



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

AUGUST 2023



OSFM STAFFING GRANT BOOSTING RESPONSE STATEWIDE

Local fire agencies across the state are reporting successes and saves thanks in part to the OSFM's 2023 Wildfire Season Staffing grant.

The grant, which offers up to \$35,000 in one-time funding to support seasonal firefighters, is in its second year. The OSFM allocated \$6 million to 185 local fire agencies across Oregon. The goal of the funding is to boost response capacity and get first responders to call like brush and wildfires quickly.

[READ MORE ON PAGE 2.](#)

OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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OREGON FIRE SERVICE SEES CONTINUED **SUCCESS** WITH STAFFING GRANT

The OSFM's Wildfire Season Staffing Grant is proving successful in its second year. This spring, the agency awarded \$6 million to 185 local structural fire agencies across Oregon to hire seasonal firefighters. This one-time funding boosts on-duty capacity with the goal of getting firefighters to emergency calls quicker.

This funding is having a positive impact across Oregon in keeping fires small and away from communities. This summer, the OSFM will be sharing grant success stories across our social media channels and in The Gated Wye.

July 11: Paisley Fire responded to a vehicle fire. The agency says because of the staffing grant, the first engine was able to respond within two minutes because staff were on hand and ready at the fire station. Paisley Fire added that prior to the grant, it would take 10-15 minutes before the first engine rolled as volunteers raced to the fire station.

July 17: Garibaldi Fire was called to a slash pile fire that rekindle and had caught some grass and the underside of an RV on fire. Thanks to a quick response from station staff and volunteers, the fire was stopped before any property was damaged. The OSFM Wildfire Season Staffing grant allowed crews to keep this fire small and from further damaging property.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



STAFFING GRANT CONT.



July 18: Molalla Fire was on the first day of having their seasonal staff on shift. It was a good thing, because they had a two-alarm grass fire in town that threatened many homes and businesses.

Firefighters from around the area knocked the fire down fairly fast. Great work by these firefighters.

Interested in learning more about our grant programs? Check out our [Investments for Oregon](#) page on our website.

Firefighters hired through the staffing grant in Stayton, Aumsville, Jefferson, Lyons, and Sublimity gathered for a BBQ on July 13 to go through apparatus, discuss equipment capabilities, and discuss auto-aid responses for the summer. Meeting opportunities like this are important to build cross-district relationships between the different departments for when they work together during mutual aid calls or if the agencies are mobilized for immediate response and conflagrations.

Oregon Department of Forestry crews were also on hand.



AMANDA WRIGHT JOINS EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION

Amanda Wright joined the OSFM's Emergency Response Services Division as an executive assistant.

She previously worked at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife where she was in a similar role in the director's office.

We are thrilled to have Amanda as part of the OSFM team!





WILDFIRES KEEP OREGON FIRE SERVICE BUSY IN JULY

The 2023 fire season in Oregon roared to life in early July as several fires began to pop up. On July 3, the OSFM mobilized a structural task force through immediate response to the Moon Mountain Fire near Eugene. By the evening of July 4, firefighters had the fire under control at 34 acres.

On July 11, firefighters were mobilized from Clackamas County to help with the Devils Butte Fire in Gilliam County. The lightning-sparked fire closed Highway 206 northwest of Condon and burned nearly 3,000 acres before it was stopped.

In mid-July, the OSFM mobilized air resources to two fires through Immediate Response which is part of the Response Ready Oregon initiative. The first fire sparked outside Hermiston on July 18. Firefighters from across Umatilla and surrounding counties responded to get the fire knocked down. The second fire sparked on July 20 near White City. Both fires prompted evacuations but were quickly stopped. The OSFM can use helicopters through agreements with our partners at the Oregon Department of Forestry.

On July 22, the third conflagration of the summer was declared by Oregon Governor Tina Kotek. The declaration was made for the Golden Fire near Bonanza in Klamath County. The OSFM mobilized nine task forces, two of which were sent through Immediate Response before the conflagration was declared. Red Flag Warnings were posted for the area as firefighters worked to get the fire under control and protect the homes under evacuation notice. The Golden Fire burned 2,137 acres before it was stopped. The OSFM demobilized the IMT and structural task forces on July 27.

As Oregon moves into August, historically the warmest and driest month of the year, the agency asks Oregonians to do what they can to prevent human-caused wildfires.



GOLDEN FIRE



ELM STREET FIRE



GOLDEN FIRE



ELM STREET FIRE

PHOTOS FROM THE FIRE LINE



GOLDEN FIRE



JACKSON COUNTY IR



GOLDEN FIRE



PARTNERSHIP BRINGS NEW TOOLS AND CAPACITY TO HUNTINGTON FIRE

Huntington Fire Department in Eastern Oregon was awarded equipment through funding from the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Community Assistance program. The BLM provided high-quality weed trimmers and fuel to the agency to help reduce brush and wildfire risk around the district.

