



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

# THE GATED WYE

NOVEMBER 2023



## OSFM WILDFIRE PROGRAMS SEE SUCCESS

Investments made through Senate Bill 762 over the last two years has lead to positive change as communities across Oregon work to be better prepared and protected against wildfire.

Since July 2021, the OSFM has invested roughly \$81 million as part of a multi-pronged approach to address the wildfire crisis. In this issue of the Gated Wye we are highlighting some of that work and sharing updates as we move into 2024. [READ MORE ON PAGE 2](#)

OSFM'S MONTHLY  
NEWSLETTER

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# CWRR GRANT PROJECTS UNDERWAY STATEWIDE

Across Oregon, we are seeing positive change happen because of the investments made at the local level through our agency. In 2023, the OSFM launched the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction grants. The agency invested \$18 million in one-time grant funds to 106 organizations around Oregon to protect people and communities in high wildfire-risk regions.

Local governments, special districts, fire service agencies, and non-governmental organizations were funded to help communities create local solutions to reduce wildfire risk and create community resiliency.

## Morrow County Project

Heppner Fire Department and Morrow County received funds through the CWRR grant and the community wildfire protection plans investment. Crews have been working around Blake Ranch to improve their defensible space, making the community more protected against wildfire. Blake Ranch is the first Firewise USA community in Morrow County. This investment brought in a stewardship crew for two weeks to complete defensible space projects in this high wildfire-risk community. **(CONT PAGE 3)**



## Klamath County Project

The Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District received \$250,000 from the OSFM Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant. The money is being used to remove high-risk trees and complete fuels reduction work around homes in the Keno community, located about 15 miles southwest of Klamath Falls. Within the city limits of Keno and in the tightly knit communities nearby, logging and forest health have been mostly left to chance on private properties.

These grant funds have helped more than 30 landowners remove fire fuels from their property to create safe barriers between their homes and the thick, drought-stricken forests around them. The fuels reduction work is estimated to be completed by the end of December 2023.



# SIGN UP TO BE A PART OF THE DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

The OSFM defensible space assessment program saw an increase in the number of assessments completed across Oregon. In total, 480 assessments were done (OSFM 86, ODF 77, local agencies 317).

The defensible space assessment program was launched earlier this year. The OSFM partnered with the Oregon fire service to offer free defensible space assessments to Oregonians.

The OSFM continues to see interest from the Oregon fire service in joining the program. So far, 54 local fire agencies are taking part in the program.

## ABOUT THE DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

A property owner or renter can request an assessment by [filling out the OSFM's defensible space assessment program request form](#). An OSFM deputy state fire marshal or local fire agency representative will reach out to schedule a time to walk through and provide recommendations to create or improve defensible space. The homeowner receives a copy of the recommendations after the assessment.

# GET COMFORTABLE WITH **DEFENSIBLE SPACE.**



## **FIVE WINTER AND SPRING PROJECTS TO CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE:**

- 1** **Remove** leaves, pine needles, and other debris from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck.
- 2** **Trim** tall plants and bushes growing directly under your eaves.
- 3** **Trim** trees and bushes to make sure they have adequate space from your home and other vegetation.
- 4** **Remove** dead and combustible plants and mulch, especially within the first several feet from the home. Replace with decorative rock or gravel.
- 5** **Cover** exterior attic vents, soffit vents, and areas below decks and patios with 1/8" metal wire mesh.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP FOR  
A **FREE DEFENSIBLE ASSESSMENT.**



# OSFM ENGINE PROGRAM ROLLS FORWARD

The OSFM Engine Program is in full swing, and is getting close to receiving 27 type 3, 20 type 6 engines, and 30 water tenders to be strategically placed across Oregon to add capacity to respond to wildfire.

In March 2023, the OSFM announced the 76 recipients selected to receive an engine or water tender. Since then, Skeeter and Rosenbauer, which were awarded contracts to build the new engines, are hard at work.

Oregon should start seeing type 3 engines arriving in early 2024. Delivery of the type 6 engines should begin in February of 2024 and water tenders could arrive as early as December 2023.

All the equipment for these engines and water tenders was delivered to the OSFM. It is ready to be put on engines and water tenders when they begin arriving later this year.



## OSFM WELCOMES KELSEY HUNTER

Kelsey Hunter joins the OSFM as a fire risk reduction specialist. Kelsey served her community at Eugene Springfield Fire as the executive assistant to the fire chief and public information officer for the last three years.

