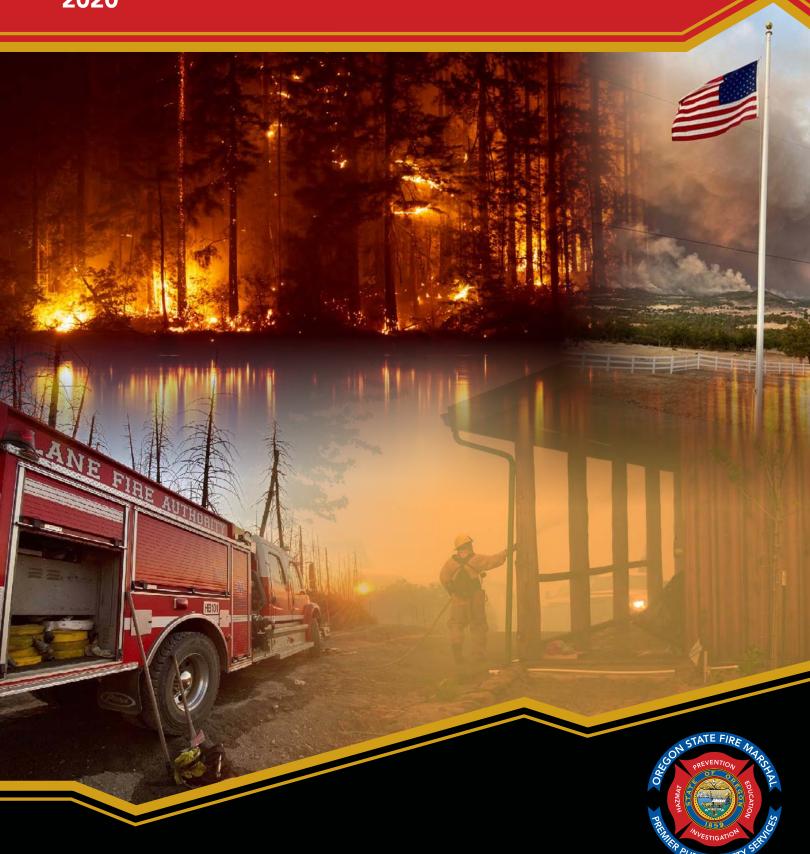
# OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL ANNUAL REPORT

2020





# **Mission**

Protecting citizens, their property and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.

### **Vision**

Premier Public Safety Services.

#### **Values**

#### **PROFESSIONALISM**

We are a highly skilled and competent workforce.

#### **CREDIBILITY**

We demonstrate trust and accountability through our actions.

#### **COLLABORATION**

We partner with others to achieve our mission.

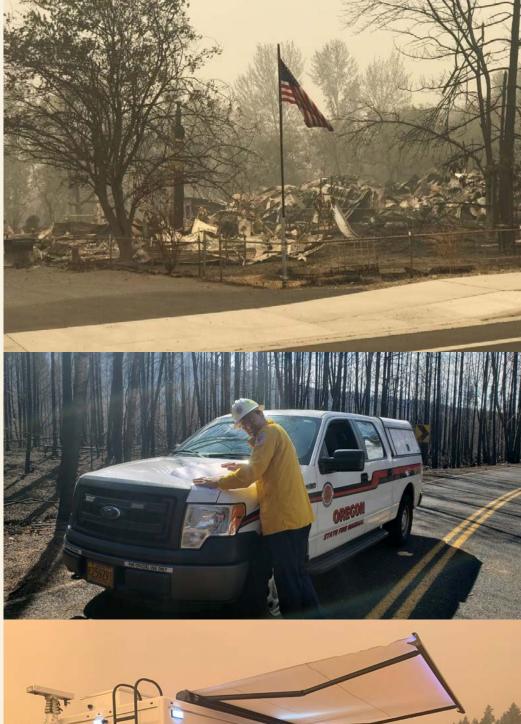
#### **LEADERSHIP**

We are dedicated to an environment for success.

#### **DEDICATION**

We believe our mission is worthy of our efforts.

Statutory Authority Oregon Revised Statutes: Chapters 336, 453, 470, 476, 478, 479, 480





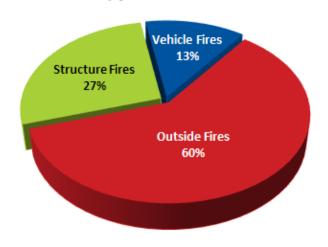
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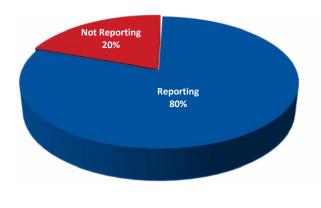
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# **2020 Oregon Fire Statistics**

