



OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

FEBRUARY 2023

THE BRIGHT IDEA IS FIRE SAFETY



IN FOCUS: ELECTRICAL FIRE SAFETY IN FEBRUARY

Each year in Oregon, firefighters across the state respond to home fires that are sparked by electrical issues.

To help prevent these types of fires, the OSFM is urging fire safety and prevention around electrical fires in February. The OSFM has robust library of resources to help share these messages.

[READ MORE ON PG. 2](#)

OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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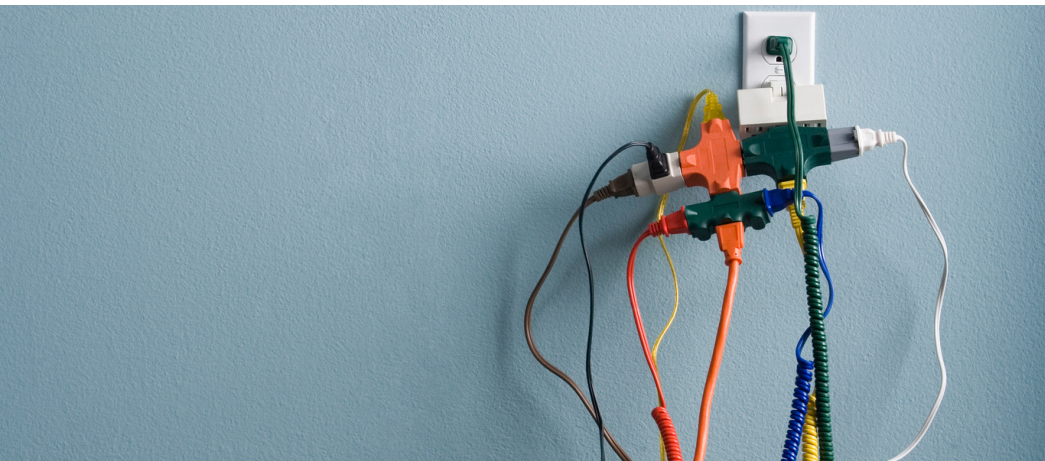
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THE BRIGHT IDEA IS FIRE SAFETY IN FEBRUARY

In February, the OSFM is focused on promoting electrical fire safety. Each year in Oregon, firefighters are called to home fires sparked by an electrical issue. There are simple things Oregonians can do to reduce their risk and increase their safety from an electrical fire.

- Avoid pinching cords between walls and furniture.
- Do not run electrical cords under carpets or across doorways.
- Avoid electrical overload.
- Consider having an electrician install additional wall outlets where you need them and add a breaker if needed.
- Electrical work should be done by a qualified professional.
- Read the manufacturer's instructions before operating any electrical or heating equipment or appliances.
- Replace items (appliances) with cracked or damaged electrical cords, broken plugs, or loose connections.
- Plug appliances (portable space heaters, refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, etc.) directly into a wall outlet and never into a power strip or extension cord. Extension cords are for temporary use only.
- Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home (including the basement), inside each bedroom, and in the hallway outside each bedroom.
- Make sure you have working carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home with bedrooms, inside each bedroom, and in the hallway outside each bedroom.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The OSFM has additional fire prevention education resources available on its website.

The OSFM has developed the FireSafe messaging guide. Each month is broken down by week, with specific messaging for that month's theme. You can find the [FireSafe guides here](#).

In January, the OSFM celebrated and shared messaging about Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Week. The OSFM's campaign was focused on three areas: cooking fire safety, home heating fire safety, and fires in the wildland-urban interface. A special section was developed on the website that includes a guide for how the Oregon fire service can start their own CRR Week campaign. [Check the page out here](#).

The office also has an updated [trainings page](#) for those wishing to learn more about educating on specific fire prevention topics.



KELLIE NELSON REMEMBERED

On December 30, 2022, Oregon lost a member of its firefighting family. Kellie Nelson and two others were killed in a car crash near Heppner.