Prior to her time with Eugene Springfield Fire, Kelsey had a decade-long career in human resources. Her motivation to join the fire service began during the devastating 2020 wildfire season when she was inspired by ESF's leadership to support her community in a more meaningful role. Kelsey is an Oregon transplant from Philadelphia. Following a year of international travel, she made the blind move to the west coast to prioritize access to outdoor activities. She is eager to explore more of Oregon and is always open to suggestions for hidden gems.



# THE SECRET INCREDIENT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON IS FIRE SAFETY

The holiday season is fast approaching, and Oregon families will be coming together for a time of celebration. The hours spent in the kitchen preparing turkey, mashed potatoes, pies, and all the other fixings come with an increased risk of household fires.

Here are ways to keep you and your family safe in the kitchen this holiday season. Safety tips to remember when cooking:

- Keep an eye on what you're cooking; don't leave cooking unattended. Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (potholders, food packaging, towels, etc.) and wipe up surface spills.
- Create a three-foot kid- and pet-free zone around the stove. Older children should only cook with permission and under the supervision of an adult. Have a lid or cookie sheet within reach while cooking to smother flames in case of a fire.
- Put a lid on it! Slide a lid over the pan from the side, then turn off the burner. Don't move the pan until the fire is completely extinguished and cooled, and don't try to transfer the pan to the sink.
- Get yourself and your family safely out of the house. If you can, close doors as you escape to help contain the fire. Call 911 from a safe place outside.



## FRY IT RIGHT

- Never use a deep fryer on a wooden deck, under a patio cover, in a garage, or in an enclosed space.
- Fryers should only be used outdoors on a sturdy, level surface isolated from anything that could burn.
- Keep children and pets out of the 3-foot radius around your fryer to protect against burn injuries.
- The pot, lid, and handles of a turkey fryer can be incredibly hot. To protect hands and arms against burns, wear long, well-insulated cooking gloves.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby, and never use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and thoroughly dried before it is placed in a fryer. The water from a frozen turkey will not mix with the oil in the fryer and can be an explosion hazard.

# OSFM, FIRE SERVICE COMPLETE PLANS OF COOPERATION, DATA ANALYZED

Deputy state fire marshals with the OSFM have wrapped up work around plans of cooperation with local fire agencies across Oregon. The deputies have finalized plans of cooperation with 288 agencies.

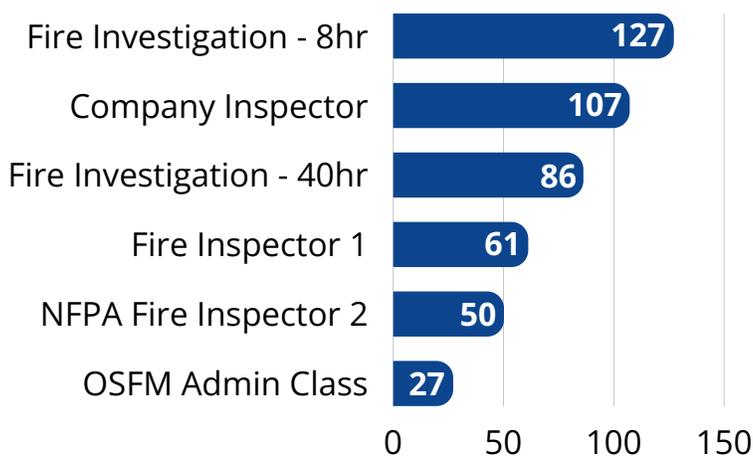
Plans of cooperation (POC) are program framework documents completed by all Oregon fire agencies every three years in collaboration with the OSFM. POCs are a tool for all fire agencies to collaborate with the OSFM to improve and support fire prevention programs across the state to create a fire-safe Oregon. The plans carry no obligation or punitive measures and act as a barometer for our agency.

Based on staffing and other considerations, Oregon fire agencies have varying capabilities to enforce fire codes, conduct fire investigations, and review plans within their jurisdictions. POCs help determine the level of service and capability provided locally to meet goals and enhance fire prevention.

The data from these plans of cooperation help the OSFM with several things, including:

- Assist with evaluating workload potential provided by the local deputy state fire marshal.
- Identify and prioritize fire agencies who may need additional assistance in delivering a fire prevention program, fire investigation, fire inspection, and plan review.
- Identify fire agencies who may need specific training such as inspection, fire investigation, and plan review.
- Assist with validating the agency's fire prevention training and certification needed to provide the level of service the agency identified and assist with providing opportunities to obtain the appropriate requirements needed (OAR 837-039-0080).
- Provide the opportunity for local fire agencies to use POC data as a tool to increase and/or maintain capacity within fire prevention divisions and identify opportunities for improvement.