#### **Types of Fires**

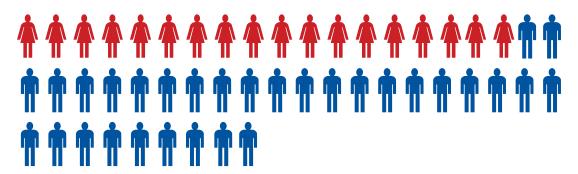
## **Fire Agencies Reporting**





#### **Total Fire Fatalities - 49**

18 Female 31 Male

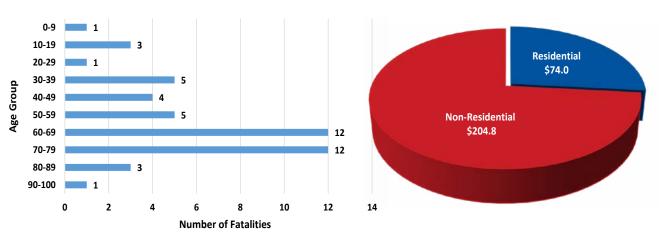


#### Fire Fatalities by Age Group

(Where Age Could Be Determined)

# Estimated Dollar Loss (in millions)

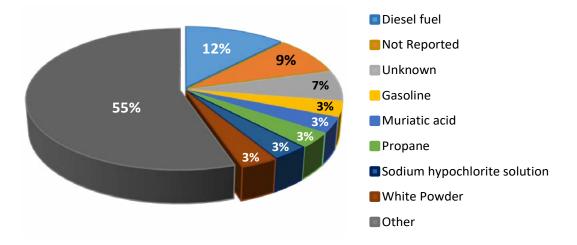
Residential vs. Non-residential



\*Totals are based on reporting fire agencies that included these data points on their 2020 Agency Profile.

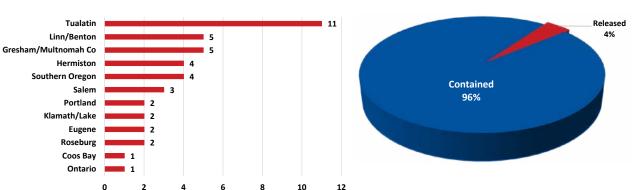
# **2020 Oregon Hazmat Statistics**

**Substances Handled by State Hazmat Teams** 



**State Hazmat Team Responses** by Team

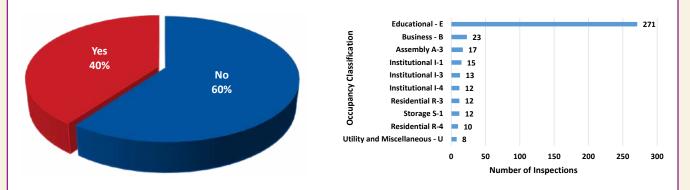
**Hazardous Substance Units** Released vs. Contained



# 2020 Fire & Life Safety Inspections

**Violations During Initial Inspection** 

**Top 10 Occupancies Inspected** 



\*Totals are based on reporting fire agencies that included these data points on their 2020 Agency Profile.

# 2020 A YEAR IN REVIEW

The year 2020 will forever be defined by the challenges it presented to the Oregon fire service, our people, and our state.

A year ago, few in our response system could have predicted that a global pandemic would disrupt the lives of billions of people, not to mention our state and communities, and especially our most vulnerable residents.

Few could have foreseen that the country's worst public health crisis of the last 100 years would change practices in every firehouse, strain our resources for lifesaving personal protection equipment, and force the structural fire service to change ways we have engaged our residents and communities.

Then came fire season. Though forecasters drew up models for likely drought conditions, none foresaw a historic windstorm at the worst possible time. The ensuing historic September wildfires burned more than 1 million acres, claimed nine lives, burned more than 5,000 homes and businesses, and displaced thousands of Oregonians. No wildfire event has had this much of an impact on our communities and Oregonians in recorded history.

These events touched every Oregonian and firefighter. We served and led through Oregon's most difficult days. Throughout these challenging months, the fire service responded with calm resolve, keeping our communities and our own workforces safe:

- We supported Oregon's coordinated state and local response to COVID-19 by helping to lead the state's emergency system as we confronted the emergence of the novel coronavirus in our communities and workplaces.
- The Office of State Fire Marshal, with the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and the Oregon State Fire Fighters Council, created the Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Team (OFSCRT), which disseminated best practices to manage COVID-19, assisted in securing critical and appropriate PPE, and integrated the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System into the state's evolving shared response.
- Fire service personnel stepped in to serve on COVID modules, which controlled the spread of the virus to more than 9,000 wildland and structural firefighters fighting wildfires this summer.
- The fire service and all of our partners faced the worst fire season in our history that left great loss for Oregonians and our state with professionalism, never forgetting how these events impacted who we serve daily.

The challenges brought out our best. Throughout these months, we cared for each other, our partners, and the communities we serve. When reflecting on the events of 2020, our Office is ready to step forward and face our new normal head on to serve Oregonians.



# **COVID Response**

In January 2020, the first case of COVID-19 was reported in the United States, outside of Seattle. In the ensuing weeks, the virus would spread to major centers across the country and would eventually end up in every state, including Oregon.

On March 2, the Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Team was formed with representatives from the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, Oregon State Firefighters Council, and members of the Oregon fire service. This team was formed with the objective intent to guide the Oregon fire service regarding the preparation, mitigation, and response to COVID-19.

