



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

JUNE 2023

this 4th of july

**KEEP IT LEGAL.
KEEP IT SAFE.**

OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

FIREWORKS SAFETY IN FOCUS IN JUNE & JULY

"Keep it Legal, Keep it Safe" is the message from the Oregon State Fire Marshal this June as fireworks sales legally go on sale in Oregon on June 23.

The OSFM is tasked with issuing permits for fireworks sales and public displays. The OSFM also provides messaging to help ensure all Oregonians are safe when using fireworks this time of year.

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OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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FIREWORK SALES BEGIN JUNE 23 IN OREGON

Whether it's the dazzle of the different colors or the crackle of fireworks, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal is urging Oregonians and visitors to check local regulations and to be safe if they plan to use fireworks this July 4.

In Oregon, the 2023 fireworks retail sales season runs from June 23 to July 6. The OSFM reminds everyone to know which fireworks are legal to use, where to use them, and how to use fireworks safely.

It is important to check if there are any local fireworks restrictions and to follow them where you live or where you may be traveling to celebrate the holiday.

"We ask that those using fireworks be responsible when using them," OSFM Assistant Chief Deputy Mark Johnston said. "Every year, we see fires sparked and injuries because of improper use or use of illegal fireworks. Our message is to keep it legal and keep it safe."

Consumer-legal fireworks can only be purchased from permitted fireworks retailers and stands. State regulations limit where those fireworks may be used. People who plan to visit public lands and parks are asked to leave all fireworks at home. The possession and use of fireworks are prohibited in national parks and forests, on Bureau of Land Management lands, on U.S. Fish and Wildlife properties, on state beaches, in state parks, and in state campgrounds. The use of fireworks is also prohibited on many private lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry.



CODES CORNER

SALE, STORAGE AND FIREWORK USE

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), more than 10,000 people are injured each year from misusing common and illegally manufactured fireworks. These injuries result in millions of dollars in medical and legal expenses and untold suffering. The injuries include burns and the loss of fingers, limbs, vision, or hearing; most injuries leave permanent scarring. A 2016 NFPA report shows 35% of people hurt were children under the age of 15.

Ordinarily, the possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling, and use of fireworks is prohibited in the 2022 Oregon Fire Code (OFC). Fireworks displays are not regulated in the code but are preempted by Oregon Administrative Rules 873-012-0700 through 837-012-0970.

Oregon law prohibits the possession, use, or sale of any firework that flies into the air, explodes, or behaves in an uncontrolled and unpredictable manner. Under ORS 480.111 (2) "Consumer fireworks" means: (a) A cone fountain, a cylindrical fountain, a flitter sparkler, a ground spinner, an illuminating torch or a wheel, or a combination of two or more of those items. Under OAR 837-012-0610 (31) "Retail fireworks" means consumer fireworks, as defined in ORS 480.111(2) and includes a firework designed with the means to roll or move while remaining on the ground, that travels 12' or less horizontally on smooth surfaces.

These laws allow Oregon and communities direct control over the hazards associated with small amounts of storage typical of retail sales. A code exception recognizes that, in some instances, the possession, storage, sale, handling, and use of certain fireworks may be allowed. Legal fireworks facilities must meet minimum code and standard requirements. For more info, [see our website](#).

Finally, where approved by the fire code official, OFC Section 5609.1 allows for the temporary storage of consumer fireworks in accordance with Chapter 5 of NFPA 1124. NFPA 1124 defines "permanent" as any building or structure constructed on a foundation that has fixed utility connections for more than 180 consecutive calendar days—if the utilities remain in use for 90 consecutive days or less and the building is not permanent as defined by NFPA 1124, it is defined as temporary. See also Section 5601.1.3, Exception 4. Note that the sale of fireworks is no longer addressed by NFPA 1124.

SHARE THE MESSAGE OF FIREWORK SAFETY THIS MONTH

For those who purchase legal fireworks, fire officials encourage everyone to practice the four Bs of safe fireworks use:

- **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. Never use fireworks near or on dry grass or vegetation.
- **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:** only use legal fireworks and in legal places.

To learn more about the sale and legal use of consumer fireworks, visit a fire prevention website for your area.



