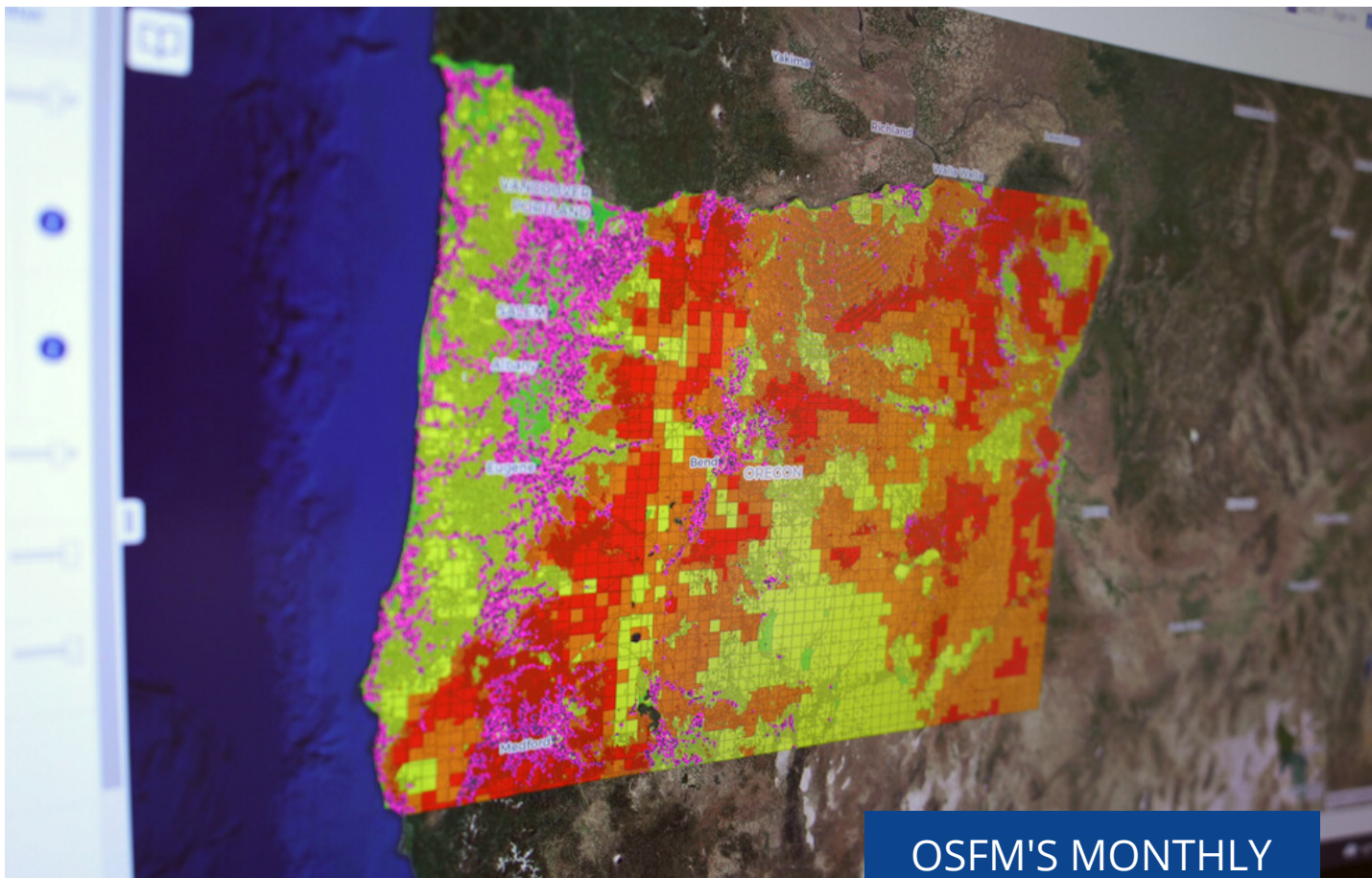




OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

JULY 2022



OREGON LAUNCHES WILDFIRE RISK MAP

As Oregon works to make communities more resilient to wildfire, a new tool was launched on June 30th as part of the state's wildfire omnibus bill, Senate Bill 762.