The team began meeting daily and quickly formed the Quarantine Research Team as a subcommittee. This group added members from the Special Districts Association of Oregon and was tasked with creating statewide guidance and recommendations for guarantine of fire and EMS responders.

The quarantine recommendations for fire and EMS responders were published on March 14, and they were quickly disseminated across the state and to neighboring states. The document is not specific to one pathogen; instead, it establishes best practice guidance for fire and EMS agencies.

Several requests were filled by the OSFM to support regional and statewide incident management needs. The Red Team, under the guidance of Incident Commander Ian Yocum, was deployed to the Oregon Health Authority in Portland. Additional members of the OSFM's Incident Management Teams mobilized to King County, Washington, to support operations in the Seattle region.

A significant accomplishment of the Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Team was the establishment of an initial distribution chain for needed personal protective equipment and supplies. Requests were routed through local emergency managers to the



OSFM Staff coordinating the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in March, premask mandate.

# **Oregon Fire Service Corona Virus Response Team**

#### March 2020 Key Events Timeline

**OSFCRT** Formation March 2, 2020

Quarantine Research Team Formation

State EOC Opened March 2, 2020

> Fire Defense **Board Chief Roles** Advisory Issued March 4, 2020

**PPE Advisory** March 6, 2020

> Statewide Emergency Declaration by Governor Brown March 8, 2020

Social Distancing Ordered by Governor Brown March 12, 2020

**PPE Vendor Availability** Advisory Issued March 14, 2020

IMT Mobilized to King County, WA March 15, 2020

> IMT Mobilized to Oregon Health Authority March 16, 2020

Social Distancing Revision by Governor Brown March 17, 2020

Demobilized March 29, 2020

PPE Distribution **Process Advisory** Issued March 23, 2020

King County IMT



ABOVE: OSFM Staff responding to and supporting the Umatilla flooding event in February 2020.

state Emergency Coordination Center. The OSFM, through its responsibilities as the lead for ESF4 Fire in the state's coordinated response, provided a robust plan to distribute these supplies to fire agencies. The process involved developing state-level guidance for prioritizing PPE needs to medical providers and prehospital EMS agencies, determining an equitable formula for deciding who would receive supplies, and a method for distribution.

In March, the Office of State Fire Marshal mobilized two all-hazard Incident Management Teams (IMTs) to respond to assist with the response to the spread of COVID-19 in the Northwest. Both teams began their missions on March 16.

The first team of five personnel (Red Team North) was deployed to Washington state through a state-to-state request from Gov. Jay Inslee to Gov. Kate Brown, to support King County Public Health's Emergency Operations Center.

The second team (Red Team South) was assigned to the Oregon Health Authority's Agency Operations Center, supporting OHA's operations as the state's lead health agency. OSFM's team integrated with 270 OHA personnel and worked closely with the Governor's Disaster Cabinet to implement a statewide strategy and set OHA and their cooperators up for success in the continuing operations.

Both teams worked to train their counterparts in how to utilize the Incident Command System (ICS) to define and meet their objectives — as independent agencies and part of the larger response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to the traditional IMTs, OSFM staff who are trained in ICS have deployed to various county Emergency Operations Centers over the past month to provide guidance and to assist with fitting into the larger response strategy.

BELOW: OSFM Staff coordinating the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), pre-mask mandate.



OSFM teams and personnel are essentially serving as just-in-time trainers and all Oregonians will be well-served and impacted by their efforts.

The impact of COVID-19 on the national stockpile and supply chains for personal protection equipment (PPE) has created challenges for firefighting personnel throughout the United States.

Oregon, like many states, has seen PPE supplies became scarce because demand has far outpaced available supplies for all customers, including EMS and fire service personnel.

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) partnered with Oregon's Emergency Coordination Center and the Oregon State Fire Coronavirus Response Team to develop a PPE distribution methodology and a transportation plan to meet demands from the state's more than 300 fire agencies.

From the start the goal was to deliver to the fire service PPE supplies that conform to state and federal infection control guidelines for COVID-19 and provide for the well-being of firefighters.

All told, during the latter half of March, the OSFM delivered nearly 28,000 pieces of PPE — N95 masks, face shields, gowns — to 25 counties. Supplies went to more than 120 departments, districts, and fire defense boards. The effort enlisted 14 Oregon State Police troopers, all deputy state fire marshals, and many OSFM staff to ensure safe and timely deliveries.

In early October, the OSFM helped to distribute 85,000 N95 masks across the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System as a one-time allocation made available by FEMA, while fire service agencies supported the statewide response to wildfires.

The OSFM shipped the masks directly to county fire defense board chiefs, who then further disseminated to area fire departments and districts per local priorities.

These masks were dispersed for the protection of firefighting personnel and incident management team members against wildfire smoke, for fire camp safety, and personal protection in close quarters.

# **COVID Mitigation & Fire Camps**

Early in the pandemic, OSFM and our suppression partners became aware of the potential for fire camps to become superspreader events. Fire camps are historically dirty, crowded places in which communal space is far more common than personal space. When a Type I Incident Management Team was assigned to create a solution for the Pacific Northwest, OSFM jumped at the opportunity to include a Liaison on that team. The resulting document, Northwest Incident Management Teams Recommended Best Management Practices (BMP), is a 94-page document which was adopted by all teams within the geographic area and served as a guiding light for fire season.



