



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

PREPARED // JUNE 2024





MISSION

To protect people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.

VALUES

INTEGRITY

We believe in being honest, fair, and doing the right thing in everything we do.

DEDICATION

We are committed to performing our work the best we can in support of our mission, our customers, our stakeholders, the public, and each other.

LEADERSHIP

We are committed to be a leader in the Oregon fire service, to lead our organization, and lead ourselves as individuals in our day to day work.

PARTNERSHIPS

We believe our success and the success of others depends on collaboration with our stakeholders.

SERVICE TO OTHERS

We believe that serving others is a cornerstone of our mission, our day to day work, and is all inclusive.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Oregon Revised Statutes
Chapters 336, 453, 470, 476, 478, 479, 480





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2023 ANNUAL REPORT **YEAR IN REVIEW**

There is much to be said about the year 2023 and the Oregon State Fire Marshal. 2023 was not just another calendar flip; it marked significant transitions, achievements, and a steadfast commitment to serving Oregonians.

On July 1, the OSFM began a new chapter in its storied history, becoming a state agency. The move empowered the agency to chart a more agile and focused path in safeguarding Oregonians. During the summer months, the OSFM mobilized 52 task forces from 113 local Oregon fire agencies, and five strike teams from California. The response showcased the dedication and readiness of our teams and the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System in the face of adversity.

In 2023, the OSFM grants program soared, channeling a staggering \$82 million to communities statewide, reinforcing their preparedness and response to wildfires. The launch of the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant invested \$18 million across 106 organizations to begin local solutions to create wildfire resilient communities. In June, we allocated funds to 185 agencies through the 2023 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant. This initiative proved to be a resounding success in its second year.

The OSFM Engine Program hit full throttle in 2023 and was setup for success in 2024 when Oregon will begin receiving apparatus. The apparatus will be strategically positioned across Oregon to boost the state's wildfire response capabilities and help modernize the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System.

The OSFM's Defensible Space Assessment Program launched in 2023. Fire service partners and OSFM staff began doing assessments statewide to give people the knowledge to be better protected against wildfire.

In 2023, the OSFM deputy state fire marshal's set a record for the most fire and life safety inspections to be completed in a single year. The number of deputy state fire marshals doubled in size to better serve Oregonians. The OSFM now has 26 deputy state fire marshals across the state.

The Fire Prevention Education Unit went through a restructuring in January 2023 to boost community risk reduction efforts in Oregon. This comprehensive approach will minimize risks across the state by analyzing and enhancing programs using both state and national data. The focus remains on supporting the Oregon fire service to make our communities safer.

The journey of 2023 emboldened us, reminding us of the power of collaboration, innovation, and unwavering commitment to our communities.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

AGENCY TRANSITION

July 1, 2023, marked a new chapter for the Oregon State Fire Marshal. Following several years of work, the OSFM officially became a state agency.

It has taken countless hours of hard work to get to this point. There are many people to thank, from lawmakers, the Oregon fire service, and our staff who have been working tirelessly to get us to make the transition a reality.

In 2021, House Bill 2927 was signed into law that made both the OSFM and the Oregon Emergency Management (OEM), independent state agencies. Previously, the OSFM was housed as an office under Oregon State Police and OEM was housed under the Oregon Military Department. Following months and months of hard work, at the end of June, OSFM staff moved into the new general headquarters located off Fairview Industrial Drive in Salem.



July 1, 2023

OSFM BECOMES A STATE AGENCY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

GRANTS & INVESTMENTS

OSFM ENGINE PROGRAM

The OSFM's \$25-million Engine Program began to pick up steam in 2023 as production ramped up. The engine program is a part of the OSFM's Response Ready Oregon initiative to add capacity and resources to respond to wildfire.

With funds from Senate Bill 762, the OSFM is purchasing 26 type 3, 20 type 6 engines, and 30 water tenders. They will be strategically positioned across Oregon to boost the state's wildfire response capabilities and help modernize the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System. Skeeter and Rosenbauer were selected through the procurement process to build these engines.



COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION GRANT

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.

