



OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

APRIL 2023



OSFM ENGINE PROGRAM ROLLING FOWARD

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal's Engine Program marked a major milestone in April. After several months of work and vetting applications, the OSFM announced which agencies received awards.

This is a big step forward as Oregon works to be better prepared to respond to the threat of wildfire.

[READ MORE ON PG. 3](#)

OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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OREGON HONORS AND REMEMBERS FIREFIGHTER RYAN BRECKO

The Oregon fire service lost a member in March. Baker City Firefighter Ryan Brecko lost his life following a car crash.

Ryan was born in Portland and grew up in Beaverton, graduating from Westview High School in 2014. He earned an associate degree in welding in 2016 from Portland Community College.

One of Ryan's proudest accomplishments was graduating the fire academy in 2022. He was a firefighter in Baker County for four years. He served with the Greater Bowen Valley Rural Fire Protection District, Baker Rural Fire Protection District, and the Baker City Fire Department. Ryan absolutely loved going on fire calls.

Family and friends say Ryan was patient, loyal, understanding, unique, and hard-working. He had a very kind heart; he would help anyone and rarely said no. He had a great laugh that will be remembered by many.

A celebration of life and last call was held on March 22 at the Baker Rural Fire Payton Station in Baker City.

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal wishes Ryan's family, friends, fellow firefighters, and the Oregon fire service peace, comfort, and all the love they need during this difficult time.





LONG TIME FIRE CHIEF, FIRE MARSHAL DENNIS HANEY PASSES AWAY

The Adair Rural Fire Protection District and community lost a noteworthy leader. On March 14, Fire Marshal Dennis Haney died suddenly at the age of 84.

Dennis was instrumental in the formation of the Adair Rural Fire Protection District. When the Air Force left the area and Adair Village returned to private lands, the area was left without fire protection. In March of 1973, Dennis, along with five others, fought to create the fire protection district which still serves the community today. Dennis was asked to be the fire chief and served in the position for 16 years.

As fire chief, Dennis helped acquire land to build the Soap Creek Valley Substation, enhancing their ability to protect the valley.

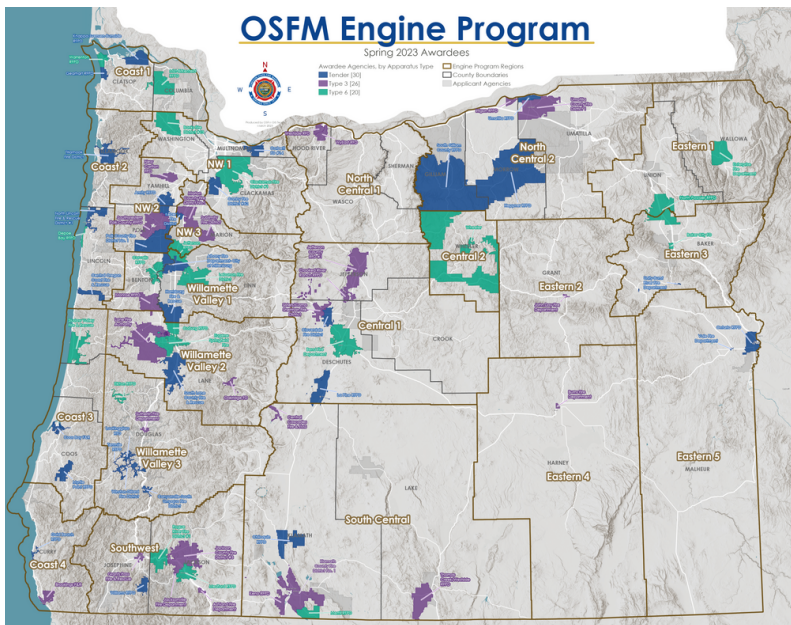
He increased the capacity of Adair's main station by adding two additional apparatus bays, a hose tower, and improved equipment. His actions were pivotal in getting a levy passed to purchase a brand new 3000-gallon water tender still used today.

Dennis, working with his son Dick, David Campbell, and Chuck Harris, restored the 1921 American Lafrance used by the station for musters, special events, and parades.

After leaving his position as Adair's fire chief, he remained active in the department as the local fire marshal for the next 33 years. For 10 years, he concurrently worked as a deputy fire marshal for the Albany Fire Department. He was still serving the community of Adair as the fire marshal when he passed away.

