



OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

DECEMBER 2022

**REAL TREE?
KEEP IT WATERED.**



'tis the season
FOR FIRE SAFETY



FIRE SAFETY IN FOCUS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

'Tis the season for fire safety is the message from the Office of State Fire Marshal this winter.

Each year, firefighters across the state respond to fires sparked by space heaters, overloaded electrical outlets, candle misuse, and dried-out Christmas trees.

There are a few simple things Oregonians can do during the holiday season to stay safe and avoid sparking a fire.

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OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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'TIS THE SEASON FOR FIRE SAFETY

The winter months are prime for holiday cheer and time with family, but they also come with a greater risk of fires inside the home.

According to FEMA, Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires each year across the U.S. Typically, shorts in electrical lights or open flames from candles, lighters, or matches start tree fires.

From 2016-2020, 19% of home decoration fires in Oregon were started by candles. In December, that number increased slightly to 22%. 44% of decoration fires started by candles occurred in November, December, and January.

The peak month for home cooking fires in Oregon is December. The average number of monthly cooking fires for January-November is 76. In December, that number jumps dramatically to a total of 112, 32% higher than the other months.

These stats highlight the importance of fire safety during the winter months and taking extra precautions around holiday festivities.



WINTER FIRE SAFETY CHECK THE LIST & CHECK IT TWICE

- Test and ensure your smoke and CO alarms are working correctly.
- If your plans involve a holiday tree, choose one with fresh, deep-green color and flexible needles.
- Remember to water your tree daily — a tree may consume between a quart and a gallon of water per day.
- Be sure you have at least three feet between your holiday tree and any heating source.
- Ensure the tree is not blocking an exit and that the decorations you use are flame-resistant and flame-retardant.
- Always unplug tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Check your holiday lights before displaying them; inspect them each year for frayed wires, bare spots, and broken or cracked sockets.
- Avoid overloading electrical sockets. Do not link more than three light strands, unless the manufacturer's instructions indicate it is safe.
- Candles should be placed in a sturdy candle holder.
- Handheld candles should not be passed from one person to another at any time.
- Lit candles should not be placed in windows where a blind or curtain could catch fire.
- Candles placed on or near tables, altars, or shrines must be watched by an adult.
- If a candle must burn continuously, be sure it is enclosed in a glass container and placed on a metal tray or in a deep basin filled with water.

CODES CORNER

EXTREME HEAT

From the moment a spark ignites a dry Christmas tree, it can take only a matter of minutes before toxic, poisonous smoke and scorching heat fill a room, igniting everything in it. Seconds later, the fire can travel throughout the building, blocking escape paths. The 2022 Oregon Fire Code (OFC), Section 806, addresses fire hazards posed by vegetation within a building, primarily fresh Christmas trees. Natural cut trees pose a significant fire threat to occupants if they're not properly cared for. Because of symmetric tree grooming, the large area of foliage, and the amount of airspace throughout the branches, fires have the potential to burn efficiently and vigorously if the tree is dry.



According to the latest National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) winter holiday fire data, 160 home structure fires began with Christmas trees, resulting in two civilian deaths, 12 civilian injuries, and \$10 million in direct property damage on average each year between 2015-2019. Overall, fires that begin with Christmas trees represent a small but notable part of the U.S. fire problem considering they are in use for a short time each year.

The moisture content of each tree can play a dominant role in the fire hazard it represents. Properly maintaining a cut Christmas tree is important to retaining a high moisture content in the tree needles to limit accidental ignition and prevent rapid flame spread. A tree with dry needles can readily ignite with a flaming source and generate heat release rates that can cause flashover in residential-scale rooms.

For more than 20 years, the Office of State Fire Marshal has provided Technical Advisory No. 22-09, Holiday Décor and Fire Safety Guidelines, a document providing additional guidance on the use of decorative items during holiday seasons. This [document](#), in conjunction with OFC Section 806, provides practical guidance for fire safety.

1. See NFPA News and Research Publication Winter Holiday Fire Data, January 2, 2022



KEEP IT COZY WITH HOME HEATING SAFETY

With the winter months upon the state of Oregon, many are turning up thermostats and looking to home heating options. The OSFM offers the following tips to avoid sparking an unintended fire.