Nelson was a volunteer firefighter at the 22-member Heppner Fire Department. Chief Steve Rhea spoke with the local TV station,

KNDU in Tri-Cities. He told the news outlet at weekly drills, Nelson held the second-highest attendance. He said it didn't matter if it was day or night, if she wasn't working, she was there. Rhea told the station she logged 205 calls in 2022.

As Nelson's family, the Heppner Fire Department, and the community continue to mourn the loss of Kellie, the OSFM staff and the Oregon fire service stand side by side as they work through this trying time.

GOV. KATE BROWN VISITS OSFM DURING FINAL WEEK IN OFFICE

In her final week as governor, Oregon Governor Kate Brown stopped by the OSFM headquarters in January to thank staff for all of their work over the last eight years.





ENGINE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO MOVE FOWARD

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal is making progress in rolling out the Engine Program. Responses to the supplemental questionnaire for engine program applicants were due January 17.

The Engine Program advisory group is set to meet this spring to begin initial scoring and make recommendations on apparatus placement. The OSFM hired an Engine Program coordinator who will move this program forward. Applicants can expect to hear from Chad Montoya soon.

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. Visit the [OSFM Engine Program](#) page to learn more.



OREGON MOBILIZATION PLAN REVIEW

The 2023 Mobilization Plan committee has begun meeting to discuss any changes ahead of the 2024 wildfire season.

If anyone has topics for the committee to discuss or consider, please contact a committee member or the OSFM Agency Mobilization Coordinator [Jamie Kometz](#).

The committee chairs are Roger Johnson and Ian Yocum. The committee members are Greg Davis, Scott Goff, Mike Hussey, and Chad Minter.

No significant operational changes are expected for the 2023 plan, though the committee is reviewing apparatus rates with competitors.

Based on the plan, volunteer rates will increase based on CPI for this year with a full review of methodology and rates prior to the 2024 season.



CHAD MONTOYA JOINS THE OSFM TEAM AS ENGINE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Chad Montoya joined the OSFM as the Engine Program coordinator. He previously worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry as the district business operations manager for the North Cascade District. He also worked as ODF's central motor pool operations manager. Chad spent the last few years on ODF's incident management teams in logistics as ground support unit leader, equipment manager, and ordering manager.

Chad graduated from Western Oregon University with a business management degree.

Chad lives in Scio with his wife and three daughters. They enjoy taking adventures any chance they get, especially outdoors with friends and family.

TASK FORCE LEADER SYMPOSIUM SET FOR MAY 15 - 16

The OSFM will host a task force leader symposium on May 15-16 in Central Oregon, the first symposium since 2019. As a reminder, the intended audience is task force leaders, assistants, and those who intend to fill this role in 2023.

The event will start Monday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m. and end Tuesday, May 16 at 3 p.m.

The mobilization program's success relies on task force leaders to serve as exactly that, leaders to the personnel they supervise. The OSFM would like to thank Oregon's task force leaders for their dedication and recognize their time commitment during and outside of incident response. While the symposium does not provide a certification, it is an excellent opportunity to learn tricks of the trade and increase proficiency.

If you are not currently in our fire chief or task force leader email list and would like to be notified when registration opens, please contact Agency Mobilization Coordinator Jamie.Kometz@osp.oregon.gov.



SESSIONS INCLUDE:

- OPERATIONS – HOT TOPICS AND EXPECTATIONS
- PLACARDING
- LOGISTICS & RADIOS
- ELECTRONIC TRIAGE TOOLS & MAPPING
- FIRE SEASON FORECAST
- INCIDENT WITHIN AN INCIDENT/8-LINE INCIDENT MEDICAL RESPONSE
- PUBLIC INFORMATION

WELCOME TO THE OSFM TEAM ELSA HERNANDEZ

Elsa Hernandez joins the OSFM as a licensing representative for the Regulatory Services Division. Elsa has been helping Oregonians for 15 years working with the state, most of that time through Oregon State Police, and some time with the Secretary of State. At OSP, she spent eight years in the Training Section at DPSST, six years in the Sex Offender Registry Section, and more recently in the Computerized Criminal History Section. Elsa was in the Corporate Division at the Secretary of State.