The Adair Rural Fire Protection District and the OSFM can't thank Dennis enough for everything he did for the district and community members. He will be deeply missed.





AWARDS ANNOUNCED FOR OSFM ENGINE PROGRAM

The Oregon State Fire Marshal announced awards for its \$25 million Engine Program. In Oregon, 76 local fire agencies were selected to receive a new type 3, type 6, or water tender to boost firefighting capacity statewide.

Local fire agencies across Oregon were eligible to apply for the program. A selection committee made up of members from the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association, and Oregon State Fire Fighters Council reviewed applications. The review group carefully evaluated applications and made selections based on four agreed-upon principles. The principles to guide decision-making for awards included:

- Assuring statewide distribution and allocation based on local initial attack, regional mutual aid, and conflagration needs.
- Necessary infrastructure to maintain and protect the assets long term.
- Consideration of recent apparatus awards both from the legislature and other legislative funding sources such as wildland-urban interface and omnibus legislation.
- The ability to staff newly awarded apparatus.

Agencies of all types and sizes were awarded apparatus to ensure response will be enhanced the local, regional, and statewide levels.

“This investment in the Oregon fire service is critical as the state modernizes equipment and increases firefighting capacity to respond to help our communities when they need it,” Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple said. “Over the last three decades, more communities have been impacted by wildfire. This investment is a major step forward in carrying out our mission to protect people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.” **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 04)**

(CONT) AWARDS ANNOUNCED FOR OSFM ENGINE PROGRAM

When responding to wildfires that could impact communities, the OSFM relies on the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS). This system is made up of the 300+ local fire agencies across Oregon. These firefighters and equipment are mobilized under the Emergency Conflagration Act, a pre-positioning, or immediate response assignment. OFMAS is used when a fire or disaster exceeds the local fire agency's capacity.

The OSFM Engine Program is a part of the agency's Response Ready Oregon initiative, launched in 2021. The initiative is part of a multi-pronged approach to prepare, prevent, and respond to wildfires. The goal of Response Ready Oregon is to attack fires while they are small and keep them away from communities.

Award recipients will enter into a contract with the OSFM to support the OFMAS to boost local, regional, and state response. This investment into the Oregon fire service will bring more resources and the right resources to a system that is under-resourced.

In January 2023, contracts were awarded to Rosenbauer to build the water tenders and type 3 engines. Skeeter was awarded the contract to build the type 6 engines. The OSFM anticipates deliveries to begin in 2023 through the first two quarters of 2024.

Funding for the OSFM Engine Program was made possible through Senate Bill 762, Oregon's wildfire omnibus bill passed in 2021.

A list of recipients can be found here: [OSFM Engine Program](#)

OSFM READIES FOR WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH

May means Wildfire Awareness Month in Oregon. This is a time for Oregonians to think and take action as summer approaches to be better prepared for wildfire. The OSFM will launch a weeklong social media campaign during the first week of May focused on defensible space tips and what people can do to prepare their homes.

The OSFM will be sending out a social media kit to the Oregon fire service to help share that messaging. The OSFM Fire Risk Reduction specialists will be hosting a series of webinars during the month as well. A full list of topics that will be discussed and a link to attend will be posted on the OSFM's website.





OSFM AND ODF HOST WILDLAND FIRE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

In mid-March, the OSFM and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) hosted the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) in Klamath Falls.

The two-day event gave Oregon leaders the opportunity to share experiences with wildfire to leadership from various local and national agencies from across the country.

The ODF and the OSFM highlighted many steps the state has taken to rise to the challenge of wildfire, showcasing the work that went into creating the state's wildfire omnibus legislation, Senate Bill 762. The agencies also highlighted the investments made to make communities more resilient to wildfire and how response capacity is being increased statewide. The presentation included work Oregon tribes completed by treating the land with fire and resulting successes.

The Wildland Fire Leadership Council was established in April 2002 by the secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to provide an intergovernmental committee to support the implementation and coordination of federal fire management policy, adopted a vision for this century, "To safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a nation, to live with wildland fire."

The council is guided by the cohesive strategy which addresses the nation's wildfire problems by focusing on three key areas:

- Restore and Maintain Landscapes
- Fire Adapted Communities
- Response to Fire

Please visit the [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy website](#) for more information.