[DOWNLOAD THE OSFM FIREWORKS SAFETY MESSAGING SOCIAL MEDIA KIT HERE.](#)

WELCOME TO THE OSFM TEAM

Eleesa Markham joined the OSFM as an administrative specialist in the Regulatory Services Division. She previously worked for 12 years in the mortgage industry and 10 years with Marion County Search and Rescue. Born and raised in Salem, she attended college at Oregon State University in Corvallis.

Though she loves to travel, Oregon has always been her home. In her spare time, she enjoys the outdoors, hunting, fishing, wheeling, and hiking with her dogs and friends. She is looking forward to working and getting to know everyone at the Oregon State Fire Marshal.



OSFM, PARTNERS TALK WILDFIRE SEASON WITH GOVERNOR KOTEK



In anticipation of wildfire season, OSFM leadership and other state agencies met with Oregon Governor Tina Kotek to brief her on what to expect this season and where the OSFM is seeing success in responding to wildfire and better preparing communities.

The OSFM is busy working to get ready for the upcoming wildfire season and has launched several grants to provide the Oregon structural fire service prevention and response resources, tools and staffing. Awardees were announced for several grants and programs, including the engine program, community wildfire risk reduction grant, Oregon fire service capacity grant, the wildfire season staffing grant, and funding for the Oregon firefighter apprenticeship program. This funding is a key part in the OSFM's strategy to rise to the challenge of wildfire and empower local fire agencies and communities with the resources they need to better protect Oregon.

The team also briefed the governor on the success of the two response tools, immediate response and pre-positioning, which have been critical on several occasions in preventing a wildfire from rising to the level of a declared conflagration.

The OSFM continues to look for innovative ways to move Oregon forward as we work to better live with fire.

WILDFIRE WEBINARS CONTINUE IN JUNE

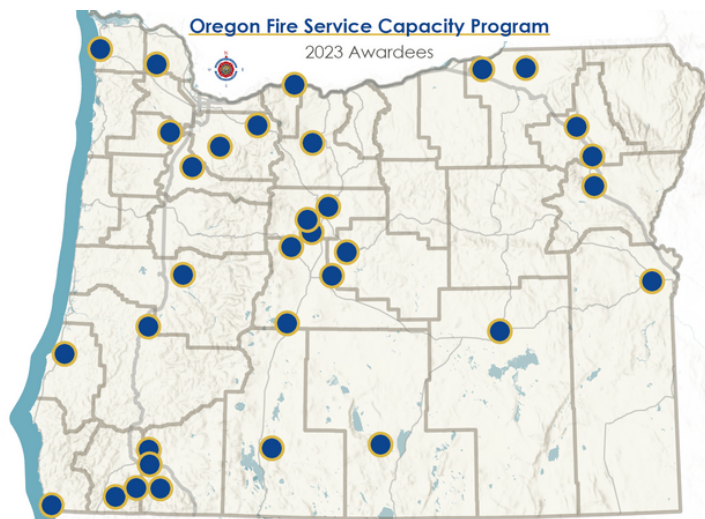
In June, the OSFM Community Risk Reduction Unit will wrap up a series of webinars focused on preparing Oregonians for wildfire.

These webinars are a part of the OSFM's Fire Adapted Oregon initiative, focused on defensible space, home hardening, public safety power shut-offs, and more. Our fire risk reduction specialists are working with our partners and experts in their fields to provide these educational opportunities.

We would like to thank our partners who have helped to make these educational webinars possible.

Learn more about the webinars and [sign up here](#).





AWARDEES ANNOUNCED FOR OREGON FIRE SERVICE CAPACITY GRANT

In early May, the Oregon State Fire Marshal announced the recipients of the \$13.5-million Oregon Fire Service Capacity Grant. This funding is a part of the agency's efforts to rise to the challenge wildfire poses to Oregonians.

The grant's goal is to provide small- to medium-sized Oregon fire agencies with resources to boost firefighting and fire prevention staffing over the next three years. These agencies protect Oregon communities and play a pivotal role in wildfire prevention and suppression. Taking a two-pronged approach, this investment will increase firefighter capacity in the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS). The additional prevention staff will be an added resource for communities and property owners to assess and help guide Oregonians with defensible space.

In total, 33 local fire agencies were awarded funding, adding 53 firefighters and fire prevention staff over the next three years. The OSFM issued awards to agencies in 27 counties. These funds will benefit areas across the state and give the Oregon fire service added capacity to serve their communities and all Oregonians.

