPA administration transition, focus areas
 - Climate change policy
 - Drinking water focus on lead and PFAS

DWS Rulemaking updates

Oregon Health Authority

Public Health Division - Chapter 333

Division 61

DRINKING WATER

Current rulemaking:

- Op Cert. Small Water System operator testing
 - Rule change required by EPA
 - Subject to conditional 20% withhold of SRF Cap Grant

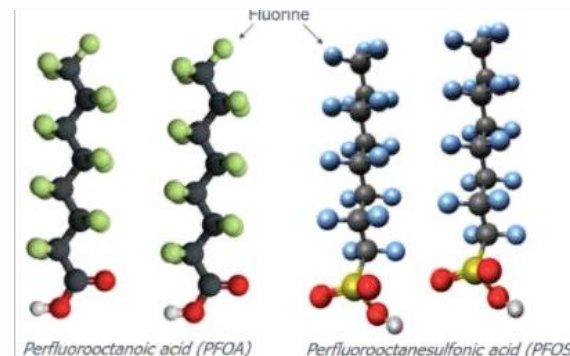
Other rule change concepts (next year):

- Separate Non-EPA/State Regulated system rules.
- Update Emergency Response Plan requirements.
- Align disinfection after repairs with AWWA std
- Align plan review fee rules with practice for small systems.

PFAS updates

OHA/DEQ PFAS Screening project:

- Identify and map potential PFAS sources
- Develop State PFAS Health Advisory Levels.
- Sample potentially impacted PWSs, using federal grant funds



Comparison of Proposed OR PFAS Health Advisory Levels

(parts per trillion)

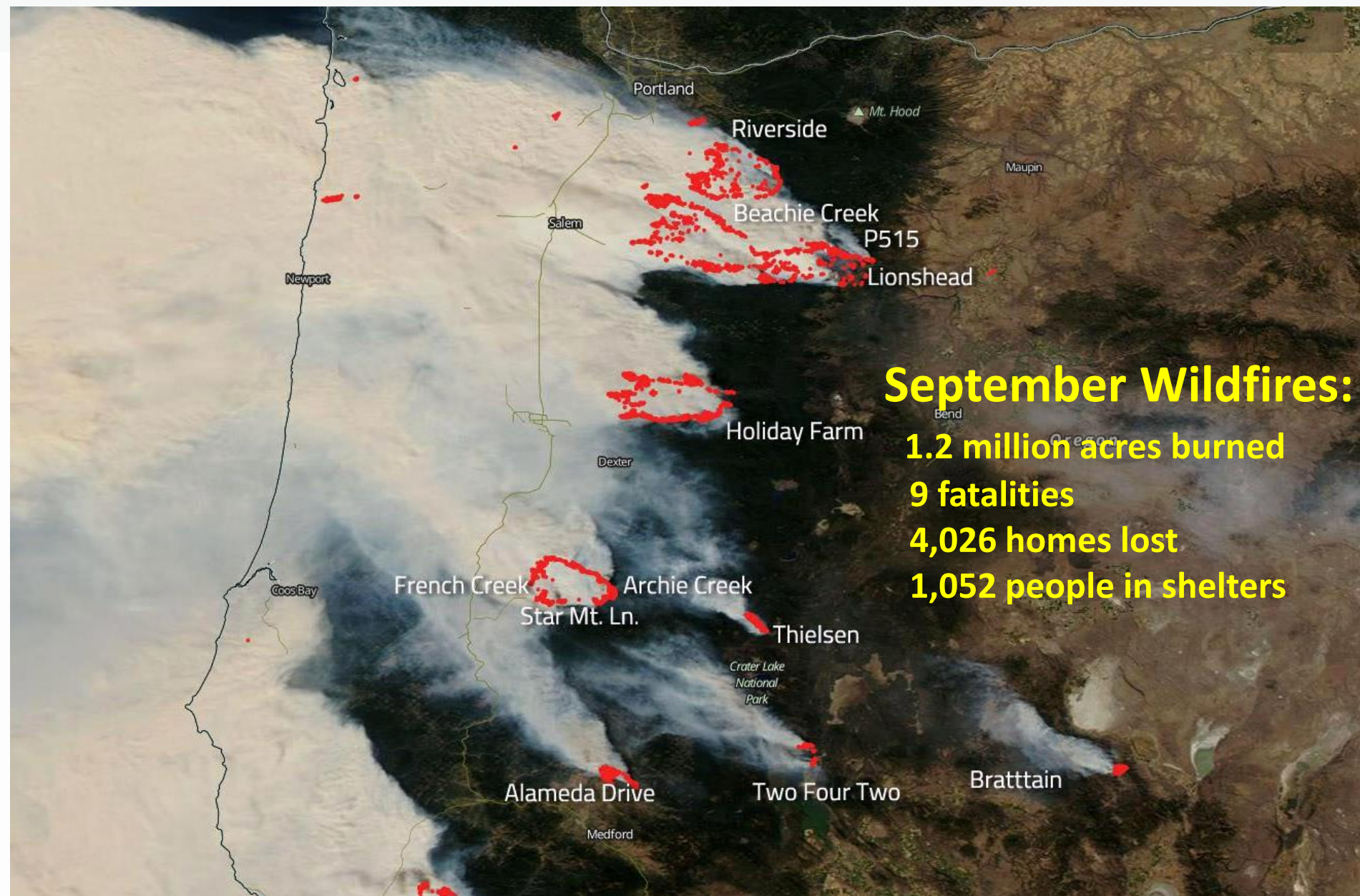
	Oregon	EPA	CA	WA	MI	MN
PFOA	35	70	10	10	9	35
PFOS	45	70	40	15	8	15
PFHxS	55			70	84	47
PFNA	35			14	9	

