



OREGON LIFE SAFETY TEAM

A multi-agency team that emphasizes community risk reduction, shares best practices, coordinates, develops and implements consistent statewide fire prevention and life safety education.

OREGON LIFE SAFETY TEAM MEETING MINUTES

Tues 08-19-25

13:00-15:30

OSFM HQ- Mt Hood Room

Attendees/Representing

Connie Biggs- OSFM	Assistant Chief Claire McGrew- OSFM
Laura Chaffey- OSFM	Alfredo Mendez- Albany Fire (Linn)
Assistant Chief Deputy Amber Cross- OSFM*	Bobby Meyer- Aurora Fire (Marion) & OFDDA
Shelly Edwards- Oregon Care Partners/Teepa Snow	Trish Noble- Clackamas Fire District (Clackamas)*
Scott Goff- Umatilla County FD1 (Umatilla)*	Tammy Owen- Clackamas Fire District (Clackamas)
Merrill Harrison- Eugene Fire (Lane)*	Justine Schade- OSFM
Joanne Hatch- Retired fire service*	Shawna Sexton- OSFM
Kim Haugh- Tualatin Valley F&R (Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill)*	Kari Shanklin- Clackamas Fire District (Clackamas)
Erin Horrax- Oregon Burn Center*	Paula Shelly- OSFM
Laura Houston- Stayton Fire (Marion) & OFSOA*	Ginger Slavens- Nestucca RFPD & Tillamook Fire District (Tillamook)
Sara Jasmin- OSFM	Melissa Steele- Bend Fire (Deschutes)*
Kim Kosmas- Portland Fire & Rescue (Multnomah)*	Anne- Marie Storms- Keizer Fire*
Stacy Long- US Forest Service*	Nicholas Tenorio- OSFM
Amy Jo McCarville- Tualatin Valley F&R (Clackamas, Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill)*	Renee Tokarchuk- OSFM

*indicates attendance via teleconference

Welcome/Introductions- Sara Jasmin, Program Analyst- OSFM FLSE Division

Sara called the meeting to order at 13:04 & welcomed everyone. The attendees, both in person & online, introduced themselves. Sara introduced Justine Schade as the newest member of the FLSE Fire Prevention Education Unit, emphasizing her role in the development of educational materials & her positive energy.

OSFM Updates- Amber Cross, Assistant Chief Deputy- OSFM FLSE Division

ACD Cross shared updates from the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

- Legislative Session: Amber reported that the legislative session had concluded with a focus on prevention and mitigation. The OSFM received \$42 million in funding to support these efforts. The session also resulted in the addition of two new fire risk reduction specialists, bringing the total to nine specialists to support wildfire risk reduction efforts across Oregon.

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- Oregon State Fair: The Fire & Life Safety Education Division will have a display in the Natural Resources Area at Oregon State Fair from 08-22-25 to 09-01-25, providing information on wildfire preparedness, creating defensible space, & home fire safety.
- CWRR Unit Transitions: Within the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Unit, there have been some recent transitions. Jen Warren has been promoted as the new program coordinator. Andy Dwyer has been hired as a fire risk reduction specialist for Region D.

Fire Prevention Month Updates- *Sara Jasmin- Program Analyst- OSFM FLSE Division*

Sara discussed the theme for Fire Prevention Month, coming in October. The focus will be on lithium-ion (Li-Ion) batteries. She highlighted the importance of this theme due to the widespread use of these batteries in everyday items & the need for public education on their safe handling and disposal.

Resources available for fire agencies from OSFM include:

- An updated [Fire Prevention Month webpage](#), which includes new materials.
- A Social Media Kit- Nicholas Tenorio (OSFM Public Affairs) is working on a social media kit that will provide fire agencies with ready-to-use messaging & images for their social media pages to promote Fire Prevention Month activities.
- Fire Prevention Month Boxes [which can be requested here](#), up to 150 throughout the state. They will be distributed in mid-September & contain:
 - Li-Ion safety banners & brochures
 - Stickers
 - 31-day task tracker
 - Pinwheel activity materials for schools
 - Croc charms
 - Straw toppers

Sara also recommended visiting the [NFPA Fire Prevention Week webpage](#) for resources including co-branding opportunities, educational materials, & videos explaining the theme.

Presentation: Improving Emergency Services for People Living with Dementia- *Shelly Edwards- Oregon Care Partners/Teepa Snow*

Shelly Edwards from [Oregon Care Partners/Teepa Snow](#) conducted a training session on dementia, covering topics such as the changes in the brain, the impact on vision, & effects on hearing.

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- Brain Changes: Changes in the brain caused by dementia include the loss of brain mass & impacts on different brain regions, such as the prefrontal cortex & temporal lobes.
- Vision Impact: Dementia affects vision, leading to a loss of peripheral vision & depth perception, which can cause disorientation & increased risk of falls.
- Hearing Impact: While dementia does not cause hearing loss, it affects the ability to process & locate sounds, which can lead to confusion & difficulty responding to alarms or verbal instructions.
- Emergency Responder Interaction Techniques: Shelly introduced techniques for interacting with & better handling emergency situations involving individuals with dementia, Including:
 - The Positive Approach Method, which involves approaching from the front, using visual cues, & maintaining a supportive stance to reduce anxiety & improve communication.
 - The Hand-Under-Hand Technique, which allows caregivers to guide individuals in performing tasks while allowing them to maintain a sense of independence & control.
 - Standing Techniques that emphasize the importance of leaning forward & using a supportive stance to prevent falls help individuals to stand up safely.
 - Sitting Techniques, which include guiding them to lean forward & using hand-under-hand support to control the movement & assist individuals in sitting down safely,
 - Participants engaged in hands-on practice sessions to better understand the challenges faced by & techniques for interacting with individuals with dementia, such as simulating vision loss & practicing the discussed interaction techniques.

Shelly provided information on the resources available through Oregon Care Partners, including free training for anyone in Oregon, online videos, and support for families and caregivers. She encouraged participants to share this information with their communities to improve care for individuals with dementia.

Good of the Order:

- Kari Shanklin mentioned that [her agency](#) has a Fire Safety Trailer & Window Fall Prevention Unit available for free. If interested, please contact them.

Meeting adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 15:13 & subcommittee members were released to attend their respective meetings.