In the legislation, Oregon State University and the Oregon Department of Forestry were tasked with developing a wildfire risk map.

Following months of work, that map has been released detailing the Wildland-Urban Interface and wildfire risk classification from low to extreme.

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OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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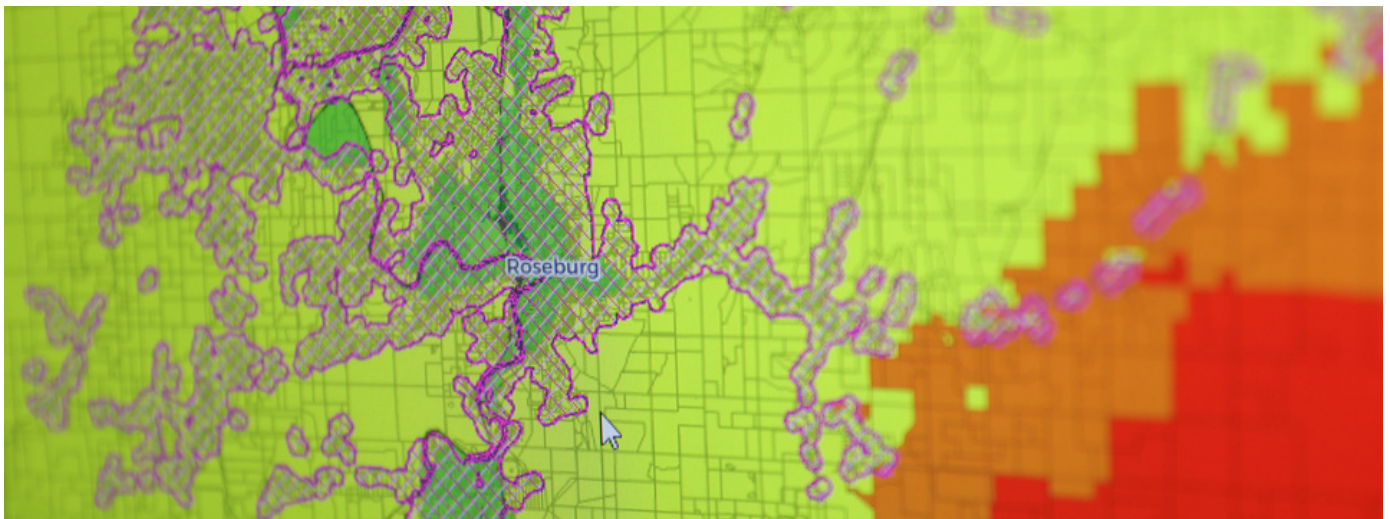
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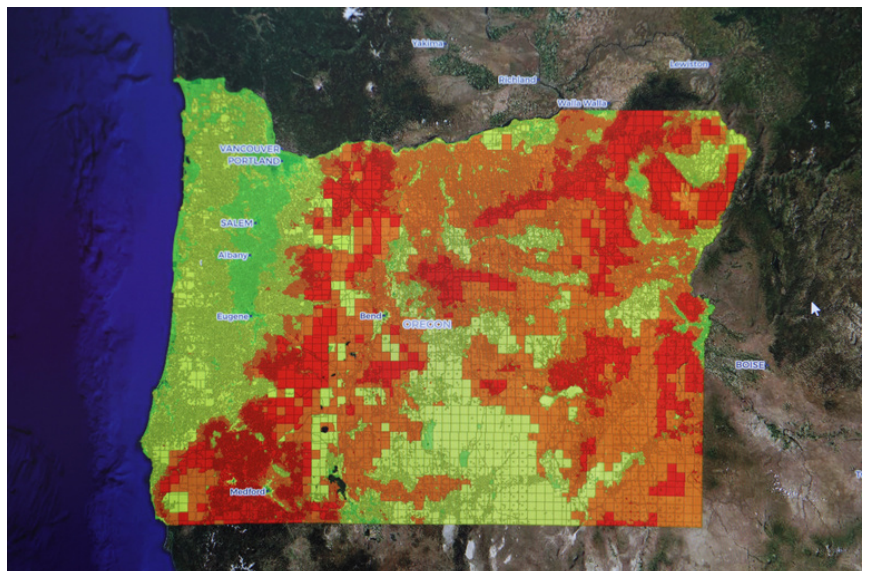
WILDFIRE RISK MAP RELEASED, OSFM CONTINUES WORK ON DEFENSIBLE SPACE CODE