2020 Partner Performance metrics

Along with Pandemic work and Wildfire response:

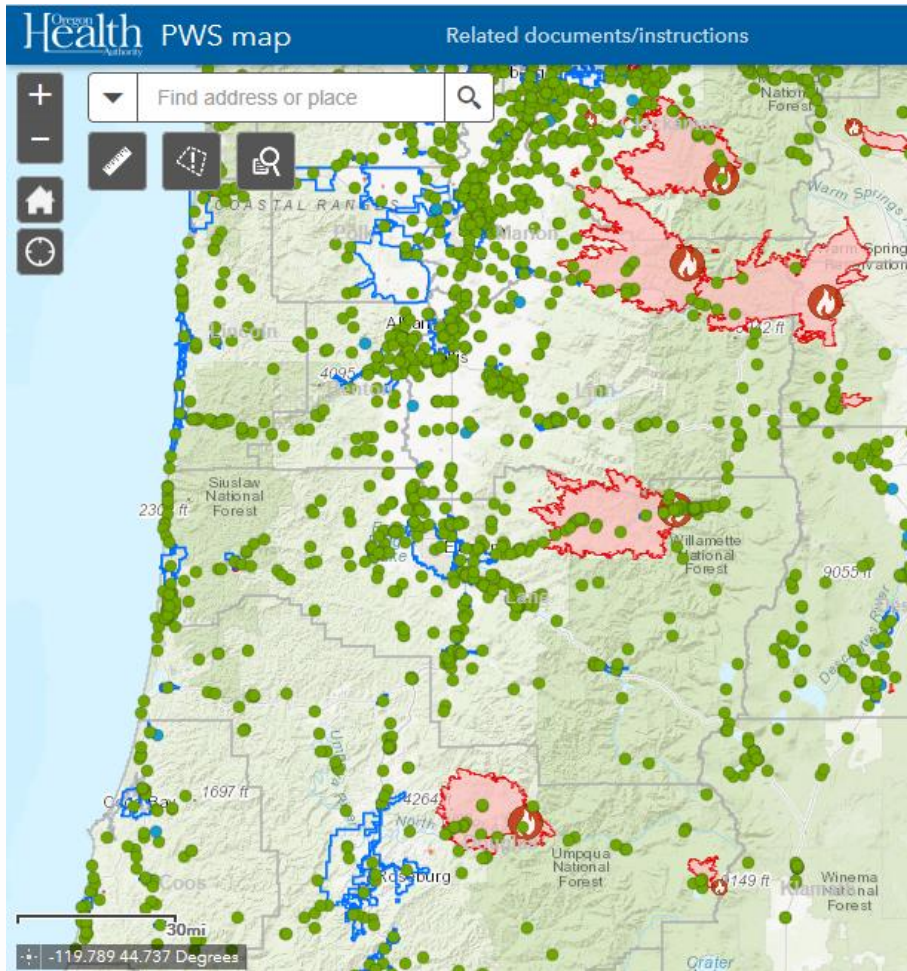
- 970 contaminant alerts handled by LPHAs and ODA
- 234 sanitary surveys logged in SDWIS for 2020

Thank you for this work in this trying time!!



September Wildfires:
1.2 million acres burned
9 fatalities
4,026 homes lost
1,052 people in shelters

Wildfire Response



OHA DWS role:

- Identify and report to ECC on impacts to PWSs
- Direct impacted PWSs to resources