- Use heating equipment with the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Keep things that can burn, such as paper, curtains, bedding, or furniture, at least three feet away from all heating equipment, including fireplaces, wood stoves, and pellet stoves.
- Use newer, portable space heaters with an automatic shut-off, so they will shut off if they're tipped over. Clean them each year before using and check for product recalls.
- Unplug portable space heaters when not in use, before going to bed, or when leaving the room.
- Make sure fuel-burning heaters are designed for indoor use and are properly ventilated.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected at least once a year by a qualified professional.
- With wood stoves and fireplaces, burn only dry, seasoned wood. In pellet stoves, burn only dry, seasoned pellets.
- Place ashes in a metal container, soak with water, and keep them at least 10 feet away from the home or anything that can burn. Dispose of the ash only after it is cool.

RING IN THE NEW YEAR KEEP IT LEGAL KEEP IT SAFE

At the end of this month, we will be saying so long 2022, hello 2023! With that comes New Year celebrations and a reminder to be safe if fireworks are in your calendar page-turning celebrations.

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal would like to remind people who choose to use fireworks to do so safely. Please help share our message about fireworks safety.

- **BE Prepared:** Before lighting fireworks: keep water available by using a garden hose or bucket.
- **BE Safe:** When lighting fireworks: keep children and pets away from fireworks.
- **BE Responsible:** After lighting fireworks: never relight a dud. Please wait 15 to 20 minutes, then soak it in a bucket of water before disposal.
- **BE Aware:** Use only legal fireworks and use them only in legal places.



PLEASE WELCOME JEFF NELSON TO THE OSFM

Jeff Nelson joined the OSFM at the end of November as a procurement and contracts specialist. Jeff previously worked for the Department of Corrections and Department of Revenue.

He served three years in the U.S. Army 18th Airborne Corps. and has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Metropolitan State College of Denver.

Jeff moved to Oregon 18 years ago and has called this great stat home ever since. When he is not chasing his five grandchildren around the farm, you can find him tending the garden.



OSFM RESPONDS TO GRASS VALLEY HAZMAT INCIDENT

Two of the OSFM's Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams were called to help following a fire at a hemp plant in Grass Valley in November.

The fire sparked on November 20 and quickly consumed the plant. Because of some chemicals on site, there was concern they may explode. The town of Grass Valley was asked to evacuate. Highway 97 was also closed for a time.

At the time of the fire, the Sherman County Sheriff's Office reported the building was consumed by fire and several small explosions were heard. The sheriff's office also reported that several employees were injured in the fire.

Two of the OSFM's regional hazmat teams, HM10 Hermiston and HM03 Gresham/Multnomah, responded. The teams worked with the local fire district on how best to manage the fire with the presence of hazardous materials. Once the fire was out, the teams assessed to ensure no chemicals were leaking into the environment. After further monitoring showed no further danger of hazardous materials, the scene was turned over to OSFM investigators and DEQ.

The OSFM deputy state fire marshals conducted the fire's origin and cause investigation. The incident remains under investigation and a final report has not yet been released.

The OSFM administers a statewide hazmat response program. There are 13 teams across the state ready to respond. Regional teams respond to hazardous materials emergency incidents that exceed the resources of local jurisdictions. Team members attend a minimum of 160 hours of specialized training to become hazardous materials technicians. Technician training in Oregon is standardized, ensuring all team members have the same basic training. Team members are required to take annual refresher training and must complete the Oregon Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams Task Book every two years.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RHMERT PROGRAM HERE](#)

Pictures Courtesy: Sherman County Sheriff's Office



2022 WILDFIRE SEASON

BY THE NUMBERS

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal tallied up the stats from the 2022 wildfire season. We are proud of the great work accomplished by the Oregon fire service and the OSFM incident management teams. The OSFM extends deep appreciation to those who stepped up to help their fellow Oregonians safe this summer.

CONFLAGRATIONS



1. MILLER ROAD FIRE (WASCO CO.)
2. RUM CREEK FIRE (JOSEPHINE CO.)
3. DOUBLE CREEK FIRE (WALLOWA CO.)
4. STURGILL FIRE (WALLOWA CO.)
5. CEDAR CREEK FIRE (LANE CO.)

**TOTAL
CONFLAGRATION COST:**
\$12.9M

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE & PRE-POSITIONING

In 2022, the OSFM mobilized resources to six pre-positioning assignment. Resources were also mobilized through Immediate Response on 12 incidents across Oregon.