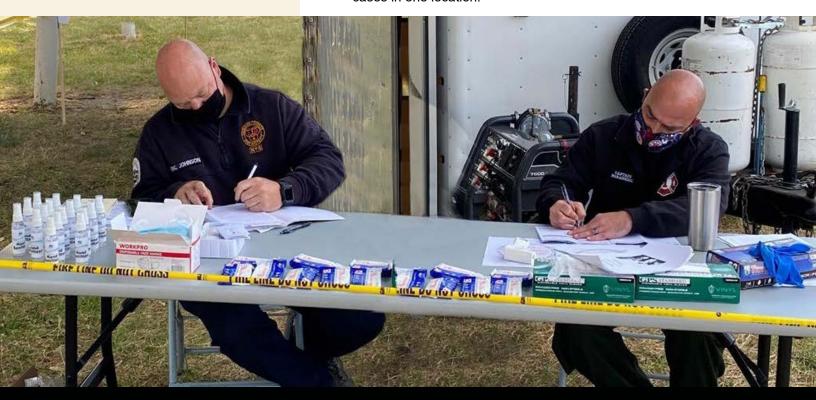
ABOVE: OSFM Staff coordinating the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), pre-mask mandate.





The BMP provide a plethora of options and considerations for IMTs, and only a handful of directives. One of those directives was that each team should staff a Health Liaison, whose role would be to ensure mitigation measures were in place and to work with local, county, and state public health officials to provide testing, isolation, and quarantine for suspected or confirmed cases and exposures to COVID within fire camp. Working in concert with the Oregon Department of Forestry, OSFM recruited members of the structural fire service to work as Health Liaisons and COVID Responders: individuals certified as EMT or higher to assist with mitigation measures, daily screenings, and the handling of potential cases and exposures. OSFM added a 3-person COVID Module to each standing team, and provided personnel to ODF through local agreements. Ultimately, many of these personnel were also mobilized to assist the interagency teams at federal incidents as well when those teams saw the value of a dedicated COVID Module.

In addition to COVID personnel and BMPs, OSFM conducted an aggressive training campaign for the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System to ensure all resources were mobilizing with proper PPE and an understanding of the ways in which fire camps might look different in the pandemic environment. OSFM created caches of PPE and isolation yurts which were mobilized with the Modules to support the mitigation measures. Ultimately, the fire season saw a total of 7 cases of COVID-19 within fire camps in both Oregon and Washington. None of those cases were personnel mobilized by OSFM and there were no outbreaks, defined as two or more cases in one location.



# FIRE & LIFE SAFETY SERVICES DIVISION

The Fire Life Safety Division (FLSD) was posed many challenges in 2020. The greatest challenge was adapting our service delivery methods in the unprecedented COVID-19 environment. This was accomplished primarily through the utilization of technology and delivery of services and inspections virtually. With many business owners, architects, schools, and other disciplines unable to visit job sites due to stay-at-home mandates, virtual operations became paramount in our ability to keep projects moving forward.

When safely able to complete operations in the field, the FLSD traveled over 210,000 miles on the road performing license inspections, fire investigations, responding to emergencies, fire safety inspections, and healthcare surveys.

#### The FLSD also:

- Deployed to the flooding events in Pendleton.
- Distributed COVID-19 PPE supplies across the state to the Oregon Fire Service.
  - One distribution resulted in 28,000 items delivered within 12 hours.
- The FLSD staff filled numerous ICS positions during the early response to COVID across the state by staffing various positions such as liaison, agency representative, incident commander, operations section chief, logistics chief, and planning chiefs.
- The entire division stepped up and deployed to the historical wildfires across Oregon during Firestorm 2020 with the Healthcare unit and administrative support filling roles in the agency operation center.
- Some deputy districts throughout the state were reorganized to better serve our customers needs based on data from inspections, conflagrations, and fire investigations.





BELOW: Code deputies reviewing plans & questions, pre-COVID.



- 148 Fire Investigations
  - 63-Lead by Deputies
  - 38-Assists to others by Deputies
  - 47-Technical Assistance by Deputies
- 1045 inspections and access and water supply plan reviews (virtual and in person)
  - Most noteworthy inspection occurred while completing a routine fire inspection of Milton-Freewater School with Deputy State Fire Marshal Andresen and the maintenance director, they noticed the smell of burning electrical. While waiting for the fire department to arrive they were able to shut off power to the building and noticed a control panel next to breaker panel was hot. Investigating, noticed a loose wire had been arcing to the panel box. No breakers had yet been tripped and the room had substantial amount of combustible supplies as they were not using inventory as fast with no students in the building.
- Code deputies reviewed 45 aboveground tank plans and processed over 623 questions and requests through our codes and technical service desk. Requests covered varied topics (emergency preparedness, burn bans, installation guidance, requirements of rebuilding after fires, access and water supply requirements as well as remodel questions just to name a few)
  - Code deputies provided 7 presentations of 2019 Oregon Fire Code Significant Changes (3 live, 4 virtually instructor lead).
- With the pandemic, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services partially suspended its CMS survey requirements during 2020.
  - FLSD Healthcare unit completed 46 life safety code (LSC) and emergency preparedness surveys and 171 healthcare plan reviews on healthcare facilities statewide to CMS standards.
  - Surveyors deployed to State ECC; developed statewide long term care facility review and response to positive COVID outbreaks in communities and helped on the front lines with PPE distribution to Oregon's fire service agencies.