Applicants were scored through a diverse scoring committee representing all aspects of the fire service. The following principles guided award decisions:

- Fire agencies serving areas at higher risk of wildfire
- Communities with high social vulnerability
- Consideration of previous grant awards
- Statewide distribution and allocation to protect all Oregonians

This application process and other capacity-centered grants highlight the need within the Oregon fire service. The OSFM continues to develop creative and groundbreaking ways to rise to those challenges and give local fire agencies the tools they need to better serve and protect their communities.

To see the list of recipients, visit the [grants section of the OSFM's website](#).

OSFM WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING GRANTS AWARDED

To boost the number of firefighters across Oregon ahead of wildfire season, the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) announced it has awarded \$6 million in grants to 185 local fire agencies across the state.

The 2023 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant is in its second year. Local agencies within the Oregon structural fire service were eligible to apply for up to \$35,000. The funding will allow local fire agencies to hire additional firefighters during the 2023 fire season. This year, small agencies, many of which depend on volunteers, were prioritized to receive funding. [A list of agencies awarded funding can be found here.](#)

The 2022 grant was successful across the state, adding an additional 400 paid firefighters to the Oregon fire service. These added resources allowed agencies to attack fires and keep them small and away from communities and added capacity to respond to other calls, ultimately saving lives. [Read about the successes here.](#)

This 2023 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant is part of a multi-pronged approach to combat wildfire in Oregon. Over the last two years, the OSFM has made strategic investments to modernize the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System and help communities be better prepared for wildfire.

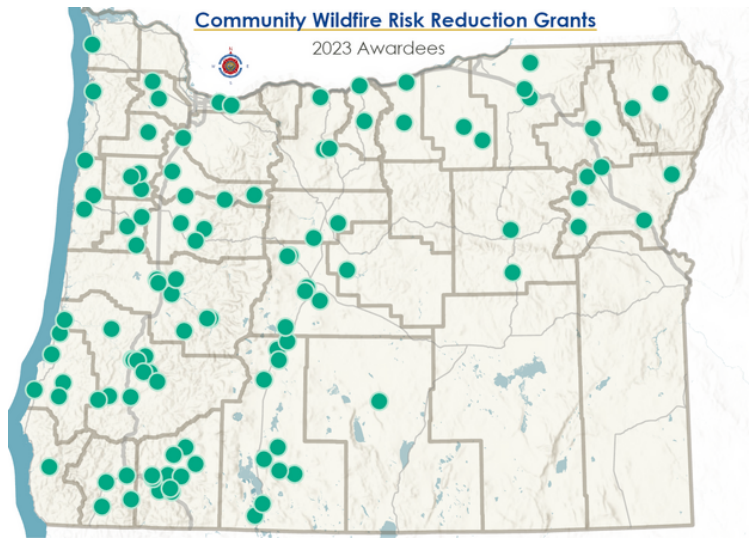
This grant is part of the OSFM's Response Ready Oregon initiative. Funding was made possible through Senate Bill 762, which was signed into law in 2021.



RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED FOR COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION GRANTS

The OSFM announced the recipients of its competitive \$18-million Community Wildfire Risk Reduction (CWRR) Grant in May. These funds will help communities across Oregon reach their goals of improving wildfire resiliency, using local programs and solutions.

In total, 106 organizations were offered grant funding, totaling \$18 million. Projects receiving funding include community-wide wildfire defensible space programs, vegetation removal



around buildings, community chipping programs, community education related to wildfire preparedness, equipment for vegetation removal, and staff to support these local efforts.

"We are excited that Sumpter was awarded funding through this grant," Matt Armstrong with the City of Sumpter said. "We are a small town with limited resources; it makes it difficult to fund initiatives focused on preventing wildland fires. The funds will go a long way toward building defensible spaces. We are truly grateful and are looking forward to working with the OSFM."

The CWRR grant is funding local governments, special districts, structural fire service agencies, and non-governmental organizations to support wildfire risk reduction projects, equipment, and staff. In total, 161 entities applied to fund 269 projects totaling a requested \$44.5 million, highlighting the need for these grants to support important work in communities across Oregon.

Applicants were scored through a diverse scoring committee with representatives from the OSFM, other state government agencies, non-governmental organizations, fire service agencies, special districts, and emergency management.