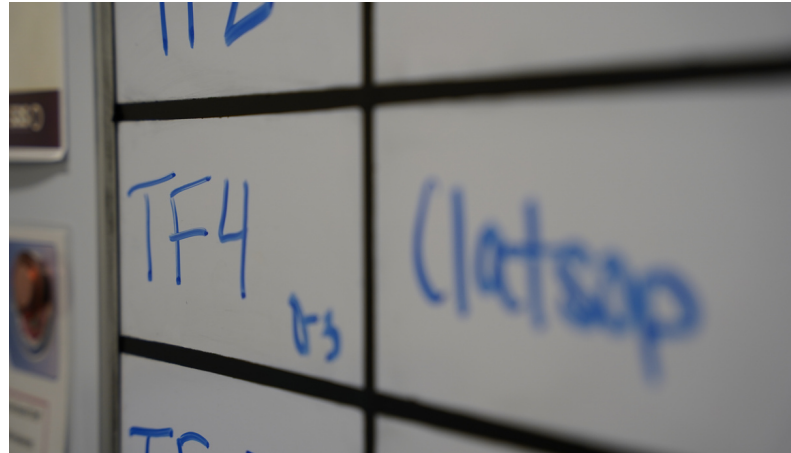
📍 PRE-POSITIONING ASSIGNMENT
📍 IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

**TOTAL
IR & PRE-PO COST:**
\$1.28M

2022 WILDFIRE SEASON

BY THE NUMBERS

Throughout the 2022 wildfire season, the OSFM Agency Operations Center (AOC), staffed by the OSFM staff members outside of their normal job duties, worked **152 shifts**. The AOC is activated and staffed 24 hours a day while the OSFM has resources mobilized to an incident. These team members help to move resources and fill requests of the task forces and incident management teams. Below are the 2022 mobilization stats.



MOBILIZATION STATS

42 OFMAS Task Forces
4 OFMAS Strike Teams
3 California Strike Teams
3 Washington Task Forces
3 OFMAS Strike Teams to California
McKinney Fire

THANK YOU TO THE AGENCIES THAT SUPPORT THE OSFM IMT PROGRAM

LEBANON FD
KEIZER FIRE DIST
FOREST GROVE F&R
CLACKAMAS CO FIRE DIST #1
PORTLAND FIRE & RESCUE
JEFFERSON CO RFPD #1
BEND FD
MOLALLA RFPD #73
EUGENE SPRINGFIELD FIRE
MCKENZIE F&R
GRESHAM FIRE & EMERG SRVCS
GATES RFPD
HILLSBORO FIRE DEPT
WESTPORT-WAUNA RFPD
ALBANY FIRE DEPT
DEPOE BAY RFPD
NAPPA-SVENSEN-BURNSIDE RFPD
WASHINGTON COUNTY

CROOKED RIVER RANCH RFPD
COLUMBIA RIVER F&R
WOODBURN FIRE DIST
JACKSON CO RFPD #5
DUNDEE FIRE DEPT
CRESCENT RFPD
SW POLK CO RFPD
HALSEY-SHEDD RFPD
MARION CO RFPD #1
HUBBARD RFPD
SCIO RFPD
SWEET HOME FIRE & AMB DIST
TUALATIN VALLEY F&R
SUTHERLIN FIRE DEPT
MEDFORD F&R
PLEASANT HILL RFPD
KENO RFPD
ESTACADA RFD #69

NEWPORT FIRE DEPT
IDANHA-DETROIT RFPD
UPPER MCKENZIE RFPD
SOUTH LANE COUNTY F&R
SEASIDE F&R
EUGENE CITY OF
SCAPPOOSE RFPD
GRAND RONDE DEPARTMENT
OF EMERG SERVICES
SILVERTON RFPD
HILLSBORO FIRE & RESCUE
LAKE CO SHERIFFS OFFICE
SWEET HOME FIRE & AMB DIST
KLAMATH CO FIRE DIST #1
LAKE OSWEGO FIRE DEPT
CORVALLIS FIRE DEPT



OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OSFM INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAMS RECRUITMENT

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal administers three **all-hazard** incident management teams with members from the structural fire service. The teams mobilize primarily to fire incidents threatening lives and structures and also manage a variety of other incidents.

2023 SEASON OPEN RECRUITMENT

RECRUITMENT OPENS NOVEMBER 15, 2022.
ALL APPLICATIONS DUE BY 5 P.M. DECEMBER 31, 2022.