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.



2023 WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING GRANT

Preliminary numbers show the Oregon fire service response effort was boosted during the 2023 wildfire season. Staff with the Oregon State Fire Marshal grants program is currently sifting through mid-year and final reports.

Early estimates show more than 1,500 personnel were funded through 2023 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant during the peak of wildfire season across Oregon. The grants team is working to gather final numbers as agencies had until January 5 to submit their final report. The team reports most of these personnel are part-time, student/interns, volunteers, and/or seasonal hires.

The 2023 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant awarded nearly \$6 million to 185 local fire agencies across the state to boost firefighting capacity.

The Cornelius Fire Department shared one of their success stories from the grant. It was able to have two units on scene within minutes of being dispatched. It enabled them to quickly extinguish the fire, preventing it from spreading to nearby buildings.

With the grant, the department was able to fund a position to staff a brush rig for 10 hours every day throughout the fire season. Cornelius Fire partnered with Forest Grove Fire & Rescue to jointly staff the unit with two people, allowing both departments to increase their capability for the fire season.

"Without this program, we would have only had one unit on scene initially to work on extinguishing the flames while we had additional mutual aid resources respond to assist us."

- Cornelius Fire Department

**FOR MORE STORIES CHECK
OUT THE OSFM STORY MAP**

SCAN



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

GRANTS & INVESTMENTS

OREGON FIRE SERVICE CAPACITY PROGRAM

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 provided 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 14 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 tools to serve their communities and all Oregonians.

“

This grant will allow our agency to hire a full-time, dedicated fire marshal to help keep our community safe, conduct business inspections, and develop a comprehensive fire prevention program. The added capacity, especially in rural parts of Oregon, will allow for increased staffing to respond more quickly at the local, regional, and statewide levels.

Chief Jeff Blake
Jefferson County Fire & EMS



**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OSFM'S
WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION EFFORTS**

SCAN



STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

In 2023, the OSFM made \$2.6 million in strategic investments to help communities be better prepared for wildfire. The OSFM is forging partnerships with local communities to create tailored strategies for lowering wildfire risks.

One of the projects was with the city of Jacksonville. Crews from Grayback Forestry created substantial fuel breaks along the eastern ridge of Forest Park to decrease the wildfires affecting the park. The focus of the project involved significant thinning of dense brush to lower the risk of fires within the treatment footprint.

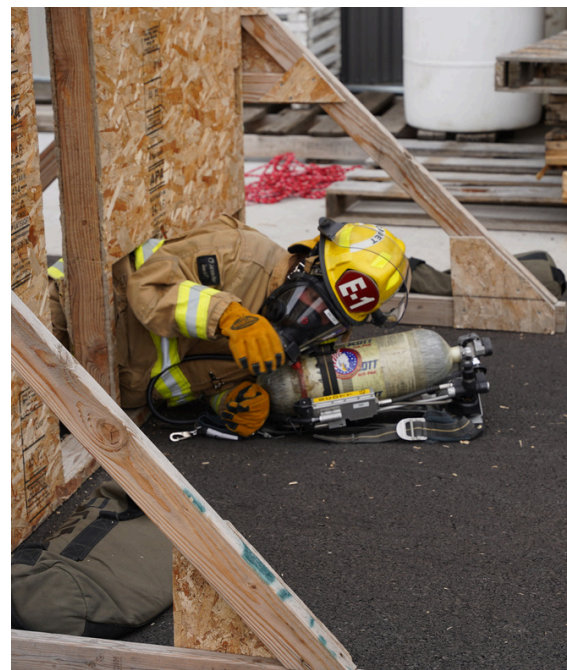


APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

In early summer 2023, the OSFM announced it invested \$3 million into the Oregon State Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship Program for the next two years. Klamath County Fire District No. 1 and Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue each received \$1.5 million.

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

This program provides 4,000 hours of training over two years. Apprentices learn the skills of basic Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), applicable college-level math and writing coursework, and on-the-job training. During the program, apprentices also increase staffing at local fire agencies.