CODES CORNER

TEAMWORK: OPEN BURNING AND DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Open burning poses risks and can endanger the safety, health, or welfare of those near the burn site. Under Oregon Revised Statutes 478.960(1), the district fire chief has the authority to issue permits for open burning of commercial waste, demolition materials, domestic waste, industrial waste, land clearing debris, or field burning except in special control areas as defined in OAR 340-264-0100 through 340-264-0175. The 2022 Oregon Fire Code (OFC) section 307.2 outlines that the fire code official is authorized to require an “open burning” operational permit in Section 105.5.34 for the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road, or other public or private ground. Additionally, Joint Policy Bulletin No. 0005 details the collaboration of other state agencies' roles and objectives in managing open burning statewide.

To conduct an open burn, first, contact your local fire department regardless of location to determine local requirements and restrictions for open burning in their community as provisions may differ statewide.

By requiring permits for certain activities, the fire chief can ensure operations are performed safely. Communities often limit the number of permits they issue to control the amount of burning and ensure they have adequate resources available should an emergency arise.

Open burning is prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous (OFC Section 307.1.1). This empowers the fire code official to prohibit open burning when fires would be hazardous because of measurable environmental factors such as weather (wind, temperature, relative humidity) or fuel characteristics (fuel moisture content). An exception in this section allows for prescribed burning conducted to minimize the fuel load in wildland and interface areas. Such prescribed burning is a common practice done with planning and includes safeguards for proper fire control.



FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY: DEBRIS BURNING

As Oregon moves into the spring months, many homeowners and landowners may be burning yard debris. With drought across much of the state and the potential for wildfire earlier in the year, now is a good time to remind Oregonians to check burning restrictions and, if burning debris, to do it responsibly.

To avoid a fire altogether, land and homeowners can chip, compost, or haul debris to a recycling center.

CALL BEFORE YOU BURN: Burning regulations are not the same in all areas and can vary with weather and fuel conditions. If you're planning to burn, check with your local fire district, ODF district, fire protective association, or air protection authority.

KNOW THE WEATHER FORECAST: Never burn on dry or windy days.

CLEAR A 10-FOOT RADIUS AROUND YOUR PILE: Also make sure there are no tree branches or power lines above.

KEEP YOUR BURN PILE SMALL: A large burn may cast hot embers long distances. Small piles, 4x4 feet, are recommended. Add debris in small amounts as existing material is consumed.

ALWAYS HAVE WATER AND FIRE TOOLS ON SITE: When burning, have a charged water hose, bucket of water, and shovel and dirt nearby to extinguish the fire. Drown the pile with water, stir the coals, and drown again, repeating till the fire is DEAD out.

STAY WITH THE FIRE UNTIL IT IS COMPLETELY OUT: Monitoring a debris burn continually from start to finish until dead out is required by state law.

NEVER USE GASOLINE: Gas or other accelerants (flammable or combustible liquids) should not be used to start or increase open fire.

BURN ONLY YARD DEBRIS: State regulations prohibit the open burning of any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors.

ESCAPED DEBRIS BURNS ARE COSTLY: State law requires the proper clearing, building, attending, and extinguishing of open fires any time of year. A first-time citation carries a \$110 fine. If your debris burn spreads out of control, you are responsible for the cost of fire suppression and very likely the damage to neighboring properties. This can range from a few hundred to thousands of dollars.



LEGISLATIVE LOOK

The Oregon legislature continues to work through the 2023 session in Salem. This year, nearly 3,000 bills were introduced; of those, roughly 350 have the potential to impact our office or the Oregon fire service. As legislative deadlines come and go, and legislators prioritize bills, the total number of bills in play is dropping sharply.

On July 1, 2023, the OSFM will become the Department of the State Fire Marshal. With that comes a presentation of the governor's recommended budget. House Bill 5036 is the agency's budget bill. The OSFM leadership presented the budget to the legislature on April 5. The legislature will take this budget proposal, along with other agencies' proposals, and fiscal expenditures to formulate a complete legislative budget to pass in June.

House Bill 3484, an OSFM-lead bill, establishes a mobilization fund for the Oregon State Fire Marshal to pay for mobilization costs. Currently, the OSFM pays these costs out of its budget and OSP accounts and is then reimbursed through the legislature. This bill, if passed, would set aside specific funding to cover those costs.