The OSFM is seeking applications from qualified individuals or trainee qualified for the following positions:

- Incident Safety Officer
- Line Safety Officer
- Public Information Officer
- Division/Group Supervisor
- Logistics Section Chief
- Communication Tech
- Resource Unit Leader
- GISS
- Situation Unit Leader

APPLICATIONS FOR ALL POSITIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND REVIEWED.

Applicants who do not meet the qualification criteria will not be accepted.

All applicants are asked to submit:

- Application signed by your chief officer
- Letter of intent to include a summary of conflagration and incident management experience
- Two professional references

The recruitment process is selective. Applicants, their provided references, and/or others within the applicant's agency may be contacted by the OSFM staff, incident commanders, and/or IMT section chiefs during the selection process. Applicants should be expected to be interviewed.

Please send completed applications and required materials to:

valerie.abrahamson@osp.oregon.gov

Team members are expected to be available to respond during their team's on-call rotations and remain at an incident for up to 14 days. Team members should be prepared to be logistically self-sufficient for 72 hours.

Team members should have the full support of their sponsoring agencies to participate in training, section working groups, and the annual conference. Team members should have access to an agency command vehicle for deployments. It is the expectation of the OSFM and the incident commanders that all team members provide the highest level of customer service to all involved and impacted by an incident. Team members represent their home agency and the state of Oregon and are expected to act professionally.

ENGINE PROGRAM UPDATE

The OSFM is making progress as it works to roll out a new engine program to boost capacity across Oregon.

On October 28, 2022, the application period closed. The office received a tremendous response from the fire service who sent in applications.

The next step for the program comes in January when the scoring committee will review the applications received. The OSFM anticipates announcing awards in February. Applicants will receive a supplemental questionnaire.

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 timeline for delivery has not yet been established because chassis are on backorder. The OSFM anticipates some deliveries to begin in 2023 through the first two quarters of 2024.

The OSFM Engine Program is part of the agency's Response Ready Oregon initiative. The initiative was created to help bolster capacity and modernize wildfire response within the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS). The goal of Response Ready Oregon is to attack fires while they are small and keep them away from communities.



CAPACITY GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION PERIOD CLOSES

The window to submit applications for the Oregon Fire Service Capacity program closed on November 30. The OSFM would like to thank all of those who applied.

The next step in the process is the applications will be reviewed by a selection committee. The OSFM received more applications than anticipated and is evaluating a review timeline with the review committee.

The grant is for small- to medium-sized fire agencies that need an increase in permanent firefighting and fire prevention staff. The goal is to increase capacity across the state to attack fires while they are small and give communities the prevention resources to prevent fires from starting or from becoming severe.



Pictures Courtesy: Lafayette Volunteer Fire Department

CHIEF TERRY LUCICH RETIRES AFTER 50 YEARS IN FIRE SERVICE

In November, Lafayette Volunteer Fire Department Chief Terry Lucich hung up his turnouts after 50 years in the fire service.

Chief Lucich was a staple at Lafayette Fire, having served the department and the city since 1997.

Lucich began his career as a student sleeper in 1972 at McMinnville Fire.

He was honored at a ceremony on November 30. The OSFM would like to congratulate Chief Lucich on his retirement and thank him for his five decades of service.





TWO OSFM TEAM MEMBERS SWORN IN IN NOVEMBER

On November 21, the OSFM made it official! The office held a swearing-in ceremony for Sean Condon and Rich Holloway. Sean was promoted to supervising deputy state fire marshal. Sean joins the OSFM as a deputy state fire marshal for Douglas County.

Congratulations to both!

OSFM WELCOMES NEW LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR



Adam Meyer joined the OSFM with more than a decade of experience with legislative, policy, management, and budget-related issues. Adam has a bachelor's degree from Willamette University and a law degree from Lewis and Clark. He volunteered as an EMT and on IMTs, teaching youth outdoor education, working on policy with the legislature and state agencies, helping dozens of nonprofits with state natural

resource budget issues, and running for public office. In Washington, D.C., Adam worked on transportation, energy, natural resources, and community issues in Congress and at Transportation for America, The National Complete Streets Coalition, the Pew Charitable Trusts, and America Walks. Adam ran across the U.S. to search for ways to connect individuals, support communities, and encourage improvements to our public systems. An Oregon native, Adam spends his free time enjoying Oregon's natural beauty, Portland's vibrant culture, engaging in the community, hammering out home remodels, and traveling. He lives in Portland with his fiancé, dog, and cat.