## STATEWIDE AGENCY TRAINING REQUESTS



The OSFM reviewed the POCs to see where the department could better support the Oregon fire service. One area is training and certifications. The POCs showed local fire agencies need training around fire investigation and company inspector. The chart to the left shows the number of agencies requesting a class. Based on this information, the OSFM will work with agencies to deliver courses that will assist them with meeting local and regional fire and life safety program goals.



## OSFM DEDICATES MEMORIAL STONE AT NEW GENERAL HEADQUARTERS IN SALEM

OSFM staff paused in late October to honor those employees who've passed away. The agency held a ceremony and dedication of its memorial stone at the new agency headquarters in Salem. This year, Amy Roach's name was added to the stone. She passed away a year ago.

Her family was on hand to take part in the dedication ceremony.

The memorial stone is a tribute to OSFM employees we've lost. It honors their dedication, contributions to Oregon, and is a lasting memorial to their legacy.

There are seven names on the stone, people that will forever be remembered.

## LONG TIME ILLINOIS VALLEY LIEUTENANT LAID TO REST

The OSFM is mourning the loss of a long-time lieutenant at Illinois Valley Fire District. On October 7, Lt. Kris Ismaili passed away. The district says she was a guiding light and her kindness and generosity to everyone at the agencies and within the community will be missed.

Earlier this year, Kris celebrated 15 years with the district. She joined Illinois Valley Fire District in 2008 to support firefighters at the scene and played a key role in developing the district's rehab program.

A memorial service was held to remember and honor her. The Oregon honor guard attended to help lay her to rest.

We send our deepest sympathies to her husband, Deputy Chief Kamron Ismaili, her family, and the Illinois Valley community.





## CODES CORNER

# CANNABIS EXTRACTION FIRE MITIGATION

Two people were burned in an Astoria marijuana processing facility a few years ago when the butane-fueled equipment exploded. Similar incidents occurred in other areas of Oregon since that fire. Chapter 39, Processing and Extraction Facilities, was added to the Oregon Fire Code in 2019. That edition required all systems and equipment to be listed for their specific use or the equipment to be reviewed by a registered design professional. At that time, testing had not been completed by any listing agency, leaving business owners with one choice: hiring a design professional.

The 2022 Oregon Fire Code now offers owners both paths to compliance. Section 3904.2 acknowledges that such equipment may be listed and labeled per UL 1389, Plant Oil Extraction Equipment for Installation and Use in Ordinary (Unclassified) Locations and Hazardous (Classified) Locations. “Labeled” means that the equipment used for extracting oils from plants and creating flammable solvents must have a UL 1389 sticker or symbol. Equipment or systems with the marking will not need to be approved with a technical report from a design professional so long as the equipment is installed, maintained, and used according to the owner’s manual. Use and installation guides are part of the UL 1389 listing.

Equipment may also need electrical, plumbing, or mechanical permits from the local building official. NFPA 420, the Standard on Fire Protection of Cannabis Growing and Processing Facilities, is in development and unavailable for adoption.

Dangerous and potentially deadly fires related to cannabis extraction remain a threat to the safety of Oregonians, but education and enforcement of the Oregon Fire Code are proactive steps toward their mitigation.



# ART BEAT: ENGINE PHOTOS SELECTED FOR OSFM HEADQUARTERS

The winners of the OSFM engine photo contest have been chosen. Earlier this year, the OSFM contacted local fire agencies across Oregon and asked them to submit a picture of their fire engines. OSFM staff voted on which pictures they liked the best.

The 10 photos with the most votes were printed and hung on the wall outside the Mt. Hood conference room at the OSFM's new general headquarters in Salem. Below is a look at the 10 photos selected. The other photos that were not selected are going to be printed and placed throughout the new building.



AURORA



APLEGATE



CROOK COUNTY



GARIBALDI



LAKE OSWEGO



LA PINE



GOLD BEACH



NEWPORT



TANGENT



NORTH SHERMAN

# FROM THE INTERNET: TO THE TRAM

Portland Fire and Rescue took to the sky for their annual OHSU tram rescue training drill. Using ropes and harnesses, the team lowered four Doppelmayer employees playing the role of passengers 100 feet to the top floor of the OHSU Casey Eye Institute's parking garage. All tram operational staff are required to participate in the drill as part of their training.

The training allows crews to practice an aerial rescue in the event the tram is stopped for an extended period of time with passengers on board.

The exercise has been conducted annually since the tram opened on Jan. 27, 2007. [CHECK OUT THE POST HERE.](#)



# FROM THE INTERNET: SHARING WISDOM

Public education is an essential part of a firefighter department's mission, aimed at preventing fires, promoting safety, and ensuring the well-being of all Oregonians.