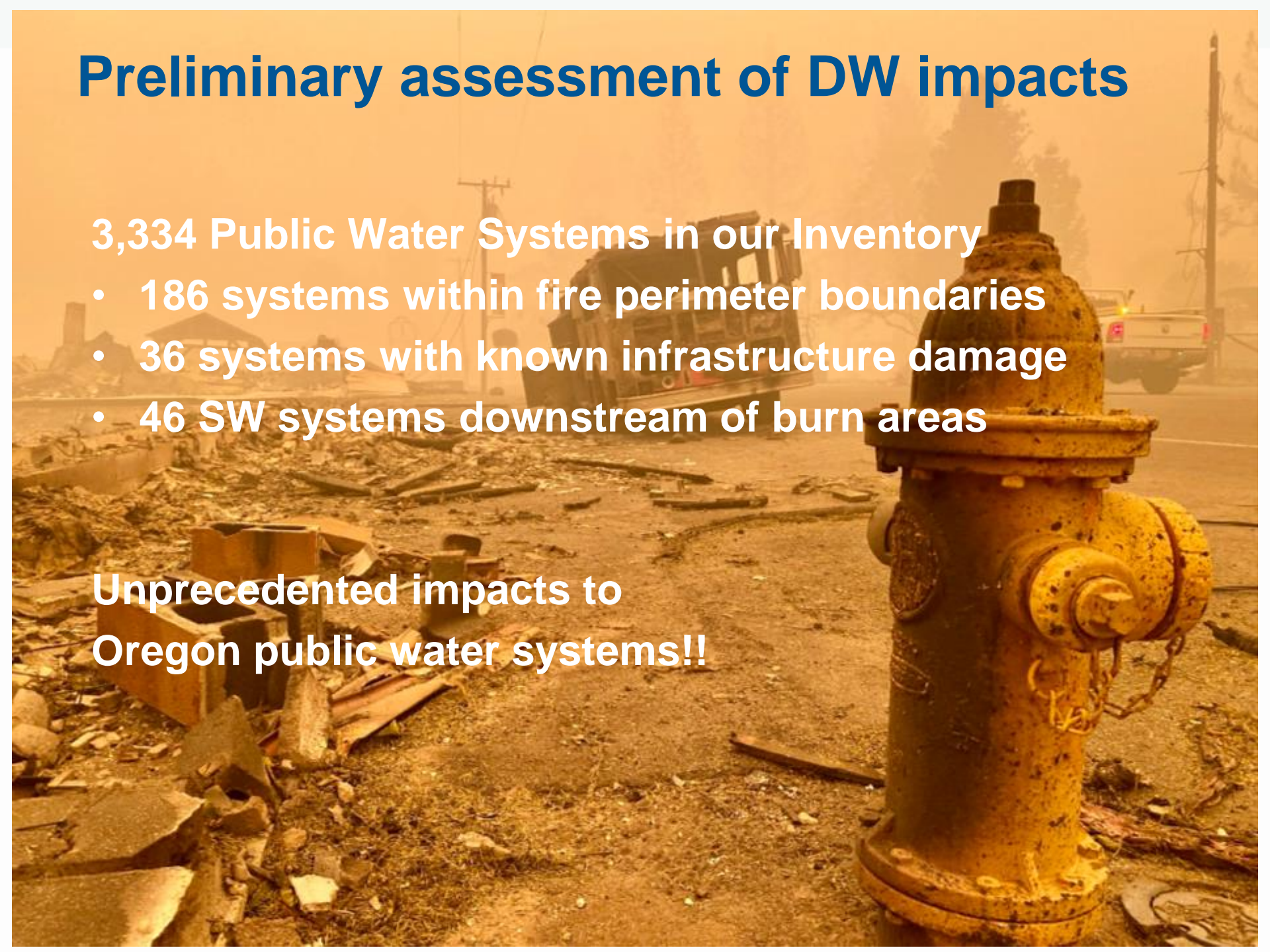
Thanks to Partners for reporting system status

Preliminary assessment of DW impacts

3,334 Public Water Systems in our Inventory

- 186 systems within fire perimeter boundaries
- 36 systems with known infrastructure damage
- 46 SW systems downstream of burn areas

Unprecedented impacts to
Oregon public water systems!!



Potential for VOCs in distribution systems

After Wildfires Stop Burning, a Danger in the Drinking Water

Experts are warning that existing water safety rules are not suitable to a world where wildfires destroy more residential areas than in the past.



Water flows from a pipe amid the charred remains of a building in Gates, Oregon, in September. Kathryn Elssesser/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

Source: New York Times, 10/02/2020

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- Emerging issue, no prior experience in Oregon
- Guidance received from CA, adapted to Oregon
- 23 systems lost pressure and had structures burn; 10 inactive
- Emergency funding from Legislature for small system lab costs.
- Initial sampling at 13 systems, no results > MCLs.
- Follow-up sampling ongoing.
- Require PWS sampling at burned properties prior to restoring service

Impacts to Surface Water Quality

- Potential increases in turbidity, TOC, nutrients, metals, other contaminants due to erosion
- AWOP team assigned to:
 - Assess/rank vulnerability of 46 SW systems
 - Treatment capability: Turbidity, TOC removal; storage capacity; operator availability
 - Watershed conditions: Percent burned; burn severity; debris flow potential; land use; proximity to intake
 - Conduct outreach, provide tech. assistance
 - Direct system operators to resources

Observations, Lessons Learned...

- Water system operators are emergency workers!
- Mutual Aid providers were outstanding
 - OAWU (NRWA affiliate) circuit riders
 - ORWARN
- Runoff issues are turbidity and TOC; toxics less of an issue
- VOC issue needs more work
 - Are we being rational about risk?
 - Is a pre-emptive DND or Do Not Use advisory appropriate?
- 2019 Fee Increase added key DW program staff:
 - Emergency Preparedness/Response Coordinator
 - GIS Specialist



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