FROM THE INTERNET: MEDFORD FIRE TRAINING

Medford Fire and Providence Medford trained in a unique way in November. They participated in an emergency response drill at Providence Medford Medical Center with our partners from Mercy Flights and RVTB.

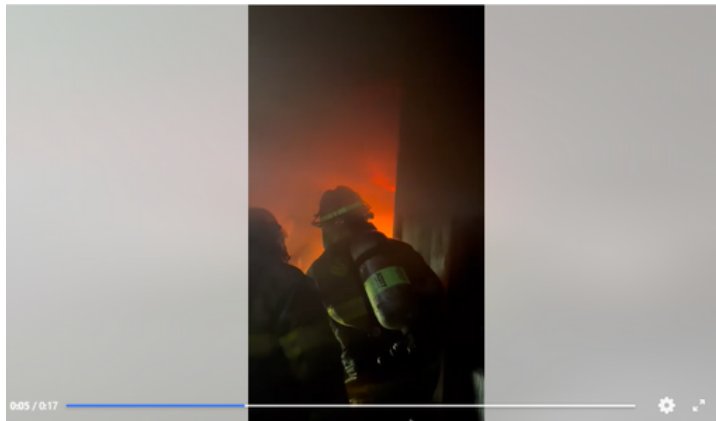
The training scenario was a plane crash on the roof of the hospital.

Opportunities like this give us a chance to further build relationships with our community partners and increase our emergency response preparedness. Thank you to everyone who participated in today's event!

[CHECK OUT THE POST HERE.](#)



FROM THE INTERNET: LIVE FIRE WITH BOARDMAN



Check out this video from Boardman Fire. Volunteer firefighter training in November focused on testing their skills and knowledge under fire conditions in a building. In this controlled fire training exercise, the firefighters were able to study, learn, and understand fire behavior. Structural firefighting is a high-risk, low-frequency incident. Fortunately, BFRD has live fire training props to practice and improve our skills when the call comes in. [CHECK OUT THE VIDEO.](#)



FROM THE INTERNET: NEHALEM'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Nehalem Bay Fire and Rescue made it Facebook official, and reader board official in November. The agency welcomed a new engine to the station with a rather creative announcement. [CHECK OUT THE POST HERE.](#)



WELCOME SCOTT MANNING

Scott Manning joined the OSFM on November 15 as a compliance specialist III, healthcare surveyor. Scott has more than 18 years in public safety. He worked for OSP since 2019, providing operational and administrative oversight of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Act Record Improvement Program (NARIP) grant. He also worked for the Oregon Military Department, providing regulatory guidance and program management for environmental compliance programs involving the Clean Air Act, the Spills Prevention Countermeasure and Control Program, and restoration programs. He inspected facilities and ensured regulatory requirements were maintained. In Nevada, he was a Washoe County deputy sheriff and a police officer for the City of Reno. He has a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of Oregon, a master's degree in criminology from Boston University, and a master's degree in criminal science from the University of Nevada-Reno.

OSFM CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL - MULTIPLE OPENINGS

The Office of State Fire Marshal is hiring multiple full-time, permanent deputy state fire marshal positions throughout the state with each position located in a different district. This recruitment may be extended or used to fill future vacancies and locations based on agency need and approval.

FIRE RISK REDUCTION SPECIALIST, REGION F

Are you a collaborative communicator with a dedication to fire safety? Are you excited by the prospect of working with fire safety groups throughout the state to enhance the safety of all people of Oregon? The OSFM is hiring for one full-time, permanent fire risk reduction specialist. This is an in-state remote work position that will serve Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, and Lake counties.

HAZMAT PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Are you prepared to lead the state's hazmat response and preparedness efforts? The OSFM in Salem, OR is hiring for one full-time, permanent hazmat program coordinator position! The hazmat program coordinator is directly responsible for administering the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams and OSFM's hazardous materials by rail work to strengthen the OSFM's ability to protect Oregon from hazardous materials.



Contact Us

Have an idea for a story or subject you would like to know more about?

Alison Green, public affairs director

Alison.Green@osp.oregon.gov

Kassie Keller, public affairs specialist

Kassondra.Keller@osp.oregon.gov

John Hendricks, public affairs specialist

Johnathan.Hendricks@osp.oregon.gov

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