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LEGISLATION

In 2023, Oregon had legislative measures to boost wildfire preparedness, enhance community resilience, and ensure safety. The legislation reflects a proactive approach to addressing the escalating threat of wildfires and other emergencies facing our state.

Wildfire Preparedness and Community Resilience:

- **Senate Bill 80:** A comprehensive bill focused on community wildfire preparedness, including updates to the statewide wildfire hazard map and a substantial allocation of \$3 million to the Oregon State Fire Marshal's community risk reduction fund. These funds will assist communities with enhancing their wildfire resilience.
- **Senate Bill 82:** Prohibits insurance companies from using the statewide wildfire risk map to cancel policies or increase premiums, ensuring fair treatment for policyholders.
- **Senate Bill 864:** Provides civil liability protection for individuals who voluntarily engage in wildfire fighting efforts on private forestland, encouraging community involvement in firefighting.

Safety and Regulatory Measures:

- **House Bill 2426:** Introduced self-serve gas options in Oregon, offering consumers the choice between self-service and attendant-assisted fueling.
- **House Bill 2520:** Prohibits the unauthorized use of unmanned aircraft systems to interfere with emergency response efforts, safeguarding the efficiency of emergency operations.
- **House Bill 2902:** Requires schools to teach students about fires, earthquakes, safety threats, and disaster preparedness in their curriculum, enhancing safety awareness among students.



Infrastructure and Resource Allocation:

- **House Bill 3484:** Established a mobilization fund to cover the costs of deploying firefighting resources. This measure streamlines funding processes and ensures timely support for firefighting efforts.
- **House Bill 3485:** Enhances the Oregon State Fire Marshal's discretionary authorities, enabling more efficient resource allocation and operational flexibility.

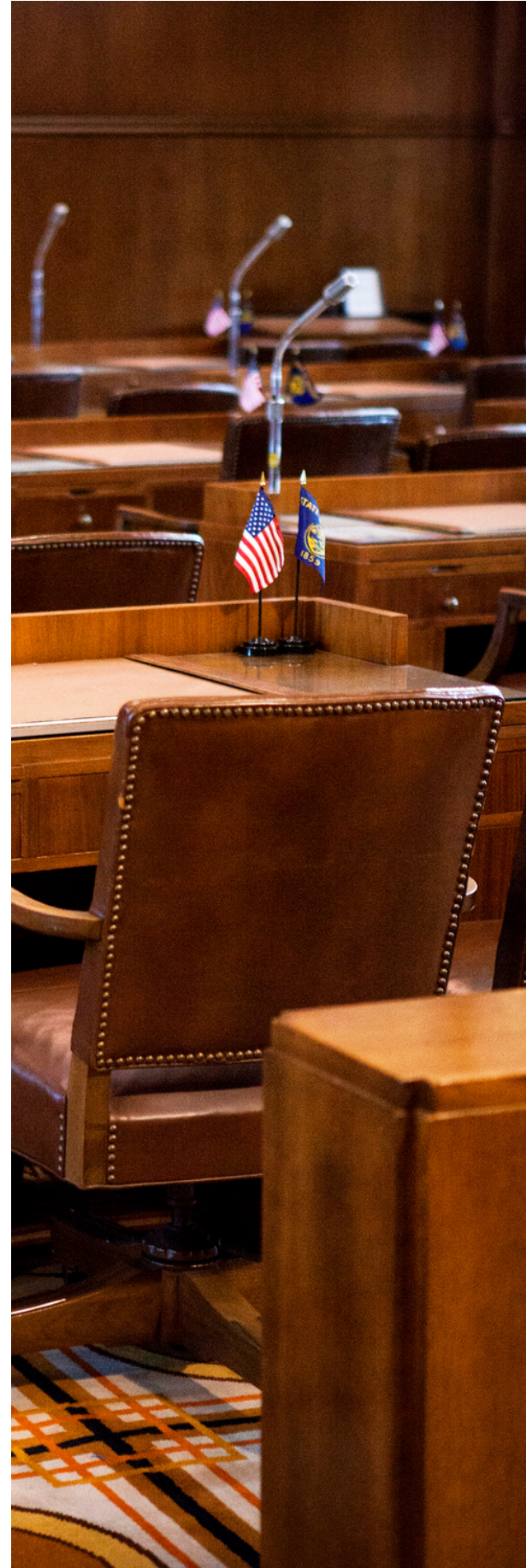
Policy Development and Review:

- **Senate Bill 1049:** Included program changes and end-of-session considerations, including provisions related to the Hazardous Substance Planning Fund (HSPF), fireworks regulations, and the mobilization fund.
- **House Bill 2522:** Established a Rural Structural Fire Protection Review Committee to recommend ways to modernize and improve the efficiency of rural fire protection districts.

Financial Allocation and Grants:

- **Senate Bill 5506:** Enacted an all-encompassing bill with significant financial provisions, including allocations for natural disaster relief, wildfire mitigation, agency staffing, and government service charges.

These legislative initiatives show Oregon's commitment to protecting communities, enhancing emergency response capabilities, and lessening the impact of wildfire and other disasters. Through strategic planning, resource allocation, and regulatory measures, the Oregon State Fire Marshal continues to play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and resilience of Oregonians and their homes.



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WILDFIRE RESPONSE

In 2023, Oregon faced significant challenges because of wildfires, but the OSFM responded. Over the summer, the OSFM deployed 52 task forces from 113 local Oregon fire agencies and five strike teams from California to address seven declared conflagrations. There were several pre-positioning assignments and 16 immediate assignments, demonstrating the dedication and preparedness of the state's firefighting teams.

In August, a heatwave exacerbated the wildfire situation, prompting the OSFM to mobilize resources to combat three major fires and several immediate response incidents. Mid-August brought a surge of Red Flag Warnings for critical fire danger, leading to proactive measures such as pre-positioning task forces in Lane County.

Notably, investments made through Senate Bill 762 boosted firefighting capabilities, allowing Tillamook County to send task forces for the first time in years.

In late August, lightning storms sparked numerous fires, including the Tyee Ridge Complex, prompting Governor Kotek to declare a conflagration. The OSFM responded by deploying task forces and an incident management team to manage the escalating situation.

September brought some relief with the return of rain and fall weather, dampening the fire season across the Northwest. However, the OSFM remained vigilant, mobilizing resources to address new incidents like the Bensel Fire in Umatilla County.

Despite the challenges of the 2023 wildfire season, the coordinated efforts of the OSFM and partnering agencies showed the state's resilience in the face of adversity.

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CONFLAGRATIONS

HAT ROCK (UMATILLA COUNTY)

MT HEBRON (UMATILLA COUNTY)

GOLDEN (KLAMATH COUNTY)

LOOKOUT (LANE COUNTY)

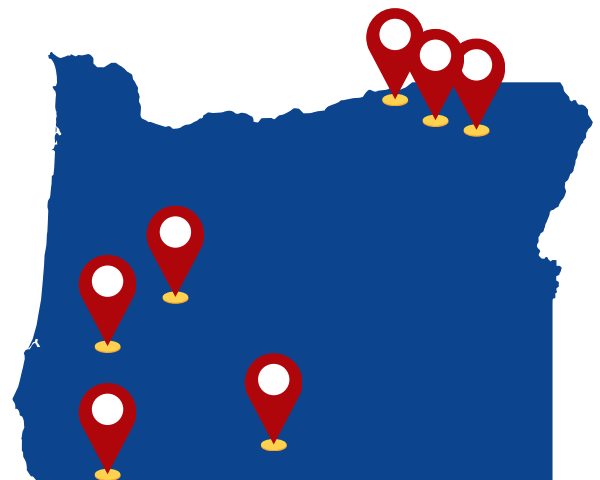
TYEE RIDGE (DOUGLAS COUNTY)

SMITH RIVER COMPLEX (JOSEPHINE COUNTY)

BENSEL ROAD (UMATILLA COUNTY)

MOBILIZATION BY THE NUMBERS

- **52** Oregon Task Forces
- **113** Individual Fire Agencies Involved
- **5** California Strike Teams