The challenge of wildfire in Oregon has grown over the years, from the Chetco Bar fire in 2017, the historic wildfires of 2020, to last year's Bootleg fire in Klamath and Lake counties. These fires have had a significant impact not only to the landscape but to the communities within and around the burn scar.

These fires have taught us many things, one of which is the importance and value of defensible space. On June 30th, Oregon State University and the Oregon Department of Forestry launched a new tool to help communities and property owners know their risk associated with wildfire.

The new Wildfire Risk Map shows the risk levels from low to extreme, as well as the Wildland-Urban Interface. The creation of the map was written into Senate Bill 762, which was passed and signed into law in 2021. OSU created a detailed account of what went into creating the map, you can [read more HERE](#). In addition, the map is available for viewing on the [Oregon Wildfire Risk Explorer](#).

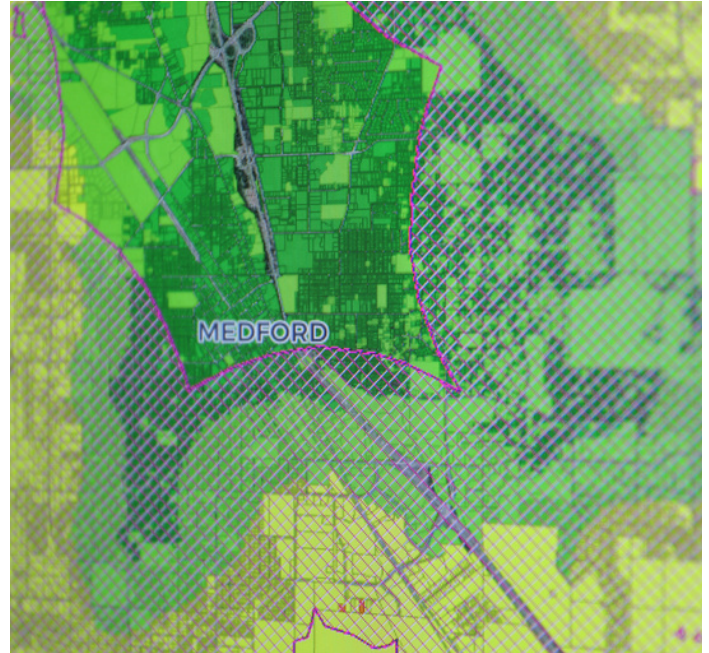
In Senate Bill 762, the Office of State Fire Marshal was tasked with creating a defensible code. That process is currently underway and will be completed December 2022. The new OSU/ODF Wildfire Risk map plays into the implementation of the defensible space code. Properties within both "High" and "Extreme" risk and in the Wildland-Urban Interface may be subject to the new defensible space code.



(CONT) WILDFIRE RISK MAP RELEASED, OSFM CONTINUES WORK ON DEFENSIBLE SPACE CODE

To prepare communities and property owners for these changes, the OSFM has put together a tool kit. Items included address common questions, who to contact regarding certain questions, how the code will be enforced, and who it will impact. The tool kit can be found on OSFM's website.

As the OSFM and its stakeholders work through the defensible space code adoption process, it is important to note that while a vast majority of homes or properties may not be within the areas where the defensible space code will apply, there are things homeowners can do now to create defensible space to be better protected from wildfire. At the end of the day, that is the mission of the Office of State Fire Marshal, to protect people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.