Projects were prioritized on:

- Impact in high wildfire-risk regions
- Communities with high social vulnerability
- Those in and around the built environment
- Providing defensible space and community resiliency
- Protecting people and communities
- Geographically diverse projects to ensure all areas of the state have the resources to improve community wildfire risk reduction and better prepare communities

[For a list of recipients, click here.](#)



Recruits at Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue train in May. (PHOTO: Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue)

OSFM ANNOUNCES \$3 MILLION INVESTMENT IN FIREFIGHTER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

The Oregon State Fire Marshal has announced it is investing \$3 million in the Oregon State Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Program over the next two years. Klamath County Fire District No. 1 and Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue will each receive \$1.5 million dollars.

The Oregon fire service has seen a decrease in the number of career and volunteer firefighters entering the field. The goals of the apprenticeship program are to create accessible pathways into a career and increase diversity and inclusion, ensuring the Oregon fire service represents the communities they serve.

The two agencies were selected to receive funding because of the increased risk of wildfire near their communities. Over the last few decades, these regions have experienced more wildfires that have increased the demand for firefighters. This investment will help to lessen that need and provide highly-trained personnel.

"Apprenticeship attracts a wide range of people, bringing with them eagerness and enthusiasm, which will have a positive effect on the rest of our workforce," Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue Chief Bob Palmer said. "Having the opportunity to sponsor a firefighter apprenticeship program is an effective strategy for helping our fire district meet the demand for skilled labor which has become a valuable and limited commodity."

"The fire service recognizes that our greatest asset is our people, and we are committed to building, developing, and nurturing the skills of these new apprentices while unlocking their full potential and preparing them for long and healthy careers," Klamath County Fire District No. 1 Chief Greg Davis said.

Funding for this program was made possible through Senate Bill 762, signed into law in 2021. This investment is part of a multi-pronged approach Oregon is taking to strategically invest in responding to and preventing wildfires. Learn more about the [OSFM's wildfire investments here](#).

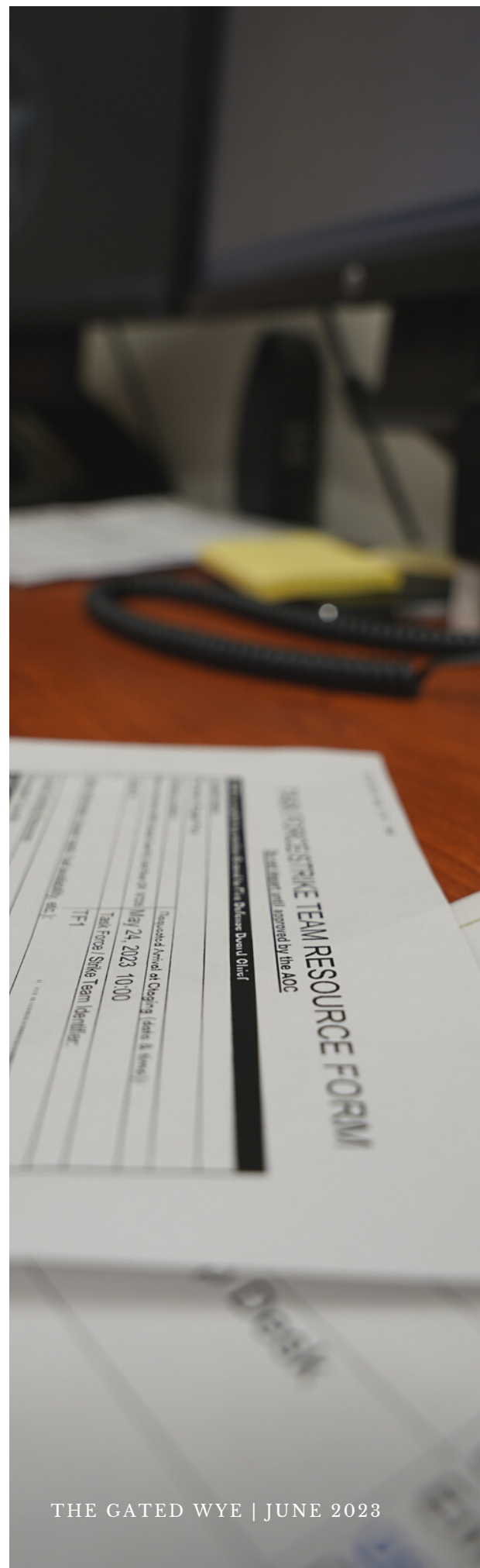
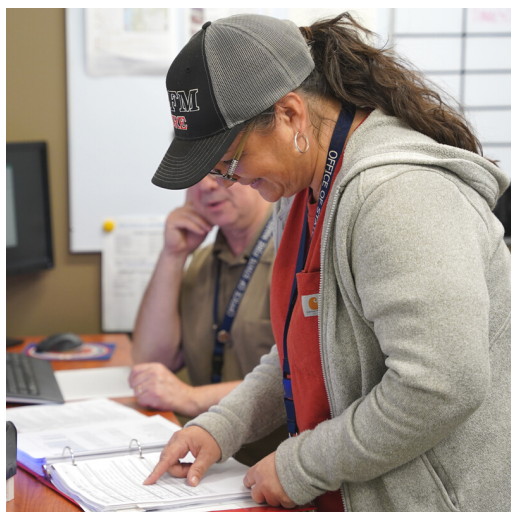
OSFM STAFF TAKE PART IN ANNUAL AOC TRAINING