This is a cooperative effort between the BLM, the OSFM, and the fire agency. Seasonal wildfire staff, hired as part of the OSFM's season staffing grant, will be doing much of the needed brush clearing throughout the community.

Huntington is surrounded by rangeland fuels, either by private lands or lands managed by the BLM. With all the moisture this year, there has been new grass growth, adding to last year's crop for a high fuel load in the area. The goal is to reduce as much light and flashy vegetative fuel as possible around homes and other critical infrastructure.

CWRR GRANT PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Some of the projects funded through the OSFM's Community Wildfire Risk Reduction (CWRR) grants issued earlier this year are now underway. The OSFM awarded \$18 million to 106 organizations in May to fund projects that reduce wildfire risk in communities across the state.

On July 11, the OSFM hosted a summit for recipients. This was an opportunity to learn more about the grant and the OSFM's mission with the funds. Recipients had a chance to meet each other and see where collaboration on projects may be possible. Recipients also met their regional fire risk reduction specialist.

One project underway is brush clearing near Highway 101 in North Bend. The city posted a video of the project on social media. Currently, it is working with a contractor to clear the brush. The area around Pittum Loop was identified by the North Bend Fire Department as a high-risk place. Last year the agency responded to 10 brush fires in the area.

The fire department is researching a grant-funded purchase of equipment to maintain the underbrush for years and address defensible space throughout city limits. [Learn more about the CWRR Grant here.](#)





HAZMAT TEAM 8 TAKES PART IN ANNUAL **DRILL** IN MEDFORD

Oregon Hazmat Team 8 in Medford partnered with Jackson County Fire District 3 for the Linde Drill on July 13. Medford Fire says this is an annual event where Linde brings in employees from other facilities to train at their White City location.

Employees train for two days before they meet and train with Hazmat Team 8 and other first responders.

Medford Fire says drills like this with industry and partner agencies are essential to be better prepared for incidents involving hazardous materials when they occur. This drill is also a great exercise for personnel to use their skills with the equipment provided while collaborating with partner agencies.





2023 SPARKY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

We are excited to announce the 2023 Sparky award winners. Assistant Chief Dave Riess with the Hines Volunteer Fire Department has been awarded this year's Golden Sparky Award. Linda Davis, of Jacksonville was awarded the Silver Sparky.

Dave, a member of the department since 2006, is instrumental in helping his community learn about fire safety.

Assistant Chief Riess coordinates school fire prevention programs, bike rodeos, and holiday parades. He is responsible for implementing the smoke alarm giveaway program and coordinating the installation into people's homes over the last few years. He and his fellow firefighters have installed hundreds of alarms. Every smoke alarm provides a lifesaving warning for homeowners. Dave is a key figure in his community and department, making sure firefighters have the training they need to be safe and successful on calls.

"Dave's dedication to fire prevention has provided essential lifesaving education and awareness to everyone in Harney County," said Hines Fire Chief Robert Spence.

Linda is being recognized for her dedication and achievements with the Jacksonville Firewise Program. She is the program coordinator and puts in a tremendous amount of work to help the people of Jacksonville prevent and prepare for wildfires.

"Linda's dedication to Jacksonville goes beyond Firewise communities and it revolves around making Jacksonville fire safe," Jacksonville Fire Chief Wayne Painter said. "Through Linda's dedication and hard work that number has increased to an impressive 32 Firewise communities."

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

RETIRED LAKE OSWEGO ENGINE DONATED TO HELP UKRAINE FIREFIGHTERS

Decorated with uplifting messages, the city of Lake Oswego said goodbye to one of its fire engines in July and sent it off to help firefighters in Ukraine.

The city donated the retired 1994 Piecer fire engine/pumper to the Ukrainian Resistance Foundation which will deliver it to the State Emergency Services in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Resistance Foundation procures fire engines, ambulances, and other

supplies. The city of Lake Oswego noted much of the Ukrainian emergency medical and fire service equipment has been destroyed and the foundation works to help replenish that supply.

The engine was on display at the Lake Oswego star-spangled parade and celebration where community members could write messages on the engine before it was sent overseas.



RICH HOSMER JOINS OSFM HAZMAT PROGRAM

Rich Hosmer joined the OSFM as the hazmat program coordinator. Rich is from Salem and graduated from Oregon State University in 2004. He earned his master's in public health in 2017.

Rich has an extensive history with the Oregon Army National Guard where he currently serves as a battalion commander. He has been a chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological, and explosives (CBRNE) response specialist and hazardous materials technician. Rich has operated a mobile laboratory in response to hazardous materials incidents and assisted in force management and design. Rich is married and has three boys. He enjoys family time, camping, cooking, home projects, weightlifting, and reading and writing.