# **EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES DIVISION**

In 2020, the Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team (RHMERT) program replaced aging emergency response vehicles, threat detection equipment, and technical safety equipment necessary for teams to safely respond to petrochemical transportation emergencies and other chemical, biological, and radiological incidents.

Vehicles for teams based in Albany, Coos Bay, Klamath Falls, and Roseburg were all designed and purchased in 2020; completed construction and delivery of all eight vehicles are all expected by Spring 2021. Each team will be equipped with a pickup truck-sized initial response vehicle and a larger, fire engine-sized command and control vehicle. The initial response vehicle facilitates the guick deployment of a small team to conduct rapid scene assessment, while the larger vehicle transports more hazardous materials technicians, specialized personal protective equipment and detection tools, and a built-in space for incident commanders and chemical specialists to research and develop an incident action plan.

Continuing a critical replacement project begun in 2018, an additional ten fully encapsulating, vapor- and flashprotective suits were purchased and distributed to teams in 2020, bringing the total number of modernized suits in the program's inventory to 80 out of 104. Lastly, 13 advanced handheld chemical analyzers - integrating both FTIR and Raman spectroscopy technologies - were purchased for all teams, replacing an unknown chemical identification device that had exceeded its useful service life.

Leveraging federal grant funds allocated to Oregon from the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) each year, the OSFM facilitated the creation of new local emergency planning committees (LEPC's) in Crook, Deschutes, Jackson, and Jefferson counties. Along with Jackson Co., and envisioned as a tri-county LEPC, these three central Oregon counties are developing an emergency plan compliant with the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA).

This year, the Hazardous Materials (HazMat) by Rail program installed a retired DOT-111 training tank car in Portland. The tank car was taken out-of-service, cleaned and purged, and donated to OSFM by BNSF Railroad and placed at the Portland Fire Training Center located at 122nd and Sandy. This railcar allows Portland Fire and Rescue firefighters and members of the OSFM Regional HazMat Team 07, along with other local agencies, an opportunity to locally train and prepare for a railroad incident involving the ignition, spill, or release of hazardous materials. Before this installment, firefighters would either schedule a visit to a busy railyard or travel outside of their district - sometimes out-of-state - to experience realistic scenario-based training. The tank car donation spotlights the collaborative relationship the OSFM has built with the railroad industry.



# OSFM Agency Operations Center

**OSFM's Agency Operations** Center (AOC) is staffed by OSFM personnel whenever the OFMAS is mobilized either in-state or through EMAC to assist our partners. Staff facilitate and track the deployment, movement, and demobilization of OFMAS resources. In 2020, AOC staff were responsible for rostering and mobilizing all of the Oregon strike teams and task forces to the fires shown on the table (above), in addition to eight structural firefighting task forces sent to the state from our partners through EMAC, from Utah, Idaho, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Washington.



ABOVE: An inside look of OSFM's AOC supporting the early stages of COVID response, pre-mask mandate.

# Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System Mobilizations

2020 saw an unprecedented number of mobilizations for the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS); both the Incident Management Teams (IMTs) and the fire service resources in the state. The first IMT activation was in February, in response to flooding in Umatilla County. OSFM's Green Team responded to that incident, supplementing local response and working with emergency management personnel who had come from around the state.

Our IMTs also responded to the coronavirus pandemic, beginning with a team going to King County, Washington to assist their county health personnel in managing the impacts of the pandemic. Shortly after that, members of the Red IMT responded to work with Oregon Health Authority and then at the Statewide Enterprise to assist in managing the distribution of PPE and other aspects of this unprecedented response. In addition to the responses listed below, individual OSFM IMT personnel were also dispatched around the state to assist local emergency managers with implementing the Incident Command System to manage the situation.

Just as the initial response to the coronavirus began to taper off, fire season began. The 2020 fire season started off with an expected level of activity, but an unseasonable east wind event on Labor Day sparked fires statewide and tested the capacity of not only the OFMAS, but all suppression and emergency response entities in Oregon. By the end of September, Oregon had lost more than 4000 residences and over one million acres.