FIRE RISK REDUCTION SPECIALISTS TALK DEFENSIBLE SPACE

To help increase awareness of defensible space, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal Community Risk Reduction Unit's fire risk reduction specialists held several media availabilities around the state.



The OSFM was able to host one-on-one interviews with reporters at homes in each location. The goal was to show and tell what defensible space looks like and what projects might be good for the home. A huge thank you to the property owners who allowed the OSFM to use their homes and examples.

Interested in connecting with your fire risk reduction specialist?

[LEARN MORE HERE.](#)

STAFFING GRANT TO BOOST FIRE SERVICE RESPONSE CAPACITY THIS SUMMER

Grant funding to upstaff for the 2022 wildfire season is headed to fire districts and departments across the state of Oregon. In early June, the OSFM launched the 2022 Wildfire Staffing Grant. The goal of the new grant is to add capacity at the local level and attack fires before they have a chance to grow and impact communities.

In total the OSFM awarded \$6 million to 180 local fire agencies across Oregon.

As part of the OSFM's Response Ready Oregon Initiative, this grant funding was made available to all 306 local fire districts and departments to bring on additional staff during the 2022 wildfire season.

Local fire agencies were able to request up to \$35,000 to support staffing during this critical time of year. This additional funding will increase on-duty capacity throughout the 2022 fire season at the local level and allow agencies to mobilize quickly to fires at the local, regional, and state (conflagration) level. Having more "on duty" firefighters will help keep fires small before they can impact communities.

The 2022 Wildfire Staffing Grant cap has been reached and applications are no longer being accepted.



Picture Courtesy: Coburg Fire Dist.



Picture Courtesy: Jacksonville Fire Dept.

KASSIE KELLER JOINS OSFM PUBLIC AFFAIRS



Kassondra Keller joins OSFM as a public affairs specialist. For the past three years, she's managed Hillsboro Fire & Rescue's community risk reduction programs, building internal and community relationships, and supporting PIO on-scene response and public affairs. Prior to the fire service, she worked for Hillsboro PD and in public affairs for the North Dakota Highway Patrol, developing the department's formal communications plan.

Kassie moved to Oregon in 2017 with her husband and two black labs. She's happiest when running, hiking, or drinking good coffee.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE INCENTIVE GRANTS HELPING SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS

To help prepare Oregonians for wildfire the Office of State Fire Marshal launched a Defensible Space Incentive (DSI) grant earlier this year. The funding was allocated to schools and hospitals to help create defensible space and give them some added protection in the event of a wildfire.

The DSI Grant is a one-time \$1,000 grant available to any Oregon public or private school, university, or hospital. This grant was created to encourage applicants to improve their vegetative landscaping and maintain defensible space.



Picture Courtesy: St. Rose School

The OSFM has funded 260 school sites across 123 school organizations (school district, college, or private school), and 10 hospitals. In total the OSFM has allocated roughly \$271,000 in DSI Grants.

The OSFM heard from several recipients about how the grant has helped. St. Rose School says they were able to improve defensible space at their facility. In an email, they wrote:

"We are very appreciative as a school community for the supportive funding to keep our school environment as safe as possible. We are also thankful for the educational component of your program. It was a helpful process to look at our campus through the lens of defensible space enhancement."

The OSFM continues to look at creative ways to help increase defensible space across the state. For more information, visit the [OSFM Grants Program](#) section on our website.

SABRINA BIES JOINS OSFM TEAM

Please welcome Sabrina Bies to the OSFM family! Sabrina joined the leadership team on Monday, June 6th as an Administrative Specialist 1. For the past seven years she worked in Santa Barbara as an administrative coordinator supporting executive staff at a small non-profit and enjoyed that environment. She's looking forward to learning and growing in her new position here at OSFM!

Sabrina is originally from Salem. At the end of October 2021, she and her husband decided to move from California to Oregon to be closer to family and friends.





OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

WILDFIRE READINESS & RESPONSE GRANTS

DATES ARE TENTATIVE

FIRE ADAPTED OREGON

DEFENSIBLE SPACE INCENTIVE GRANT

NOW

- Incentive to create defensible space around schools and hospitals.
- The Defensible Space Incentive Grant is available to any Oregon public or private school, university, or hospital.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WINTER '22/'23

- Financial assistance to local governments for the administration of local preparedness efforts, administration, and enforcement of defensible space with the priority of certain vulnerable populations.
- Grants will be available to counties (emergency managers), cities, & local fire agencies.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

2023

- Planning is currently underway and will focus on incentive programs for members of the public.

RESPONSE READY OREGON

OREGON FIRE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM 2022 WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING AWARD

JUNE '22

- Awards fire service agencies the ability to boost staffing during the 2022 wildfire season.
- Increase on-duty capacity throughout the fire season at the local level for quick mobilizations at local, regional, and state (conflagration) scale.
- More firefighters will help keep fires small before impacting communities.

OREGON FIRE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM 2022 WILDFIRE TRAINING AWARD

FALL '22

- Funds transferred to the Department of Public Safety Standards & Training DPSST to address local training needs of the fire service.
- Funds could be used for training opportunities.

OREGON FIRE SERVICE STAFFING

WINTER '22

- Increase capacity across the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System by creating a grant similar to the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE READINESS

WINTER '22

- Funding for projects to support fire service agency readiness.

OREGON FIRE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM ENGINE PROGRAM

ON GOING

- Build response capacity by strategically deploying Type III, Type VI, and water tenders to areas where capacity exists to mobilize regional mutual aid and conflagration resources.



OSFM PROGRAM FOCUSES

HOW THE OSFM CAN SUPPORT YOUR AGENCY

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHALS	REGIONAL MOBILIZATION COORDINATORS	FIRE RISK REDUCTION SPECIALISTS
FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT & INSPECTIONS	MOBILIZATION SUPPORT & REQUESTS	WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS
FIRE INVESTIGATIONS	MUTUAL AID ASSISTANCE & GUIDANCE	COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PLANNING & FUNDING ASSISTANCE
CODE INTERPRETATION GUIDANCE	INCIDENT RESPONSE NEEDS	HOME IGNITION ZONE TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
HEALTHCARE FACILITIES	MOBILIZATION PLAN ASSISTANCE	EDUCATION & OUTREACH
FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS & WATER SUPPLY PLANS		COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOW THE OSFM FIELD STAFF CAN HELP YOU

Over the last year, the Office of State Fire Marshal has been working diligently to bring on new staff to meet the growing threat of wildfire and serve the needs of Oregon. Since Senate Bill 762 (wildfire omnibus bill) was passed last summer, the OSFM hired more field staff, fire risk reduction specialists, regional mobilization coordinators and more deputy state fire marshals. Each of these three field staff have a critical role to play within the OSFM to help carry out our mission.

These staff are here to help the Oregon fire service and the communities they serve. Below are the different ways they can lend a hand.

Fire Risk Reduction Specialists: The FRR's are tasked with helping communities be prepared for wildfire through outreach, education, and community action. This team recently has been working on wildfire preparedness through webinars, community talks, and home ignition zone training.

Regional Mobilization Coordinators: The RMC's are tasked with helping being the conduit between the Oregon fire service and the OSFM. They are support to help with mobilizations and planning assistance among other things.

Deputy State Fire Marshals: The DSFM's are tasked with fire code enforcement and inspections, fire investigations and can provide code guidance if needed. They are also the person to contact with questions about fire department access and water supply planning.

OREGON FIREFIGHTERS TAKE PART IN MAWS 2022

On June 3rd and 4th, the Metro Advanced Wildland School (MAWS) was held in Molalla and was provided at no cost thanks to generous grants from the OSFM and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. This was the 10th year of MAWS, which is organized by the Northwest Association of Fire Trainers (NAFT) and hosted by Molalla Fire.

This year, more than 125 firefighters from 40 different Oregon agencies took part in the training. MAWS is a unique opportunity for everyone involved to have conversations and work together in a low-stress environment and hone the skills necessary for effective response to wildland fire.