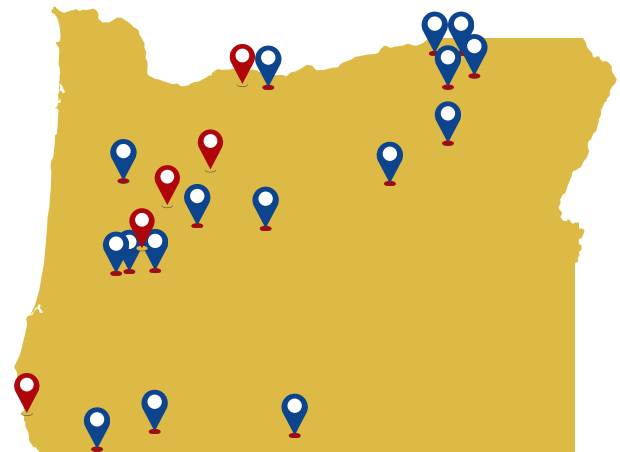
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WILDFIRE RESPONSE STATS**IMMEDIATE RESPONSE** 📍

JOHN DAY (GRANT COUNTY)
QUARRY FIRE (LANE COUNTY)
HAT ROCK *AIRCRAFT (UMATILLA COUNTY)
MP87 *AIRCRAFT (WASCO COUNTY)
MOON MOUNTAIN (LANE COUNTY)
DEVILS BUTTE (GILLIAM COUNTY)
ELM STREET *AIRCRAFT (UMATILLA COUNTY)
TABLEROCK *AIRCRAFT (JACKSON COUNTY)
GOLDEN (KLAMATH COUNTY)
PRICEBORO (LINN COUNTY)
WILEY (LINN COUNTY)
BEDROCK (LANE COUNTY)
PRISON *AIRCRAFT (UMATILLA COUNTY)
SMITH RIVER (JOSEPHINE COUNTY)
LIBERTY *AIRCRAFT & WILDLAND (POLK COUNTY)
BENSEL *AIRCRAFT (UMATILLA COUNTY)

PRE-POSITION 📍

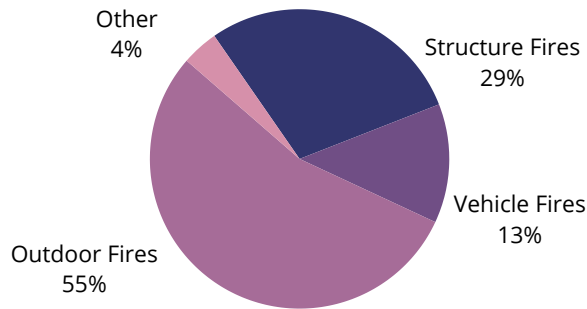
WASCO COUNTY (AIRCRAFT)
JEFFERSON COUNTY
LINN COUNTY
LANE COUNTY (CA STRIKE TEAMS)
CURRY COUNTY



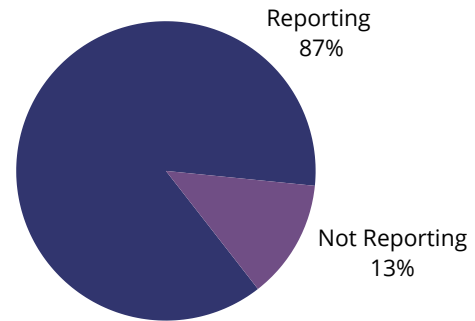
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OREGON FIRE STATISTICS