#### 2020 Non-Fire Mobilizations

Incident	Location	Type of Response	Date	Assignment Duration
Umatilla County Flood	Umatilla County	Flood	2/2/2020	1 week
Washington EMAC	King Co (WA State)	COVID	3/15/2020	2 weeks
Oregon Health Authority	Statewide (Portland)	COVID	3/16/2020	3 weeks
Statewide Enterprise	Statewide (Salem)	COVID	4/27/2020	3.5 weeks

#### 2020 Fire Mobilizations/Conflagrations

Fire	Location (County)	Date	Duration (in hrs)	OFMAS TFs/STs	Fire Agencies
Mosier Creek	Wasco	8/12/2020	131.08	8	52
EMAC- LNU Complex	California	8/19/2020	344.18	5	28
P515/Lionshead	Warm Springs	8/21/2020	16.5	1	5
White River	Wasco	8/28/2020	106.5	8	53
Beachie Creek	Marion	9/7/2020	238.08	6	43
Lionshead	Marion/Jefferson	9/7/2020	238.73	2	12
Two Four Two	Klamath	9/8/2020	182.5	2	16
Holiday Farm	Lane	9/8/2020	295.45	7	46
Echo Mountain	Lincoln	9/8/2020	354.25	n/a	19
Powerline	Washington	9/8/2020	125.65	1	19
Pike Road	Tillamook	9/8/2020	49	n/a	6
North Cascades Fires	Clackamas	9/8/2020	213.67	9	30
Almeda	Jackson	9/8/2020	157.42	2	12
South Obenchain	Jackson	9/8/2020	228.42	1	13
Riverside	Clackamas	9/8/2020	209.48	4	28
Archie	Douglas	9/8/2020	252	2	15
Slater	Josephine	9/9/2020	486.43	5	51
Brattain	Lake	9/14/2020	105.25	2	18
EMAC – October Fires	California	10/2/2020	352.5	6	38

# REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

Most of the programs in the Regulatory Services Division (RSD) division include field work conducting inspections and audits. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic most of the field work of our operations were stopped early in 2020. We modified our operations allowing us to continue conducting compliance activities without person to person interaction with our stakeholders or their staff. This was done to help protect our staff, the staff of our stakeholders, and slow the spread of the virus. We also continued with activities focused on technical assistance and education. We worked with our stakeholders to make policy changes that would support them and their businesses as they too navigated the pandemic and the impacts on their businesses. The RSD would like to thank all our stakeholders for their flexibility and partnership in working with us and navigating the pandemic together.

# Fireworks Program

The RSD conducted a statewide fireworks public safety campaign again in 2020. Like last year we collaborated with different stakeholders including the Oregon fire service, Oregon law enforcement agencies and associations, and other state agencies. We produced materials that could be printed and used by other public service agencies and utilized social media platforms to amplify our materials and messaging.

Recognizing the fiscal impacts the pandemic would potentially have on the industry, we worked with our stakeholders establishing a policy for them to receive a refund of paid application fees if a fireworks event was cancelled due to the pandemic. We are also providing additional time for certified fireworks pyrotechnicians to meet the requirements for recertification.

# Non-Retail Fueling (Cardlock) Program

The cardlock license year begins on October 1st of each year. For the license year ending September 30th of 2020, staff conducted facility inspections and operator audits until spring of 2020 when field operations were stopped due to the Covid pandemic. We were able to conduct 40 audits reviewing 1,016 customer records and conduct 204 facility inspections.

Later in the license year we partnered with our stakeholders to conduct just the customer count portions of the audits virtually. This benefited the license renewal process that takes place late in the license year and will make the customer count process easier in subsequent license years.

In preparing for the 2020-21 license year we again worked with our stakeholders to determine how facility inspections could occur in the interest of fire and life safety for cardlock customers and surrounding community. Facility operators agreed to conduct self-inspections and certify compliance while OSFM provides the tools and technical assistance to perform those inspections. We are also continuing with determining customer counts virtually.

# **Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) Program**

Typically, in the LPG program compliance staff inspect LPG tank installations at residential locations for compliance with Oregon fire code requirements and National Fire Protection Association standards. Due to the risks associated with the Covid 19 pandemic to our staff and the public, LPG inspections were stopped in 2020. However, staff continued to support the industry by providing technical assistance to LPG installers, administering licensing exams, issuing licenses, and providing general program assistance to the industry.

A significant project the compliance staff completed in 2020 was transferring the statutorily required annual LPG bulk plant inspections to the OSFM Fire and Life Safety Services Division. This project was initiated in the second half of 2019 and consisted of developing a classroom training program, inspection tools including an extensive inspection guide, and in the field training with each Deputy State Fire Marshal. This transition provides for the continuity of LPG bulk plant regulation from initial plan reviews for new installations to the annual inspections for the life of the installation to reside in one OSFM division.

# Community Right to Know (CR2K)

Due to the risks associated with the Covid 19 pandemic, CR2K curtailed onsite inspections for 2020. In an effort to continue to ensure accurate reporting, compliance specialists reviewed daily quality control reports of information submitted by facilities to identify potential misreporting. As a result, staff contacted and worked virtually with more than 850 facilities to ensure compliance with hazardous substance reporting requirements. This resulted in more concise and accurate data for emergency planners, first responders and the public, as well as ensured the proper assessment of the hazardous substance possession fee.

2020 also provided CR2K an opportunity to review and clarify the master hazardous substance data in CHS Manager, CR2K's online hazardous substance reporting program. Staff ensured that pure chemicals were associated with the correct Chemical Abstracts System (CAS) number, and that the components for mixtures were listed. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and the associated physical and health hazards were also verified. Staff reviewed nearly 18,000 chemicals as part of this project.

