



OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

JANUARY 2023



2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and the Oregon fire service made great strides in 2022, from wildfire response and hazmat to the OSFM working to become its own agency.

There is a lot to be proud of from 2022 and a lot to look forward to in 2023. In this issue of The Gated Wye, we are looking back on the last year and all the great things that were accomplished not only for the fire service but for those living and visiting the great state of Oregon.

[READ MORE ON PG. 2](#)

OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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OSFM REFLECTS ON THE GREAT WORK DONE IN 2022

Looking back on 2022, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal continued to build on the successes of 2021, develop key programs, and give Oregonians tools to be better prepared for wildfires.

Throughout the year, the OSFM staff continued work to implement Senate Bill 762. The agency is tasked with developing a defensible space program, boosting fire service response capacity, and helping communities be better prepared for wildfire.

Staff worked with a wide swath of stakeholders to develop the defensible space standards. When a new map is released, the OSFM will be ready to continue the code development process. As part of the original development, the OSFM held a series of 17 in-person town halls and three virtual town halls to gather feedback and answer questions about the code.

In 2022, the OSFM launched the Wildfire Season Staffing Grant. As part of the OSFM's Response Ready Oregon Initiative, local fire agencies were able to request up to \$35,000 to support staffing. The OSFM quickly reached the \$6 million threshold available for the grant. The dollars were allocated to 180 local fire agencies to meet the grant's goal of keeping fires small and away from communities. Read more about the grant on page 4.

Because of a dry, late winter, spring predictions forecasted an early start to wildfires. Thankfully a wetter-than-average spring delayed the start of any large wildfires.



(CONT) OSFM REFLECTS ON THE GREAT WORK DONE IN 2022

until late July and early August. The first conflagration of the year was the Miller Road Fire in Wasco County. In total, the OSFM mobilized resources to five emergency conflagration declarations (Miller Road, Rum Creek, Double Creek, Sturgill, and Cedar Creek). The OSFM also pre-positioned resources six times and mobilized resources under immediate response 12 times. In 2022, three task forces were mobilized to California through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact to support efforts on the McKinney Fire and other nearby fires.

In 2022, Oregon adopted an updated version of the Oregon Fire Code. The Oregon Fire Code is the Oregon fire service's manual to protect the public from fire hazards, explosions, or dangerous conditions in buildings and other facilities. The 2022 Oregon Fire Code went through a rigorous process with many stakeholder and public inputs. As part of the new code, Oregon becomes one of the first states in the country with a code in place to make operating a mobile food unit safer. Such requirements include the food cart spacing, portable generator placement and operation, use of hoods for solid fuel cooking, storage and venting of cooking oil, fuel storage, and use of fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide alarms. [READ MORE HERE.](#)

The OSFM worked with the Oregon Life Safety Team to develop monthly fire safety and prevention messaging for the fire service and partners to streamline and guide messaging about important fire prevention and safety issues across Oregon.

January 2023 marks less than six months from when the OSFM will become the Department of State Fire Marshal. In 2021, a tremendous effort was underway to hire new staff, find a new general headquarters, and make sure everything is in place for a successful transition. The office filled key positions in business services, fiscal, and information technology. The OSFM hopes to secure a new headquarters with the goal of moving in before the 2023 fire season, but no location or time has been announced just yet.

The OSFM is excited about what is ahead in 2023 and the changes that come with it.





WILDFIRE STAFFING GRANT SUPPORTS NEARLY 1,600 PERSONNEL

The OSFM has a clearer picture of just how much the 2022 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant benefited fire agencies across the state between June and late September.

180 of Oregon's 305 local fire agencies received one-time funding of up to \$35,000 to add capacity during the summer months. In total, \$6 million was allocated to the grant fund. In September, the OSFM highlighted success stories from the fire service with final numbers to come in December 2022.

The OSFM compiled data from the final reports submitted by the grant recipients. The one-time funds supported 1,598 personnel, which was much-needed capacity to carry out the grant's mission of keeping fires small and away from communities.

These added personnel were not only able to respond to fire calls, but many were also able to boost capacity and support EMS calls. Grant-supported personnel responded to 16,319 EMS calls statewide.

Additional numbers on the grant's success can be found to the right.

To learn more about how the OSFM is working to help Oregonians, visit the [Investments in Action](#) page.

