



GUIDE FOR OREGON FIRE AGENCIES

COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION WEEK

WHAT IS COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION?

The Vision 20/20 Project defines community risk reduction (CRR) as "a process to identify and prioritize local risks, followed by the integrated and strategic investment of resources (emergency response and prevention) to reduce their occurrence and impact."

CRR Week is an opportunity for Oregon's fire agencies to identify community risk reduction opportunities. The Oregon State Fire Marshal has programs and resources available to support these efforts.

WHAT CAN FIRE AGENCIES DO IN HONOR OF CRR WEEK?

If your agency is new to CRR and starting from scratch, commit to completing a risk assessment.

- Begin by gathering the data.
 - This will likely include your department's incident data that is reported to NFIRS, along with local dispatch center, EMS, law enforcement, FEMA, and CDC data.
 - 3-5 years of data should be considered in identifying trends.
 - Contact the OSFM Analytics & Intelligence Unit for help with data: osfmdata@osp.oregon.gov
- Create a community profile that identifies the people impacted by CRR efforts.
 - Include age, gender, income, race and ethnicity, social and cultural information, education, housing type, age, and density.
 - Much of this information can be found on the [United States Census Bureau website](#).
- Identify causal factors and populations at greatest risk.
- Identify target hazards or critical facilities. FEMA defines these as "facilities in either the public or private sector that provide essential products and services to the general public, are otherwise necessary to preserve the welfare and quality of life in the community, or fulfill important public safety, emergency response, and/or disaster recovery functions." These may include:
 - Hospitals
 - Assisted living centers
 - Community shelters
 - Schools
 - Airports
 - Important government offices
 - Emergency operations centers
 - Hazardous materials sites
 - Roadways
 - Water/sewage treatment facilities
 - Communication systems

NEXT STEPS: AFTER A RISK ASSESSMENT IS COMPLETE

When a risk assessment is complete, prioritize the risks in your service area.

- Prioritizing and “scoring” risk is an exercise that adds values to the risk likelihood based on characteristics that indicate if the risk is “almost certain”, “likely”, “possible”, “unlikely”, or “rare.”
- Vulnerability scoring looks at the community’s ability to resist the impacts and effects of various hazards and can be categorized as insignificant, minor, moderate, major, and catastrophic.
- A comparison of the two (risk likeliness and vulnerability) indicates risk levels in the extreme, high, moderate, and low-risk categories.

USING THE FIVE E'S

If extreme and high-level risks are identified, determine strategies to mitigate these risks using the five E's of prevention mitigation.

- *Education*: Increase awareness and provide information intended to produce a desired behavior. For example, school curriculum, social media campaigns, station tours.
- *Engineering*: Apply changes to the physical environment. For example, smoke alarm installations, child car seats, and fire sprinkler systems.
- *Enforcement*: Requires compliance with laws, where noncompliance results in imposed penalties. For example, enforcement of building codes or fire sprinkler installation requirements.
- *Economic Incentives*: The use of financial incentives, both positive and negative, to influence behavior. Negative economic incentives include risk of fines for unsafe behavior, while positive incentives provide a reward for participation.
- *Emergency Response*: Some risks can only be mitigated by enhancing current capabilities or by adding new emergency response resources.

PUTTING THE PLAN TOGETHER

While a complex and comprehensive document is not required, a plan is the next step. This plan should seek to reduce risk at the local level and include actionable items within integrated strategies. The documented plan will:

- Outline the vision, mission, values, and priorities
- Provide a description of the service area
- Identify the risk and ranking of priorities
- Goals and expectations of the program
- List the strategies that will be employed
- Implementation steps
- Process for monitoring and evaluation of the program

PUT THE PLAN IN ACTION

Initiate the implementation steps and, to the extent possible, keep the community informed on the plan. These steps include:

- Identify and allocate needed resources
- Prepare a timeline with milestones
- Assign tasks and responsibilities
- Communicate goals and expectations
- Monitor progress

Make adjustments as needed.

RESOURCES

Vision 20/20 provides extensive resources to support your CRR efforts. Visit StrategicFire.org for more information on community risk reduction planning.

[CRR Week Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Craig 1300 NFPA CRA Insight Generator](#)

OSFM RESOURCES

- Data request from A&I unit: email them at osfmdata@osp.oregon.gov
- [Smoke Alarm Installation Program \(SAIP\)](#):
 - The OSFM encourages fire agencies contribute to CRR efforts through participation in the smoke alarm installation program (SAIP). The SAIP provides smoke alarms to Oregon fire agencies to install in residences without adequate smoke alarm protection. For more information [click here](#).
 - Training is required for agencies to participate in the program, and for agencies who have not taken the training since 2017.
- [Training Opportunities](#)
- [Cooking Fire Safety](#)
- [Home Heating Safety](#)
- [Community Risk Reduction Week](#)
- [Educational Materials Request](#)