House Bill 2426 changes how Oregonians can pump gas. The bill, if passed, would allow the option of self-serve in the state. The bill passed the House and is currently in committee in the Senate.

Senate Bill 728 would establish a tax credit for volunteer firefighters. The bill was referred to the Joint Committee on Tax Expenditures.

In this legislative session, there are numerous bills relating to wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery.

Senate Bill 80 is a multipart bill aimed at preparing communities for wildfire. Part of the bill calls for the establishment of the Wildfire Home Preparedness Program. The OSFM would work in collaboration with the Department of Consumer and Business Services to build a grant program to make buildings more resistant and resilient to wildfire. That grant program would be funded at \$10 million.

Senate Bill 509 builds on the OSFM community wildfire risk reduction program. It also directs the OSFM to create a central, user-friendly website that clearly describes all programs, grant opportunities, and citizen input processes related to reducing wildfire risk.

The OSFM will continue to share updates. When the 2023 legislative session ends in June, we'll communicate a final recap in July.



GETTING DIRTY: FIREFIGHTERS LEARN ABOUT CAUSE AND ORIGIN

The OSFM deputy state fire marshals helped lead a class on fire investigations in Grants Pass in March. The weeklong NFPA 40-hour fire investigation course gives students the tools to be able to determine cause of origin of a fire.

Students from several fire and law enforcement agencies around Oregon attended the class.

This training, which we offer at no cost to local fire agencies, included simulated scenarios so students could apply what they learned in the classroom.

A huge thanks to our partners involved in making this class happen!

NEW FIRE RISK REDUCTION SPECIALIST JOINS OSFM TEAM

Teresa Vonn joins the OSFM as a fire risk reduction specialist for District F (Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lake counties).

Teresa previously worked at Jackson County Emergency Management as the fire plan coordinator for the Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Group.

She also worked with the Department of Forestry in a variety of roles from a dispatcher to service on an IMT. Teresa was instrumental in creating partnerships in the Rogue Valley to include structural and wildland fire agencies, local governments, and community-based organizations.



LET'S TALK

SMOKE ALARMS

Working smoke alarms save lives. Every year, firefighters from across the state respond to home fires where they see the benefits of these alarms. They also see the loss of life and injuries when smoke alarms are not installed properly or have been tampered with.

Time and time again, first responders see why working smoke alarms are a must. By having working smoke alarms, people in a home or business are alerted of danger early, giving them time to escape.

This month the Oregon Life Safety Team and the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal are focusing on key messages and programs to spread the importance of having working smoke alarms. This month's Fire Safe breaks down these key messages to be shared.

One program the OSFM offers to the fire service to get properly working smoke alarms into more homes is the Smoke Alarm Installation Program. The goal is to increase early detection in unprotected homes.

Through this program, our office encourages partners to plan and participate in smoke alarm installation events or campaigns, targeting areas of the community with a need. These events are also an opportunity to increase prevention education efforts through home safety checks and build community connections between fire service and the people living in their service area.

For more information, please contact the [Fire Prevention Education Unit](#).



SOUND THE ALARM CAMPAIGN SEES STATEWIDE SUCCESS

The Sound the Alarm campaign in March made more than 360 homes safer by installing brand-new smoke alarms at no cost. The OSFM and local fire agencies are a partner with the Red Cross Cascades Region in the campaign that has installed more than 38,000 smoke alarms since the program began.

During March, several installation events were held across Oregon. In Aloha, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, the American Red Cross, and the OSFM installed nearly 150 smoke alarms in 100 homes.

In Pendleton, Pendleton Fire & Ambulance, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Pendleton Lions Club, and volunteers installed more than 100 smoke alarms.

Throughout March, the Red Cross Cascades says the campaign served 1,032 people, installed 666 smoke alarms, and made 362 households safer. Learn more [about the program here](#).



WELCOME JENNIE SAMSON TO THE OSFM TEAM

We welcomed Facilities Coordinator Jennie Samson to our business services team last month. Jennie worked with ODOT for more than 16 years, most recently as a building technical lead, responsible for the ODOT TLC building and materials lab. She maintains a Building Operations Level 1 certification.