The CR2K program also kicked off a social media campaign in 2020. The purpose of the campaign was to increase awareness of the program and highlight how information collected by CR2K benefits the public and assists emergency planners and first responders. Every month, OSFM posted news of a significant hazardous materials incident along with information about CR2K's collection of a hazardous substance information. The posts included information about how this information is provided to the emergency planning community and made available to the general public. This effort will continue into 2021.

In order to ensure the regulated community, emergency planners. and the public have sufficient resources to provide and access information collected by CR2K, staff also developed and distributed user manuals for CHS Manager in 2020. The manuals compliment information already available through CHS Manager and CR2K's online help desk but provide a comprehensive guide as a standalone resource. They are available to users on CR2K's website and though its online help desk.





# FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION DIVISION

The Analytics and Intelligence Unit, Fire Prevention Programs, and Youth Fire Safety Programs continued to focus their fire safety efforts by providing creative solutions to the challenges of 2020.

# **Analytics and Intelligence Unit**

The Analytics & Intelligence Unit is responsible for collecting incident records from every fire agency in Oregon and providing statistical data, trend analysis, and data quality analysis. The Unit is also responsible for the issuance and maintenance of Fire Department Identification (FDID) numbers and maintains the agency profile reports for each associated fire agency. The A & I Team focused efforts in several areas this year.

#### National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) Data Improvement Initiative

The unit launched an "NFIRS Data Improvement Initiative" in 2020. The objective of this initiative is to help partner agencies improve NFIRS data quality, report validity, and NFIRS report submission rates. These improvements will allow OSFM to forward a greater number of Oregon fire incident reports to the national level, thus providing a clearer picture of Oregon's fire problem. Additionally, the unit began a detailed demographic analysis at the state, county, and community level. This demographic data combined with relevant NFIRS data will inform OSFM's prevention and education programs with a detailed image of the community at risk. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the unit has begun tracking NFIRS data that has been impacted by the virus.

#### **Calls for Service**

Year to date, the unit has processed approximately 800 service requests submitted to the A&I Hotline and the OSFM Data shared mailbox. Almost 90% of the requests were completed within the same day. The most common requests were for ImageTrend Elite support, information requests, incident reporting, and information updates. Various types of NFIRS training was provided to 33 fire agency staff from across the state.



# **Fire Prevention Programs**

During 2020, The Fire Prevention Programs focused on adapting programs to protect people, their property, and the environment from fire. Our fire agency and community partners were instrumental in providing effective solutions in their jurisdictions, and collaborated to provide resources to help address fire safety needs.

#### Wildland Urban Interface Fire Prevention and Safety -**Believe in Fire Safety**

The Fire Prevention Programs continued with a second year of the Bigfoot – Believe in Fire Safety campaign. Bigfoot is portrayed as a protector of the wilderness and his "home," who encourages residents to take action to prevent wildfires and "believe in fire safety." The program ties into outdoor activities and wildfire-prone areas to raise public awareness during peak wildfire season. Iconic images of Bigfoot recreating in Oregon, with prevention messages, were shared on billboards, at airports, on social media, as mobile and desktop wallpapers, and on promotional materials. Six large billboards promoting "Protect Your Community - Prevent Wildfires" were located within wildfire-prone areas and the reach was estimated at 5.2 million impressions. Bigfoot boxes (including stickers, beverage coasters, stand-up characters, microfiber cleaning cloths, yard debris removal and recreational vehicle safety brochures, and Oregon Wildfire Preparedness guides) were mailed to over 140 fire agencies. Several local fire agencies co-branded with the OSFM to include Bigfoot on transit buses, in airports, on local signage, billboards, and banners in their communities.

#### Wildfire Awareness Month

Wildfire Awareness Month is held annually to encourage the public to use this observance to prevent and reduce human-caused ignitions as well as home and property losses from wildland fires. Keep Oregon Green spearheads this campaign annually, and the Fire Prevention Programs participate with the Oregon Department of Forestry, and other partners to promote wildfire awareness through unified messaging focusing on the campaign slogan of #OregonOurOregon. The idea was to push a positive message of pride in our state and encourage residents and tourists to protect Oregon's iconic scenic landscapes from careless causes of wildfire.

#### **Smoke Alarm Installation Program**

In 2020, 2,185 smoke alarms were distributed to the American Red Cross and 16 Oregon fire agencies. Due to installation limitations caused by COVID-19 the program is operating at a reduced capacity, and 301 smoke alarms that were distributed in 2019 and 1,400 smoke alarms from 2020 were returned. The 1,701 returned alarms were redistributed to 46 fire agencies, and the program implemented less stringent installation requirements to help protect fire agency staff and accommodate social/physical distancing. The Fire Prevention Programs continues to hone the internal program tracking









ABOVE: Oregon Fire Prevention Workshop group photo, pre-COVID.

and document lives saved. Additionally, the division trained 75 staff from 38 agencies on the Smoke Alarm Installation Program.

The OSFM would like to recognize agencies that participated in the program and assisted their local community in gaining working smoke alarms in their homes.