NASFM AWARDS HONOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) has announced its 2023 awards recognizing outstanding achievements and leadership successes in fire protection.

The Olin Greene Outstanding Fire Prevention Service Award was presented to Maryland State Fire Marshal Chief Brian Geraci. He has more than 50 years of fire service experience and has spent most of his career in fire inspections and investigations roles. He was a champion in his state for the adoption of residential fire sprinklers.



The President's Award, given in conjunction with Global Health and Safety/OmniShield, was given to Michigan's State Fire Marshal Chief Kevin Sehlmeier. Chief Sehlmeier leads efforts in community risk reduction and participates in several national groups that advocate for communities to identify health and safety risks and deploy education and mitigation efforts to prevent such incidents. He is a strong advocate for early detection and prevention of carbon monoxide exposures and deaths.

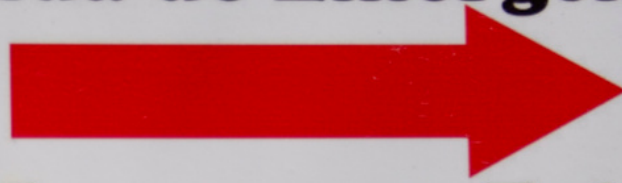
The Norman Y. Mineta Excellence in Transportation Safety Award was presented to ExxonMobil Pipeline company, received by Vice President Saul Flota. ExxonMobil Pipeline is a strong partner with NASFM to train first responders across the country in pipeline emergency prevention and response.

NASFM recognized four valued members with the Award of Excellence. Chief Phil Oakes oversees the Operations and Training for NASFM with nearly 30 years of fire service contributions. His leadership and vision in our Pipeline Safety Training program transformed the industry by preparing first responders for emergency response.

Chief Kevin Reardon, state fire marshal of Ohio, received an Award of Excellence for leading NASFM's efforts to ensure Congressional authorization for the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant program and the funding allocation for the operation of the U.S. Fire Administration. This year he testified before a congressional committee as the voice of state fire marshals.

Chief Mike Morgan, the state fire marshal of Colorado, and Chief Mariana Ruiz-Temple, the state fire marshal of Oregon, received an Award of Excellence for their work in wildland interface fire prevention and mitigation. They are a strong voice for enhanced public safety. They serve on the newly created Biden-Harris Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.

Salida de Emergencia



Emergency Exit

CODES CORNER

EMERGENCY EGRESS IS ALWAYS PRIORITY ONE

Earlier this summer, a fire broke out in a sleeping room inside a Columbia County assisted living facility. An electrical failure in a power-operated hospital bed was likely the cause, but luckily the malfunction occurred in the afternoon when most of the residents, some of them in memory care, were awake and staffing levels were high. Another factor working in the residents' favor was the automatic sprinkler system that activated and contained most of the fire's impact to a single room.

Fire inspectors work diligently to identify hazards to ensure these types of incidents, in all occupancy classifications, occur less frequently. We know that despite those goals, fires will continue to happen. All fire code officials must make safe and effective evacuation of all occupants during an emergency their priority.

Recent changes to Chapter 4 of the Oregon Fire Code were made to help with the successful relocation of occupants during an emergency. Section 405.2 now requires the evacuation of all occupants, not just staff, during drills using the available required exits. This will help everyone involved become familiar with the route and operation of the doors. There are exceptions for occupancies whose exit is into an adjacent smoke compartment and not to an outdoor assembly point.

Another change is the removal of the familiar footnote to Table 405.3, Fire and Evacuation Drill Frequency and Participation, regarding the authority of the fire code official to modify the drill frequency based on inclement weather. It can now be found as an exception in Section 405.5. See also Section 403.7.1.5 and Section 403.9.3.5.

The new language applies to all occupancy groups and gives the option of changing the location of the assembly point instead of postponing the drill or modifying the frequency.

Despite the fire, and the smoke that extended into the hallways, all residents of the Columbia County facility were safely moved to a nearby outdoor patio, first by staff and later by firefighters. The emergency preparedness requirements in the Oregon Fire Code, enforced by the local fire department, provided the framework for that success.



THE OSFM WELCOMES ANDRES SCHMIDT

Dr. Andres Schmidt joined the OSFM as a research analyst 3 in our Analytics & Intelligence Unit. Andres comes to us from Oregon State University where he most recently served as an assistant research professor in the College of Agricultural Sciences, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Sciences.

Prior to that, he taught physics at Linn-Benton Community College. He has written and published several peer-reviewed articles related to wildfire. Andres is excited to join the OSFM and is looking forward to contributing to our mission.