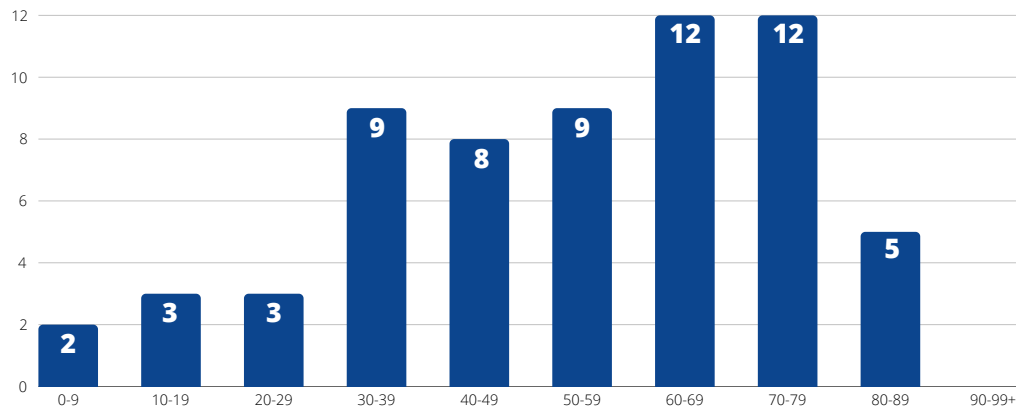
TYPES OF FIRES



FIRE AGENCIES REPORTING

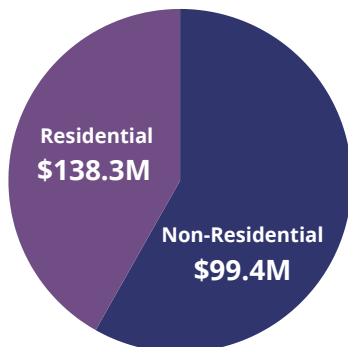


2023 TOTAL FIRE FATALITIES



There were 53 fire fatalities in Oregon in 2023.

2022 ESTIMATED FIRE LOSS IN MILLIONS



Largest Non-Residential
Fire Loss

\$12.8M

TA Express Travel Center
91464 Biggs-Rufus Hwy
Wasco
on March 7, 2023

Largest Residential
Fire Loss

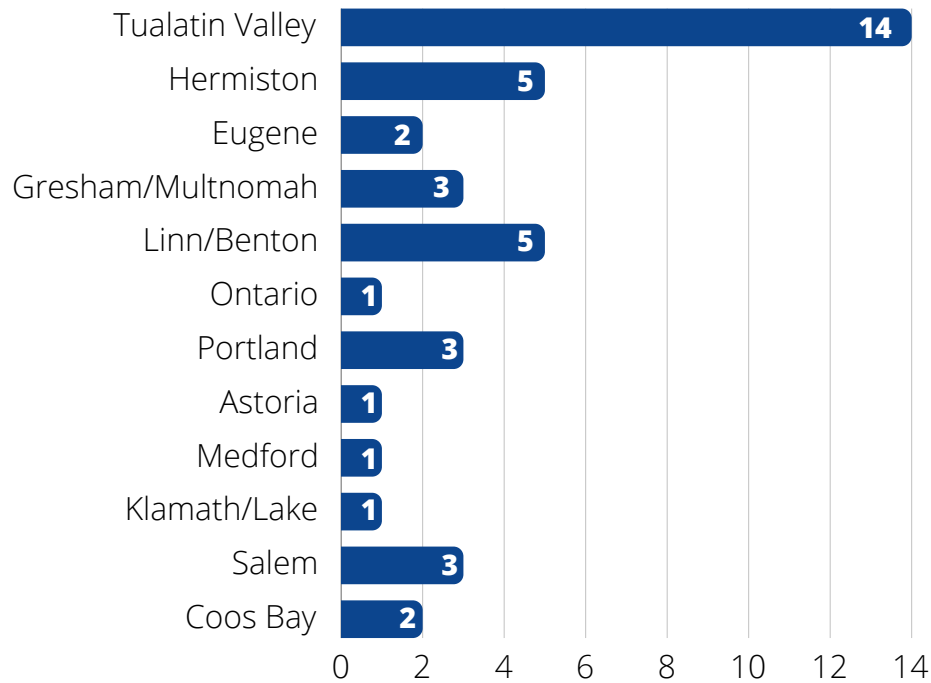
\$5.7M

Valley River Inn
1000 Valley River Way
Eugene
on February 28, 2022

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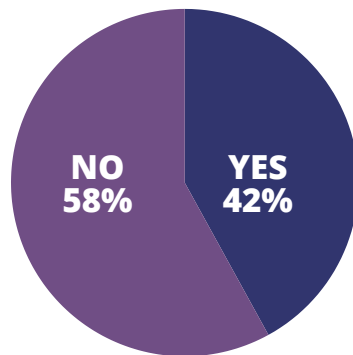
OREGON HAZMAT STATISTICS