To get ready for wildfire this summer, the OSFM Agency Operations Center (AOC) conducted the annual fire defense board drill. OSFM staff activated resources, tracked them, and filled out requests in a mock scenario with the Oregon fire service.

The people who staff the Agency Operations Center are OSFM employees who take on this work in addition to their regular duties.

Last summer, the AOC staffed 152 shifts, supporting five emergency conflagration declarations, six pre-positioning assignments, and 12 immediate response assignments, which included 42 Oregon taskforces from 103 individual fire agencies.

When the OSFM AOC is activated, it is open until the last resource returns home.





FIRE SERVICE DAY AT THE CAPITOL





2023 OFCA MERITORIOUS AWARDS ANNOUNCED AT SPRING CONFERENCE

The 2023 Oregon Fire Chief's Association Meritorious Awards were announced at the annual spring conference in Bend last month. Congratulations to the award winners and thank you for your service to your communities.

President's Award

Roger Johnson
Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District

Silver Trumpet Award

Elaine Parrott
Oregon Fire Chiefs Foundation

Award in Excellence

Jeff Pricher
Scappoose Fire District

Award In Excellence

Phil Turnbull
Rural Metro Fire – Josephine County

Lifetime Achievement Award

Julie Olsen
DPSST

Special Recognition Award

Jeff Griffin
OFCA Executive Director

Excellence in Safety Award from the Oregon Health & Safety Section (OSHS)

Mike Gorsuch
Columbia River Fire & Rescue

Gold Trumpet Award

David Pickhardt
Crook County Fire & Rescue

Award in Excellence

Mike Greisen
Scappoose Fire District

Award in Excellence

Michelle Frazier
Jackson County Fire District #3

Unit Citation

Chris Heppel
Eugene Springfield Fire

JoAnna Kamppi
Eugene Springfield Fire

Emily Smith
Eugene Springfield Fire

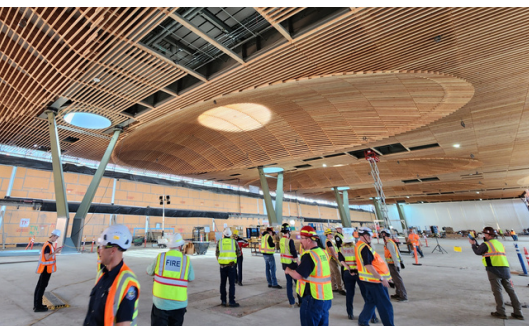
GEIGER RECEIVES OFMA PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Congratulations are in order for OSFM Deputy State Fire Marshal Glenn Geiger. This week during the Oregon Fire Marshals Association (OFMA) conference he was awarded the OFMA President's Award.

Glenn has worked for his fellow Oregonians for 45 years with focus and passion for people and fire prevention.

Glenn led the code development process for Oregon's mobile food unit fire code, working with associations and stakeholders and spurring national-level code conversations around food cart safety. He was instrumental in creating the language for the Oregon Defensible Space Code.

We can't thank Glenn enough for the important work he does day in and day out.