HAZMAT BY RAIL REPORT RELEASED

Gov. Kate Brown signed legislation in 2015 relating to the safe transport of hazardous materials by rail. The changed Oregon Revised Statutes 453.307 to 453.414 relating to the safe transport of hazardous materials by directing the Office of State Fire Marshal to coordinate training, preparedness, and response planning activities with a specific focus on oil or hazardous materials spills or releases that occur during rail transport.

In part, this law mandates the OSFM to adopt by administrative rule (837-120-0520) a plan for the coordinated response to oil or hazardous material spills or releases that occur during rail transport, identify response resources (existing and needed), and coordinate training for emergency responders.

The report, prepared by the OSFM for the Oregon State Legislature, highlights activities completed in 2022 for emergency planning and training and community outreach activities. The document also summarizes the OSFM's resource coordination, information-sharing activities, and plans for the coming year. A copy of the full report is available on the [OSFM website](#).



2022 ANNUAL REPORT
**HAZMAT BY RAIL
PROGRAM**
FEBRUARY // 2023



KYLE STUART JOINS THE OSFM

Kyle Stuart joined the OSFM, filling the District 19 (Gilliam/Morrow/Umatilla) deputy state fire marshal position. Kyle was born and raised in Pilot Rock, OR, and moved to Salem to attend Chemeketa Community College's fire program. After he received a degree in fire prevention and a short internship with Keizer Fire Department, he was hired by Gresham Fire Department where he remained for eight years as a deputy fire marshal.

He has numerous certifications in fire prevention, investigation, and code enforcement. In his free time, he likes kayaking, fishing, hunting, hiking, and most other outdoor activities. He looks forward to working with everyone at the OSFM and starting a new chapter in his life as he returns to the area he grew up.

CODES CORNER

WORKING ON PLANS OF COOPERATION WITH THE OSFM

Fire agencies across Oregon share a requirement to maintain fire and life safety standards in their jurisdiction through interpretation, inspection, and enforcement of the Oregon Fire Code.

ORS 476.060 requires fire marshals, or the fire chief in smaller fire departments, to inspect buildings and their premises. A fire department's inspection program must have a written plan that describes the type and frequency of inspections it will conduct (OAR 837-039-0080).

Oregon is nearly 100,000 square miles and protected by more than 300 fire agencies whose size and structure are as diverse as the state itself. For many agencies, their fire prevention capabilities are more than the minimum required while others are unable to meet that goal and look to the OSFM to assist them.

Our 22 deputy state fire marshals (DSFMs) and three supervising deputy state fire marshals (SDSFMs) throughout the state assist fire departments to determine their level of service so they can complete their written plans. DSFMs also help determine if the local fire department's fire prevention program areas need assistance. **(CONTINUED PAGE 9)**



Deputy Shannon Miller recently met with Newport Fire Chief Rob Murphy to review the plan of cooperation.

CODES CORNER (CONT)

WORKING ON PLANS OF COOPERATION WITH THE OSFM

Each DSFM will visit the fire agency in their district and together will complete a plan of cooperation (POC). First used in 2016-17, each POC has four fire prevention program areas including:

- Fire origin and cause investigations
- Fire inspections and fire code adoption
- Plans review input on new construction
- Fire inspection and investigation training

POCs are not a contract or agreement; they are a collaborative tool to identify the fire agency's and DSFM's needs and priorities within the communities they serve.

In general, a fire agency can select one of three options in each program area, depending on their capability to provide service.

- Option one is selected by fire jurisdictions with the resources and competence to administer full services without any assistance from the local DSFM.
- Option two is selected by agencies with a limited ability to perform the practices without state assistance.
- Option three is for agencies that may not have that prevention program and will rely heavily on the OSFM's support.

The DSFM will review each POC every three years in line with the new edition of the Oregon Fire Code or sooner if the local fire department has a change in fire prevention leadership.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal is here to support our local fire agencies and help reduce fire and life safety risks across Oregon.

AUBRIE KRAUSE JOINS OSFM TEAM AS DISTRICT 12 DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Aubrie Krause joins the OSFM from the Las Cruces New Mexico Fire Department, where she worked as a firefighter/paramedic/fire investigator.