#### **Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Law**

The OSFM is a continuing education provider through the Oregon Real Estate Agency, and provided training for 408 real estate agents, property managers, and others through a one-hour training on Oregon's smoke and carbon monoxide alarm statutes and rules.

#### **Oregon Life Safety Team**

The Oregon Life Safety Team (OLST) is a multi-agency team that emphasizes community risk reduction, shares fire prevention best practices, coordinates, develops and implements consistent statewide fire prevention and life safety education in Oregon. The OLST worked on revising the purpose, roles, responsibilities, goals and objectives, and streamlining the membership of the team. They also reviewed products for the Bigfoot – Believe in Fire Safety campaign, top fire causes, and youth fire safety materials this past year.

#### **Oregon Fire Prevention Workshop**

The OSFM partnered with the Oregon Department of Forestry and was supported by other agencies (U.S. Department of the Interior – Bureau of Land Management, Department of Agriculture – U.S. Forest Service, Keep Oregon Green, and the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group) to host the Oregon Fire Prevention Workshop - 2020 Vision: Focus on Fire Prevention. The workshop provided structural and wildland fire educational sessions for 137 attendees and presenters. The training provided a venue to increase knowledge of fire service and encourage program delivery by sharing information and creating opportunities for agencies to partner.



# Youth Fire Safety Program

School closures and event cancellations during this historic year, provided the Youth Fire Safety Programs an opportunity to review the way the Oregon fire service approached fire safety education for their youth. As fire service transitioned their traditional station tours into Facebook live streams; in-person youth screenings became virtual. The use of the virtual environment provided an opportunity for the program to meet stakeholders where they were in a number of ways.

#### Sound Off with the Home Fire Safety Patrol

Sound Off provides resources for local fire agencies to educate children and their families about smoke alarms, fosters a community approach to fire safety and connects families that do not have enough working smoke alarms with local fire agencies. Last year's participating agencies, Bend Fire Department and Sisters - Camp Sherman Fire District, transitioned into the role of program mentors and four new agencies, Portland Fire and Rescue, Keizer Fire Department, Albany Fire Department, and Lane Fire Authority came together in January and were provided training to implement this prevention program in their local second and third grade classrooms. With schools closing in mid-March, web-based materials for use at home were provided to the participating agencies from our national partners, providing our local teams with the support they needed to meet program requirements.

#### **Oregon School Activities Association**

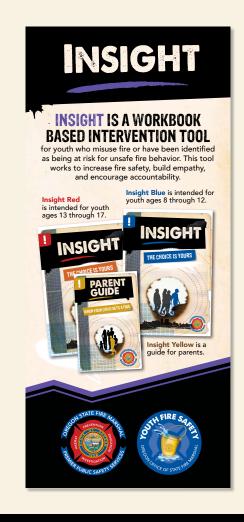
The partnership with Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) kicked off 2020 with the High School State Wrestling Championships in February. This event hosted top athletes and their families from 1A to 6A schools statewide, providing a large audience. The OSFM partnered with Portland Fire & Rescue to put fire safety materials in the hands of attendees from around the state and discuss home fire safety practices with hundreds of students and parents in one day. As new stay at home orders were issued as the year went on, this was the only live event of 2020 before events were cancelled for the foreseeable future and the partnership moved to engage in a more web-based approach. OSAA consistently shared and supported our social media efforts for fire safety including sharing COVID guidance and increased the visibility of safety messaging in regards to the Labor Day Wildfires.

#### Insight

Tools for the Insight Program were developed several years ago in response to the need to effectively respond to youth who misuse fire. In addition to the existing Red and Blue youth fire intervention workbooks targeted at the youth audience, Insight Yellow is a parent guide to understanding youth fire misuse and the potential outcomes of such behavior. A supporting rack card was also created to summarize the program as a whole and provide answers to frequently asked questions.



ABOVE: Oregon Fire Prevention event, pre-COVID.



#### **Virtual Training**

In response to addressing the challenges of remote and virtual environments, Youth Fire Safety is providing a Webinar Series that began in November 2020. This series will carry through 2021 and includes bi-monthly educational sessions to best inform our partners on the techniques and knowledgebase needed to effectively increase youth fire safety in their community. These 30 to 45-minute webinars include topics such as accurately reporting youth involved fires and the use of the quick guide tools. In 2020, the three webinars provided training for 78 attendees representing 32 Oregon Fire Agencies, 8 states and 2 countries.

#### Youth Fire Safety in a Box

New and updated resources were provided in a convenient Youth Fire Safety in a box toolkit this year. To date, this box has been provided to all Deputy State Fire Marshal's and 75 fire stations representing 67 fire agencies across the state. Tools include updated Guides to Home Escape Planning and Parent and Caregiver Checklists in both English and Spanish. Tools also include two newly developed Quick Guides, a Fire Station Tour Quick-Guide and a Classroom Visit & Community Events Quick Guide. These new flip books offer guidance on effective education strategies by age group to best inform the practitioner on how to best address developmental milestones provided in convenient and user-friendly formats. Recipients were also provided all elements of the Insight Program for youth misusing fire, folding fire trucks, a youth fire safety resource guide, and training outline for all of the upcoming 2021 educational opportunities.





























Oregon State Police

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