In October, Central Cascade Fire and EMS had the opportunity to visit schools in Gilchrist during Fire Prevention Week. They talked with students about the importance of having an evacuation plan at home, what to do if you hear the smoke alarm (no you don't turn it off or wave a towel at it), and ways to prevent a fire. [SEE THEIR POST HERE.](#)





# JOIN THE OSFM INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM PROGRAM

Are you interested in joining one of the OSFM's three all-hazard incident management teams? Recruitment will be opening in early November. Because the agency's website is under transition, applications can [be found here](#).

Applicants must meet [the qualification criteria](#) to be considered. Applications must be signed by your fire chief or – if the applicant is a fire chief – their supervisor within their local structure. An application is a commitment by the agency to make the prospective IMT member available for training, meetings, and mobilizations and to provide a vehicle to respond.

The IMT recruitment process is highly selective. Applicants, references, or others within the applicant's agency may be contacted by the OSFM staff or current IMT members during the selection process and all applicants should expect to be interviewed.

If you or someone you know has a passion for incident command structure or other aspects of managing and supporting response, consider applying! Questions can be directed to [mariah.rawlins@osfm.oregon.gov](mailto:mariah.rawlins@osfm.oregon.gov). More details about specific positions being actively recruited will be announced in the coming weeks.

## WELCOME TO MARY ANN CHRISTIAN

Mary Ann Christian is a graduate of both OSU and the UO but refuses to choose sides. She has had an extensive career in stakeholder-driven decision-making. She has worked for government, tribes, and nonprofit organizations.

Mary Ann is an adjunct instructor at Chemeketa where she teaches communication classes. She spends her spare time learning all about South Korea, hanging out with her grandkids, and being at the beck and call of her cat.



# UPCOMING TRAINING



## NFPA 1035 COURSE OFFERING COMING TO HUBBARD IN NOVEMBER

We invite anyone looking to get their Intervention Specialist 1 certification from the Oregon Department of Safety Standards and training to register for an upcoming class. The NFPA 1035: Youth Misusing Fire-Reporting and Intervention (Intervention Specialist 1) course will be held November 7-8 in Hubbard.

The course is limited to 20 participants. Sign-ups are required through the link below. Participants will receive course credit, notice of course completion documents, and course task books will be started for fire and community service partners.

### Hubbard Training

November 7-8, 2023 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Hubbard Fire District, 3161 2nd Street, Hubbard, OR 97032

Host: Chief Mike Kahrmann

[Register here](#) or scan the QR code to the right.



## OSFM WELCOMES FORREST CHAMBERS

Forrest joins the OSFM as the Response Support Services Manager. He has been in the fire service for the past 35 years, starting as a seasonal firefighter in high school in 1988.

Forrest worked at the Oregon Department of Forestry for 12 years and at Eugene Springfield Fire Department 23 years before retiring last June. While in Eugene, he was involved with the hazmat team for more than 20 years, was the city emergency manager for three stints, and was on the OSFM red incident management team for three years. Since his retirement last year, Forrest worked back with Eugene Springfield as the logistics manager. He is married and has three adult kids. In his spare time, he likes to travel, hunt, and spend time with his family.

# REGISTER TODAY! OSFM HOSTING FIRE CODE AMENDMENT TRAININGS



Register today to learn about changes to the Oregon Fire Code. This 8-hour course is required for all Oregon Fire Inspector I in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule 837-039-0016. This class is a high-level overview of the 2022 Oregon Fire Code changes and introduces fire chiefs, fire marshals, fire inspectors, and building officials to the fire code official's responsibilities.

The course includes a 1-hour introduction to the Oregon Fire Code section 319, Mobile Food Units. This class is required within the first year of every code cycle change to maintain competency recognition for Oregon Fire Inspector 1, Oregon Fire Inspector 2, and Oregon Fire Marshal. Each class runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## UPCOMING CLASSES

**NOVEMBER 15 - Salem**

Learn more and [REGISTER HERE](#).

# LET'S LEARN ABOUT THE OREGON FIRE CODE AND MOBILE FOOD UNITS

Help us spread the word to local food cart owners to learn about the new fire code and mobile food units. This 3-hour course is recommended for mobile food unit owners and their staff, food cart pod owners and operators, and all interested parties.

The class will provide details on the Oregon Fire Code's general requirements for mobile food units and food cart pods and an in-depth discussion of specific requirements.

The course includes classroom time and a practical exercise.

[Download a printable flyer here.](#)

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

**NOVEMBER 16**

Salem

*3991 Fairview Industrial Dr, Salem 97302*

**ALL CLASSES ARE FROM 8 - 11 a.m**





## Contact Us

Have a story idea or something you would like to know more about?

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