Join us for the 44th Oregon IAAI Advanced Arson Training Seminar September 18-21, 2023

Training Conference
Annual Business Meeting
Board Elections
Networking
Sponsor/Vendor Fair

Hallmark Resort in Newport, Oregon

Visit our website for more information and registration options.
www.oregoniaai.org

FROM THE **INTERNET**: HELLO LADYBIRD

Sisters-Camp Sherman sent an engine to Bly as part of the Central Oregon task force for the Golden Fire. While they were working, fire/medic David Ward found Ladybird wandering around, apparently lost. The two clearly became fast friends! The crew took care of her while doing their work until she could be reunited with her family. Thankfully she had a phone number on her collar that helped firefighters contact her owners.



FROM THE **INTERNET**: DONKEY RESCUE

In July, Scappoose Fire and Portland Fire & Rescue saved a donkey. Yes, a donkey rescue.

The donkey was stuck in a creek for nearly 10 hours. The donkey was helped out of the stream and laid on the bank exhausted. Crews set up rope systems to aid in the workload of climbing the steep terrain, walked alongside, and guided the tired donkey until it was too tired to continue after a stress-filled day.

The on-scene responders eventually put a few medical tarps to work, used chainsaws to cut a safe path, and carried the donkey to safety for medical evaluation and treatment.



TARYN HENDERSON JOINS OSFM EDUCATION DIVISION

Taryn Henderson joined the OSFM's Fire and Life Safety Division as an office specialist II. For the last five years, she worked at the DMV headquarters where she did biometric reviews and fraud processing.



BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE OSFM INFO BLOG FOR WILDFIRE UPDATES THIS SUMMER

As the threat of wildfire increases into the summer months, stay up to date on wildfires or incidents the OSFM has mobilized resources to. The public affairs team shares information, pictures, and video from the fire line of the great work the Oregon fire service does when mobilized. You can check out the blog at www.OSFMInfo.org. Be sure to bookmark the blog to your browser.



Welcome to the Oregon State Fire Marshal incident information blog. The OSFM will post information regarding incidents the OSFM has mobilized resources to.

This blog is maintained by the OSFM public affairs team and the OSFM incident management team public information officers (PIOs). We strive to provide the most accurate information in our work to protect people and critical infrastructure.

CURRENT OREGON WATCHES & WARNINGS

There are no active watches, warnings or advisories

There are no active watches, warnings or advisories [...]



FINAL UPDATE: Hat Rock and Mount Hebron fires in Umatilla County 100 percent contained

Posted on June 17, 2023

Fire Update: Saturday, June 17, 2023 Today brings the final day of the OSFM task force's work on the line of the Hat Rock Fire. As of 7 a.m. today, the OSFM...



REGISTER **TODAY!** OSFM HOSTING FIRE CODE AMENDMENT TRAININGS



Register today to learn about changes to the Oregon Fire Code. This 8-hour course is required for all Oregon Fire Inspector I in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule 837-039-0016. This class is a high-level overview of the 2022 Oregon Fire Code changes and introduces fire chiefs, fire marshals, fire inspectors, and building officials to the fire code official's responsibilities.

The course includes a 1-hour introduction to the Oregon Fire Code section 319, Mobile Food Units. This class is required within the first year of every code cycle change to maintain competency recognition for Oregon Fire Inspector 1, Oregon Fire Inspector 2 and Oregon Fire Marshal. Each class runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

UPCOMING CLASSES

AUGUST 9 - Lake Oswego

AUGUST 31 - Portland

SEPTEMBER 13 - Bend

OCTOBER 11 - Eugene

NOVEMBER 15 - Salem

Learn more and [REGISTER HERE.](#)

LET'S **LEARN** ABOUT THE OREGON FIRE CODE AND MOBILE FOOD UNITS

Help us spread the word to local food cart owners to learn about the new fire code and mobile food units. This 3-hour course is recommended for mobile food unit owners and their staff, food cart pod owners and operators, and all interested parties.

The class will provide details on the Oregon Fire Code's general requirements for mobile food units and food cart pods and an in-depth discussion of specific requirements.

The course includes classroom time and a practical exercise.

[Download a printable flyer here.](#)

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

AUGUST 10: Wilsonville
8445 SW Elligsen Rd, Wilsonville 97070

AUGUST 29: Portland
4800 NE 122nd Ave, Portland 97230

SEPTEMBER 14: Bend
63377 Jamison St, Bend 97701

OCTOBER 12: Eugene
1705 2nd Ave, Eugene 97402

NOVEMBER 16: Salem
3991 Fairview Industrial Dr, Salem 97302

ALL CLASSES ARE FROM 8 a.m. - 11 a.m



Contact Us

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

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