2023 STATE HAZMAT RESPONSES BY TEAM



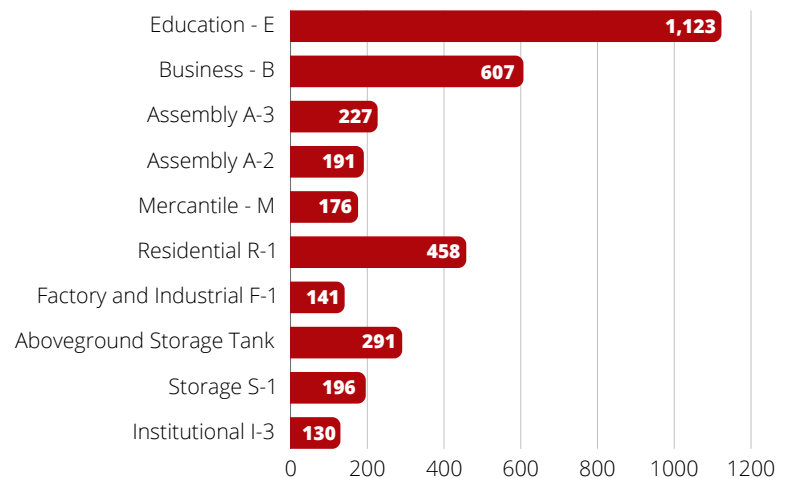
2023 FIRE & LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

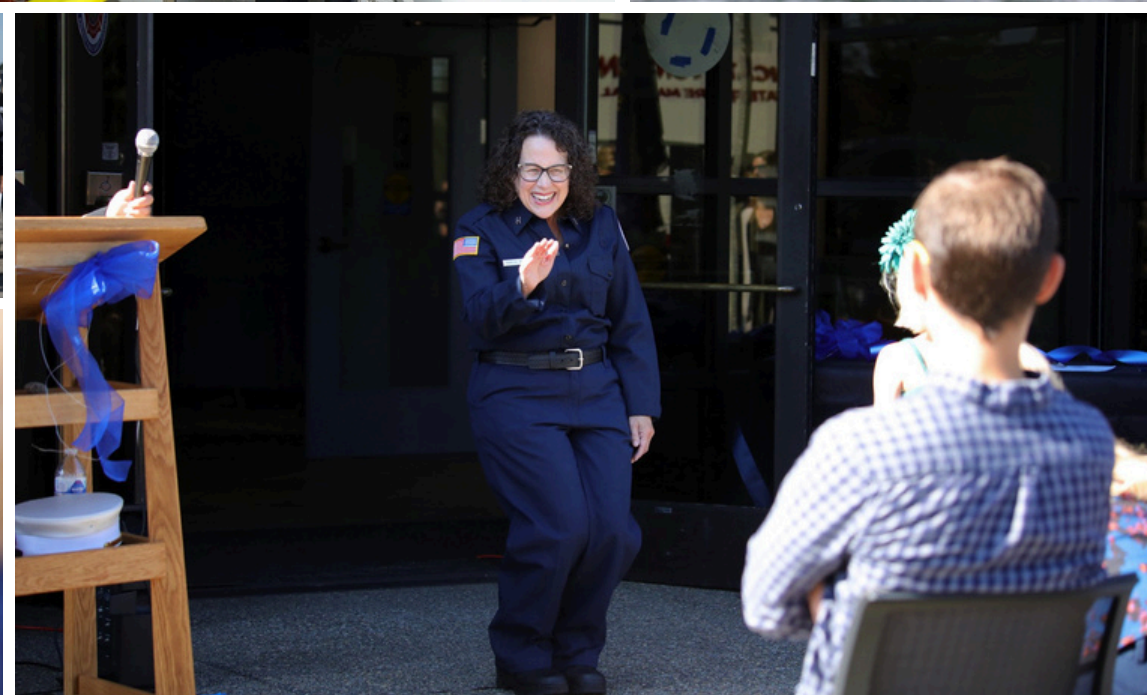
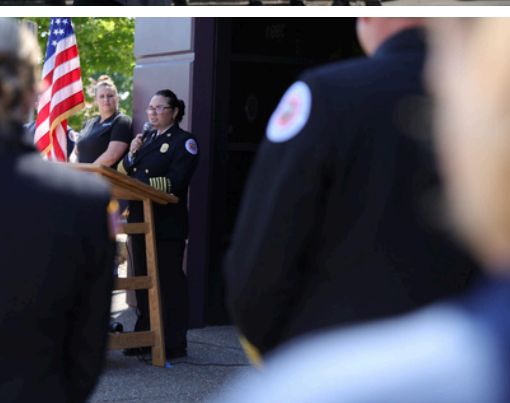
VIOLATIONS DURING INITIAL INSPECTIONS