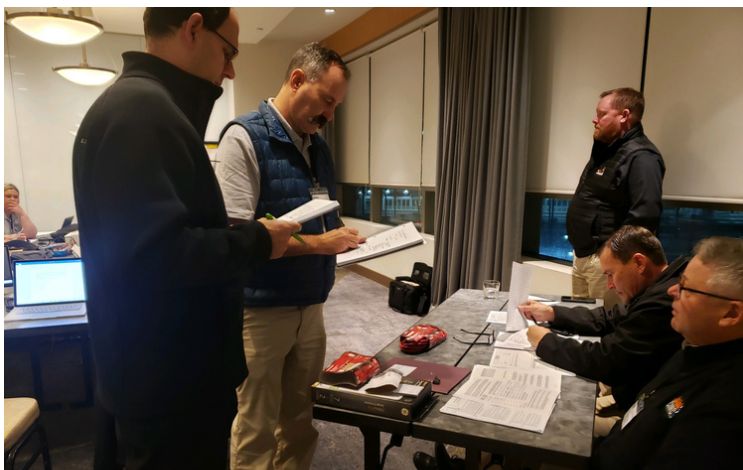
BY THE NUMBERS

Total hours supported: **401,952**

Total personnel supported: **1,598**

Number of calls for EMS supported: **16,319**

Number of calls for fire supported: **6,704**



IMT MEMBERS TAKE PART IN COMPLEX INCIDENT MANAGEMENT COURSE

To be better trained for emergency response, the OSFM sent a team of eight to the weeklong Complex Incident Management Course (CIMC) in San Diego on December 11. The nationally-recognized course focused on bringing qualified type two personnel to the type one level.

The original CIMC curriculum was developed in 1998 by NASF with grant support from the USDA Forest Service. As of 2022, NASF has trained 138 teams at 31 CIMC sessions held in Arizona, California, Florida, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Texas, New York, Michigan, Montana, Maine, Wisconsin, Oregon, and Washington.

Using classroom lectures, exercises, and simulated incidents, students understand and demonstrate the role and function of an incident management team and their role on it, application of management principles to the incident management job, and special considerations of incident management within geographic areas of the nation.

The OSFM eight-person team is one of five teams from around the country selected to attend this training.



CODY SHANLEY JOINS THE OSFM TEAM

We welcome our newest team member, Cody Shanley. Cody is excited to start his role as licensing assistant. He was previously an administrative specialist with the Oregon Department of Education. He was also a social service specialist with the Department of Human Services where he provided support to children in need. Cody grew up in Independence, Oregon where he and his brothers were actively involved in year-round sports, including basketball and baseball. Cody enjoys being outdoors, camping with his family, and spending time with his wife Kendra and their dog Bleu.

CODES CORNER

TEMPORARY WARMING SHELTERS

Communities across the country respond to homelessness with a variety of housing and services including temporary shelters, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing. In extreme weather conditions,

temporary shelters are created typically for short durations during inclement or adverse weather. The Office of State Fire Marshal reminds local and state fire professionals that Technical Advisory (TA) 22-12, temporary shelters, can guide communities in providing people with safety and protection from weather exposure while reducing environmental impact on the community.

The intent of TA 22-12 is to assist communities in approving existing buildings or structures not designed for sleeping purposes to, on a limited basis, temporarily accommodate safe sleeping conditions. Provisionally, the time frame of 90 days within any 12-month period is to emphasize this must be temporary.

In the spirit of applying this time frame, the intent is to house occupants for sleeping purposes during inclement weather. The 90 days isn't an exact number, but rather a number to forecast a limited period. For example, if weather conditions warranted 99 days, that would meet the spirit and intent of the TA. Likewise, should there be less severe conditions, the shelter doesn't need to continue housing residents.

The TA provides guidance in determining the number of people that may safely occupy the facility and, in turn, provide safe egress in an emergency. Two exits are required along with maintaining egress paths free of obstructions. Though not mandated, a building with automatic fire sprinklers may be granted flexibility for occupants sleeping on floors above the second floor and in basements. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are required and may be battery-operated.

An emergency evacuation plan coupled with a fire watch during sleeping hours provides an important level of safety for occupants and emergency first responders. We recognize this can be a sensitive issue in communities and appreciate everyone's efforts to safely house occupants during inclement weather conditions.





OSFM, FIRE CHIEFS TALK HAZMAT PROGRAM

On Friday, December 9, the OSFM hosted a meeting with fire chiefs from across the state to talk about our office's Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams (RHMERT) program.

The program consists of 13 regional teams across Oregon who respond to hazardous materials emergencies that exceed the resources of local jurisdictions. Team members are primarily career and volunteer firefighters, with some law enforcement and public works employees. The teams respond to approximately 62 reported events each year.

We are so proud of the program as it has become a model for other states.

The group reflected on the program to see where we may be able to improve and continue the successes we've experienced over the years.