Most of her life revolved around the fire service and serving the community; she began as a volunteer firefighter at 16 for her local county. She was a paramedic for 12 years, a firefighter for nine years, and served Las Cruces as a fire investigator and fire inspector for the last four years.

She is excited to move to Brookings with her husband, son, and daughter. Aubrie is passionate about fire prevention and is looking forward to working with the Curry County community.





FROM THE INTERNET: BEND FIRE & RESCUE

Cold temps and a frozen pond: the perfect time to practice ice rescues. In early January, Bend firefighters were at Discovery Park in Northwest Crossing training for ice rescues.

Ice rescues, while infrequent in Central Oregon, are highly dangerous and require specialized training, protective clothing, and equipment. There is no such thing as a "standard" ice rescue; each operation requires a plan based on the environment, ice thickness, water current, and other factors.

Bend Fire and Rescue offers safety tips for ice. [Check out their post.](#)

FROM THE INTERNET: ROPES AND LADDERS

The Applegate Valley Fire District held its fire academy. Part of the training in January focused on how to tie various knots used for rescues, tool hoisting, and general use. Recruits also learned to carry, raise, and work from ladders.

[Check out their post and follow the training!](#)



FROM THE INTERNET: PF&R TO THE RESCUE



A pup in Portland found itself in a bit of a predicament, stuck in a six-inch pipe. First responders from Portland Fire and Rescue were called to the scene of a small dog that entered an exposed 6" pipe and crawled out of arms reach. After using an underground camera system to locate the dog and trying many ways to coax him back out, they dug and cut into the pipe to gain access. A few hours later, dog and owner were reunited.

Check out the rest of the [rescue pictures here.](#)

NOMINATIONS FOR SPARKY AWARDS NOW BEING ACCEPTED



The Office of State Fire Marshal is accepting nominations for the 2022 Golden and Silver Sparky Awards.

The Golden Sparky recognizes a fire service member or fire agency for outstanding fire prevention or public safety education achievement. The Silver Sparky recognizes a civilian or civilian agency for outstanding achievement in fire prevention or public safety education.

Nominations are open until April 3. Please submit your nomination form with an explanation and examples of your nominee's achievements. [Nomination forms can be found here.](#)

For more information, contact OSFM public affairs at OSFM.PublicAffairs@osp.oregon.gov



PLEASE WELCOME LAUREN BOWDEN THE OSFM TEAM

The OSFM welcomed Lauren Bowden to help with our agency transition and information technology tasks. Lauren has been with the state for 7.5 years at the Department of Veterans Affairs and Oregon State Police.

Lauren graduated from Western Oregon University with a degree in anthropology. Most of her career focused on administrative roles before she joined OSP as their telecom program coordinator. Lauren is from Virginia and lives in West Salem with her boyfriend John, her dogs Toki and Tina, and her cat Toni. She enjoys walking in nature at state parks, quilting, reading, and listening to music and podcasts.

PLEASE WELCOME LINDSEY HOLK TO THE OSFM TEAM

Lindsey Holk joined the OSFM as an employee services analyst. She has more than six years of experience with the state working as an executive assistant for the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, a recruiter and family and medical leave coordinator with Oregon Parks and Recreation, and an HR records manager with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Lindsey graduated from the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in sociology. During her free time, she enjoys gardening in nice weather, playing guitar, and working on house projects with her husband and cat in Aumsville.



PLEASE WELCOME EMMA EVANS TO THE OSFM TEAM

Emma has worked for the State of Oregon for more than 21 years and recently retired on Oct. 1, 2022.

While her retirement has been short, she is excited to join the OSFM as a temporary accountant 1 to help build processes and procedures as they build the financial structure from the ground up.

She enjoys traveling, gardening, and getting together with friends usually on Fridays.



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.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT MANAGER

Do you have a passion for fire response and coordination? Do you have experience managing field personnel or emergency operations centers? This might be the career for you!

SYSTEM ARCHITECT - LEAD WORK

As the system architect, you will be critical in the development and ongoing implementation of technology plans and architecture necessary for creating our new agency. You will be able to build the system and network architecture from the ground up.



Contact Us

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

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