Firefighters worked with live fire to learn skills from communications to burnout operations. A water-dropping helicopter was on hand both days to teach skills associated with aerial firefighting resources and to provide an opportunity to get tasks signed off on task books that may take some years to achieve otherwise. The training also includes firing operations, engine drafting, mobile attack, weather, structural protection and triage, building handlines, and supervisor operations.



Some members of the OSFM's Incident Management Team members also participated. Fully qualified IMT members have a unique opportunity to work alongside trainees prior to fire season where the bustle from an incident can limit the amount of one-on-one position-specific training time. They also have the chance to work alongside cadre members throughout the training, providing opportunities to participate in operational briefings and an Incident-Within-the-Incident drill.

This year, 26 IMT members participated in planning and staffing the training event. The OSFM would like to extend our gratitude to the agencies and people involved in planning, coordinating, executing, and funding this incredible event.



FIREFIGHTERS REMEMBERED AT FALLEN FIRE FIGHTER MEMORIAL CEREMONY

On June 9th, the Oregon fire service and others took pause to honor the sacrifices of four Oregon firefighters we lost in 2021. Firefighters, law enforcement, and many others from across the state paid tribute at the Oregon Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Ceremony in Salem.

Firefighter/Squad Boss Frumencio Ruiz-Carapia, Captain Richard Ilg, Captain Harry E. Klopfenstein, and Lieutenant Jerry A. Richardson joined the other firefighters we have lost on the memorial wall.

Ruiz-Carapia, who worked for GE Forestry Inc., was killed in the line of duty on August 23, 2021, when a falling tree struck him during the Gales Fire in Lane County.

Forest Grove Fire & Rescue's Captain Ilg passed away from work-related brain cancer after a long battle on September 12, 2021.

Silverton Fire District's Captain Klopfenstein passed of cardiac complications on September 25, 2021, following a response to a motor vehicle crash.

Lastly, on November 19, 2021, Lieutenant Jerry Richardson lost his battle with cancer and passed away after being diagnosed with mesothelioma after serving as a firefighter and fire paramedic for over 34 years.

Thank you to DPSST which put together the ceremony and the Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard.

Learn more about the [Oregon Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial](#).





REGIONAL HAZMAT TEAMS, OTHERS TRAIN IN HARRISBURG

Suited up and ready to go, several members of Oregon's Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams made their way down 4th Street in Harrisburg on Thursday, June 16th. Pulling a cart filled with tools towards a smoking trailer, the team made their way to stop a simulated anhydrous ammonia leak from a railroad tank car. The event was part of a multi-year training exercise.

The Office of State Fire Marshal and the Mid-Valley Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) held the exercise. This exercise included everything from coordination with the Linn County 9-1-1 Center, hazmat team response, road closures, coordinating evacuations, and shelter-in-place orders. The different agencies were able to practice not only the skills to stop a leak or spill but coordinating and working together with multiple agencies during an emergency.

The exercise was the third hosted by LEPC and the OSFM in Harrisburg. The first-year exercise was a tabletop discussion with multiple agencies examining emergency roles and responsibilities during a chemical leak. The second-year functional exercise was a practice in the Unified Command structure and operation of an Incident Command Post.

The participating agencies included: the City of Harrisburg; Linn County 9-1-1; Harrisburg Fire District; Junction City Fire Department; the Regional Hazardous Materials Team from the Albany Fire Department; Lane Fire Authority; Linn County Sheriff's Department, Oregon State Police; Oregon Department of Transportation; Linn County Emergency Management; Albany Emergency Management; Oregon State Office of Emergency Management; Harrisburg School District; Linn County Public Health; PeaceHealth; Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center; Samaritan Albany General Hospital; Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital; Healthcare Coalition Region 2; Mid-Valley LEPC Committee; and the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office (OSFM).

STATION SPOTLIGHT: VALE FIRE & AMBULANCE DEPT. LAUNCHES SUMMER FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM

To spread the message of fire safety and prevention this month Vale Fire & Ambulance Dept. is hosting its Summer Safety Program. The program is an effort to help kids aged kindergarten through 12th grade to know what to do in an emergency. The education effort includes fire escape plans, stop, drop and roll, how to call 9-1-1, what to do for a grease fire, and medical emergencies (choking, CPR, burns, and more).