[LEARN ABOUT THE PROGRAM HERE](#)

2021 ANNUAL REPORT SUPPLEMENT RELEASED

The OSFM has released the 2021 Annual Report Supplement. Each year, the OSFM's Analytics and Intelligence Unit compiles fire and hazardous materials statistics from agencies across the state. The data comes from a variety of sources, including the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), Oregon ImageTrend Elite, Community Right to Know Report, and hazardous substance incidents, among others.



OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL
2021 Annual Report
Supplement
PREPARED // NOVEMBER 2022

BY THE NUMBERS

The 2021 report shows that on average a local fire agency in Oregon responded to:

- A fire every 30 minutes
- A structure fire every 1 hour and 49 minutes
- A house fire every 6 hours, 9 mins
- A vehicle fire every 3 hours, 27 minutes
- An outside fire every 53 minutes

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW: ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION PORTAL OPEN

Did you know you have a right to know? The Oregon Community Right to Know and Protection Act (ORS 453.307-414) requires Oregon employers to report their hazardous substances to OSFM including where they are stored and their hazards. The OSFM's Community Right to Know (CR2K) program tracks and maintains these records.

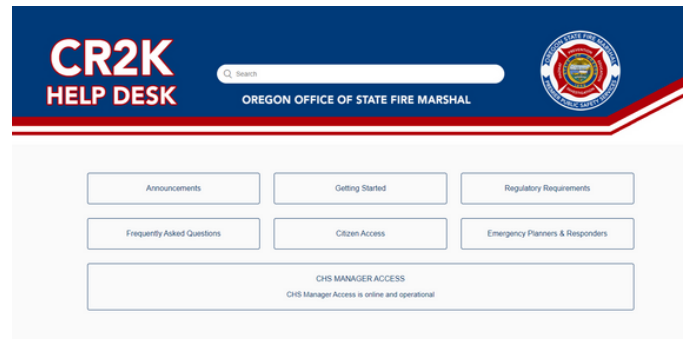
Information is then provided to emergency planners, first responders, health professionals, and the public so measures can be taken to protect Oregon citizens, their property, and the environment from the risks associated with these substances.

Each year, Oregon employers are required to report their hazardous substances to the OSFM. On January 1, 2023, OSFM's online portal for hazardous substance reporting, CHS manager, opened to submit 2022 annual reports.

The Community Right to Know and Protection Act, passed in 1985, exceeded the EPA's Emergency Planned and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) requirements.

In Oregon, a hazardous substance is any substance required to have a Safety Data Sheet (SDS), any hazardous waste substance as defined by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), or any substance that presents a physical or health hazard to employees, first responders, or the public.

To learn more about Oregon's Community Right to Know Program (CR2K) and how to review reports, [visit our CR2K webpage](#).





COMPETENCY RECOGNITION PROGRAM CHANGES

Last month, the Regulatory Services Division held an administrative hearing to change rules for the competency recognition program. No public comments were received. The changes updated the program requirements to bring consistency in the application of the Oregon Fire Code across the state.

A snapshot of the rule changes include:

- Company inspector scope of practice changed allowing hotels/motels with fewer than 15 rooms and mini self-storage locations to be inspected by individuals meeting the company inspector level.
- The competency recognition levels have new names: Fire and life safety specialists 1 and 2 are now called Oregon fire inspectors 1 and 2. The fire marshal level is now called the Oregon fire marshal.
- The level an individual is under the old rules will be legacied in under the new rules at the new level.
- NFPA fire inspector 3 is no longer required for the Oregon fire marshal level; instead, a new course called the 'Oregon fire marshal administration' is required.
- A new streamlined application process no longer requires one to submit all their certifications.
- The OSFM modified and developed all-new core classes for the education requirements and is working on streamlining class delivery to meet both career and volunteer agency needs.

The changes went into effect on January 1. For more information on the Competency Recognition Program, [visit our website](#).

CHIEF DEBBIE MCDERMOTT RETIRES AFTER 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

The OSFM would like to congratulate McMinnville Fire Marshal, Chief Debbie McDermott, on her retirement. For 22 years, Chief McDermott has served the city of McMinnville in various roles, including fire prevention, fire inspector, deputy fire marshal, fire & life safety division chief, and fire marshal.

Chief McDermott is retiring with a total of 25 years in the fire service, including her years as a volunteer prior to her employment with MFD. Chief McDermott has dedicated her career to the service of others. The OSFM would like to thank Chief McDermott for her service to Oregon, and we wish her all the best as she enjoys her retirement.



CELEBRATE THE OREGON FIRE SERVICE ON JANUARY 27, 2023



Oregon will celebrate the Oregon Fire Service on Fire Service Appreciation Day this month!