Jennie was born in Newport and grew up logging and farming. Jennie has lived in Oregon, Alaska, Canada, and Montana. Jennie is the proud mother of four children, 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Her hobbies include furniture flipping, gardening, fishing, hunting, and playing with her grandchildren.



CORVALLIS WELCOMES NEW ENGINE WITH OLD TRADITION

Corvallis Fire made it official in March as the department welcomed a new engine with a push-in ceremony. What makes this engine special is a bell to honor the traditions of the past and remember those who are serving today.

During the March 9 ceremony, Retiree Captain Bill Albright shared the history of the bell in the fire service.

Members who retire from Corvallis Fire Department will have their names engraved on the bell of the engine they served on. Once the bell is full of names, it will be moved into the station to be on display to honor those who served.



IT DEPARTMENT WELCOMES MIKE PARGETER

Mike Pargeter joined the OSFM IT department. Mike was born and raised in Anchorage, AK, and moved to Salem to attend Corban University where he received a bachelor's degree in education.

Mike started with Oregon State Police in 2016 until joining the OSFM. Most of Mike's free time is spent with his seven-month-old daughter Zoey. She takes up a lot of time and he loves every minute of it. Mike enjoys going on adventures with his family around Oregon, Washington, and back in his home state of Alaska.



NEWS FROM D.C.: CONGRESS DISCUSSING SAFER, AFG GRANTS

The U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs passed the Fire Grants and Safety Act to reauthorize federal grant programs designed to increase firefighter staffing and purchase vital equipment.

Those grants include the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant and the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG).

The AFG and SAFER grants are each funded at \$360 million annually. More than 2,700 AFG grants – totaling \$567.6 million – for apparatus, PPE, and training were awarded to IAFF affiliates between 2018 and 2021. More than 450 SAFER grants adding up to more than \$1 billion were awarded to affiliates for hiring and maintaining existing personnel.

The legislation also would ensure the United States Fire Administration (USFA) is maintained. The USFA announced plans to use its position to address the nation's fire problem and develop a national fire strategy.

The bill's chief sponsor and chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI), says Congress needs to swiftly come together and vote in favor of the Fire Grants and Safety Act.

"Fire stations rely on federal grant programs for the resources and tools they need to protect people across the nation," said Peters. "Congress must pass this legislation to extend these programs that ensure brave and courageous firefighters can safely protect communities from fires and other emergencies."

The legislation now moves to the Senate for consideration.



FROM THE INTERNET: GONE TO THE GOATS

Jefferson County has gone to the goats...all in the name of wildfire readiness. The weed abatement team employed by the city of Madras, Jefferson County Fire-EMS, and the Oregon Department of Forestry were set up and hard at work along the Willow Creek Trail near "B" and 1st streets.

This is a test program and with success, the agencies say they will use the program for future projects. ***SEE THE POST***

FROM THE INTERNET: MAYDAY, MAYDAY

In mid-March, firefighters from Vale Fire and Ambulance trained on mayday incidents and fire scene emergencies with DPSST fire service training personnel.

The no-cost training is offered to local fire agencies throughout Oregon. Check out the rest of their training pictures here. ***CHECK OUT THE POST***





OSFM CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

LEGAL AND RISK MANAGER

APPLICATION ARCHITECT – LEAD WORK

SYSTEM ARCHITECT - LEAD WORK

DATA ARCHITECT

APPLICATION ADMINISTRATOR

SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

EQUITY & INCLUSION MANAGER

STEVE MCILNAY JOINS THE OSFM

Steve McIlnay joins the OSFM as a computer support analyst. Steve has been working for the state of Oregon since 1997, starting as a contractor for the Oregon Employment Department, which eventually led him to the Oregon State Police.

Before going into information technology, Steve worked a variety of jobs including building communication towers, working at a sheet metal shop, retail store, bowling alley mechanic, and even a dishwasher at a restaurant.

Steve grew up around Aumsville, Oregon, and attended Chemeketa Community College for computer science. He enjoys relaxing with family, camping, fishing, metal fabrication, welding, and PC and console gaming with his kids.



SAVE THE DATE

Oregon Fire Service Presentation:
Defensible Space Assessment Program
April 18, 2023

State Fire Defense Board Meeting
April 24, 2023
Bend, Oregon



Contact Us

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

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