The flyer is titled "SUMMER SAFETY PROGRAM" in large, colorful letters. Below the title, it asks "Do you know the way out in a fire?" and provides instructions: "Come by the Vale Fire & Ambulance station tomorrow (6/15/2022) and take a Fire escape plan to fill out, once completed return it to the station 9AM-Noon, we will have toys and ice cream vouchers for every kid who finishes!". A diagram shows a fire escape route with "EXIT" signs. The address "950 HOPE STREET, VALE OR." is prominently displayed. At the bottom, there is a photo of the fire station and the Mal's Diner logo with the text "We look forward to seeing you."

Throughout the summer, Vale Fire & Ambulance will be posting about a fire prevention topic, either a question or a challenge. Kids in the community then need to come in person to the fire station to answer the question or complete the challenge and receive a prize.

The program is using prevention materials and prizes from the OSFM as well as ice cream vouchers donated to the program by a local restaurant, Mal's Diner.

The fire district is looking for opportunities to expand the program in the future with more material for handouts, more prizes, and possibly school involvement.

SHARE YOUR WORK WITH US!

What is your station up to? We'd love to highlight the great work of the Oregon fire service! Do you have a community event, unique training, or interesting nugget of Oregon fire service history? Let us know: email OSFM.PublicAffairs@osp.oregon.gov.

2021 OSFM ANNUAL REPORT RELEASED

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal released the 2021 Annual Report in June. The report details the accomplishments and highlights of the OSFM's divisions and programs, as well as preliminary response statistics.

Printed copies were made available to staff and are available upon request. A digital copy of the 2021 OSFM Annual Report was emailed out to the fire service as well.

A [PDF version](#) of the report is available on the OSFM's website.

The OSFM is currently working on the 2021 Supplemental Annual Report.



FIRE SERVICE READIES AS OREGON IS SET TO HOST WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The official countdown to the World Athletics Championships Oregon22 (WCH Oregon22) is on! From July 15 through July 24, 2,000 of the world's best track and field athletes from 200 countries will compete at the University of Oregon's Hayward Field in Eugene — the heart and home of track and field in the U.S.

The World Athletics Championships is the most prestigious track and field event in the world. It is the first time this event will be hosted on U.S. soil, and we are so proud that Oregon was chosen to be the host.

With thousands of people headed to Oregon, the Oregon fire service has been planning for the expected crowds.



Eugene-Springfield Fire's preparation for Oregon22 represents years of preparation with partners from the local to international level led by Deputy Chief Chris Heppel. Not only have the World Championships never been held in the U.S. before, but it's also the first time in a community of less than one million. There are also several large regional festivals/fairs running concurrently with the World Athletic Championships.

Eugene Springfield Fire has engaged with their regional and statewide partners to ensure they are prepared for daily capacity increases as well as surge capacity in case of a large-scale incident. In June a tabletop and full-scale exercise was conducted to test the EMS and hospital system simulating complex coincidental incidents that were each manageable on their own but tax the system in succession. The exercise included regional EMS partners, hospital systems, emergency management, and the Oregon Health Authority. Daily and event staffing has been enhanced with funding from the World Athletics Championships and the Governor's office.

HM02, the local Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team, is prepared to respond as necessary and the Office of State Fire Marshal has procured new radios and microphones that can be used in suits in the event they need to use their protective gear for any reason. To learn more about the World Athletics Championships, visit WorldChampsOregon22.com.

OSFM CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL - MULTIPLE OPENINGS

The Oregon State Fire Marshal is hiring for 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.

GIS Analyst

In this position, you will leverage your experience with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to analyze data (including maps, spatial databases, and aerial photographs) to develop mapping products and informational metrics to support agency research projects and to enhance OSFMs predictive modeling capabilities and incident-outcomes for both us and our fire service partners throughout the state.



Contact Us

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

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