In 2007, the Oregon Legislature passed House Joint Resolution 25. The measure designated every January 27 as Fire Service Appreciation Day in Oregon.

Fire Service Appreciation Day annually provides the opportunity to honor the men and women who unselfishly serve their communities and who strive to maintain the highest level of skill and professionalism.

The Office of State Fire Marshal wants to thank all of you for your dedication, compassion, professionalism, and personal sacrifice to help keep all Oregonians safe where they live, work, recreate, seek medical care, and go to school.

FROM THE INTERNET: NEWPORT FIRE DEPT.



This find from Newport Fire Department broke the internet in late November. The department posted that they were called to this good boy, who unfortunately fell down a well. Hank was rescued with no incident and is as happy as can be.

You can tell in the pictures he's pretty happy to be out of that deep, dark well. Nice work, Newport! [See the post HERE.](#)

FROM THE INTERNET: PROBIE FEATURED ON COVER OF 2023 FIRST RESPONDER THERAPY DOG CALENDAR

How cool is this! Oregon's First Responder Therapy dog is featured on the front page of the 2023 First Responder Therapy Dog calendar.

Probie and handler Amber Cross were able to raise the most money for the nonprofit. The money raised will help First Responder Therapy Dogs provide proactive and reactive visits to first responders. First Responder Therapy Dogs leads the way in addressing mental health needs by providing emotional support to first responders with the use of therapy dogs.

Probie has attended many events, including wildfire camp, to provide mental health support to firefighters working long hours and, in some cases, dealing with traumatic experiences.

Congratulations to Amber and Probie! Learn more about [First Responder Therapy Dogs HERE.](#)





USFA FIRE EXAMINATION LEGISLATION PASSES IN U.S. CONGRESS

On December 14, the House passed the Empowering the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) Act (H.R. 7077). The legislation allows the USFA to conduct on-site investigations of major fires to assess the causes of origin and other broader conditions surrounding the fires. The USFA then is able to issue a public report that would discuss the particular fire and ways to prevent or better respond to similar fires.

The legislation is a result of the tragic Twin Parks North West apartment building fire in the Fordham Heights section of the Bronx that took the lives of 17 New Yorkers, including eight children, as a result of a faulty space heater.

The new legislation authorizes the USFA to send safety specialists, fire protection engineers, codes and standards experts, researchers, and fire training specialists to assist local firefighter investigators in their investigation. The bill also requires the USFA to issue a report in coordination on their findings, and to provide recommendations to prevent similar fires from occurring in the future.

“On behalf of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, I thank Congress for passing the Empowering U.S. Fire Administration Act,” said Chief Donna Black, the President and Board Chair. “Especially as we begin the winter season, we as the fire service cannot express enough the importance of fire safety and taking steps to reduce deaths, injuries, and property loss due to fires.”

President Biden is expected to sign the bill.

PFAS LEGISLATION APPROVED BY U.S. CONGRESS

Last month, the U.S. House passed an important bill to protect the health and safety of firefighters, emergency responders, and communities. The PFAS Act (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) will require the federal government to provide firefighters with a best practice guide and curriculum to lower exposure to dangerous chemicals they are exposed to while in the line of duty. The bill also aims to prevent dangerous chemicals from releasing into the environment.

Under the legislation, within one year, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in partnership with other agencies, will develop best practices and training guidance and curriculum to “reduce and eliminate exposure” to PFAS from firefighting foam and personal protective equipment (PPE), prevent the release of PFAS-containing firefighting foam into the environment, and educate firefighters and other emergency personnel on foams and non-foam alternatives and PPE and other equipment that do not contain PFAS.

DHS will also be tasked with creating an online public repository of tools and best practices for emergency response personnel to access to limit and prevent PFAS releases and exposures.

According to the Environmental Working Group (EWG), firefighters are among those most exposed to harm from PFAS but many local fire departments lack the resources and guidance to switch to PFAS-free alternatives.

This bill will help find ways to lower firefighter exposure to PFAS and spur the search for firefighting tools and equipment made without these dangerous chemicals.



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. [Nominations forms can be found here.](#)

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

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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Do you enjoy identifying business needs and program improvements based on data and industry best practices? Do you enjoy strategic planning and project management through the lens of fire services? Or maybe you want to use your experience in fire investigation and fire code enforcement to improve services across the state?

BUSINESS SERVICES TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Do you enjoy variety in your day? Do you have an eye for detail and a passion for process development and improvement? Maybe you want to put your experience of procurement, IT, or human resources to good use!

GRANTS COORDINATOR

Do you have experience in auditing and/or grant oversight? Do you have strong financial, analytical, auditing, and communication skills? Then this might be the career for you!



Contact Us

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

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