OSFM, PORT OF PORTLAND HOST WEEKLONG INSPECTOR CLASS

In early May, OSFM deputy fire marshals taught a weeklong Fire Inspector 1 Course, hosted by the Port of Portland Fire Department at PDX. The course provides a high-level understanding of the legal authority to conduct inspections, common fire code violations, and the steps involved in the inspection process. Nineteen students from fire departments across Oregon attended.

Class consisted of the NFPA Fire Inspector 1 curriculum and the Oregon Competency Recognition courses. After participants complete their task book and ICC Fire Inspector 1 test, they will meet the Oregon Fire Inspector 1 competency recognition level.

Classroom and field work to include visits to many different occupancies including a behind-the-scenes construction update tour of the new terminal at Portland International Airport.

We want to thank the Port of Portland Fire Department, Deputy Fire Marshal Lani Hill, and Fire Inspector Ryan Roy for hosting class and providing significant logistics support.

Another Fire Inspector 1 class is happening on June 5, hosted by the Winston-Dillard Fire District. A Fire Inspector 2 class will be coming this fall.



FROM THE INTERNET: TO THE RIVER

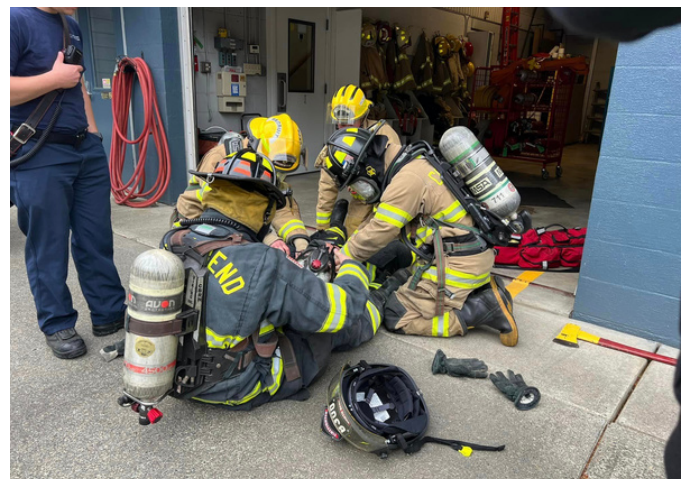
The smiles say it all! Albany Fire Department's Keith Gillespie and Rescue 3 hosted training for their water team members, Eugene Springfield Fire, and U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Northwest on the North Santiam Pack Saddle Run near Mill City and Gates, Oregon. Check out the photos on [Albany Fire's Facebook page](#).

FROM THE INTERNET: TRAINING DAY

On May 24, crews from Charleston Fire & Rescue, Coos Bay Fire Department, and North Bend Fire Department met at Charleston's Barview Station on Cape Arago Highway to train together. The training topic was rapid intervention team and crew CPR.

With personnel in full personal protective equipment, crews placed materials in the SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) masks to obscure vision for the firefighters, mimicking the smoke during a fire.

As crews searched for people in the apparatus bays, there was a simulated mayday, an emergency with firefighters trapped, injured, and unconscious. The training crews entered the building to rescue the firefighters, removed their PPE, and performed uninterrupted CPR.





**Fire
Safety**

OSFM SET TO SEND SUMMER SAFETY MESSAGING BOXES TO FIRE SERVICE

Summer is just around the corner and to help spread the message of fire safety, the OSFM's Fire and Life Safety Education team will send out summer safety boxes to the fire service.

The summer months bring different challenges and risks to Oregonians. To help them be better prepared, the education materials included in these summer boxes will include summer fire safety, window fall prevention messaging, tips to avoid heat-related injuries, and how to be safe in and around water.

Please take advantage of the variety of community events to connect with Oregonians and visitors and distribute the provided materials. Using local traditions that bring people together is a valuable and important way to increase fire prevention education efforts and spread consistent safety messages across the state.

The team will send educational resources to the entire Oregon fire service, so no need to submit an order. Be on the lookout for your Summer Fire Safety box coming later this month.

OSFM CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

[System Architect \(Information Systems Specialist 7\)](#)

[Equity & Inclusion Manager \(Operations & Policy Analyst 3\)](#)

[GIS Analyst \(Information Systems Specialist 5\)](#)

[Hazmat Program Coordinator](#)



WE

ARE

HIRING



Contact Us

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

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