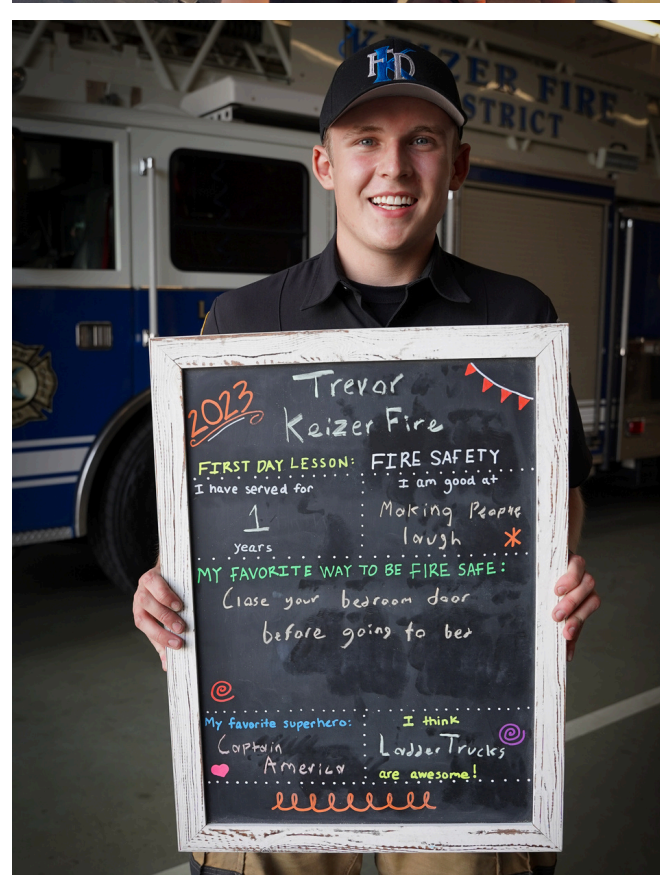


Total Inspections: **4,557**
Total Violations: **7,993**

TOP 10 OCCUPANCIES INSPECTED







FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION DIVISION

FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION

The Fire Prevention Education Unit restructured in January 2023 to boost community risk reduction (CRR) efforts. This comprehensive approach will minimize risks across the state by analyzing and enhancing programs using state and national data. The focus remains on supporting the Oregon fire service to make our communities safer.

The unit has spent the past year researching, expanding fire and life safety programs, and collaborating extensively with OSFM partners. Traditional fire safety programs like smoke alarms and cooking safety are being improved with additional tools and resources. New initiatives, like the smoking materials program, are underway, forming partnerships with health departments for support.

New this year, the OSFM hosted an interactive booth at the Oregon State Fair in Salem. The event was an excellent opportunity for outreach and education. OSFM staff focused on home fire safety and defensible space tips.

The team also worked with agency partners on a booth and interactive area at the Oregon Ag Fest in Salem.

FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION OUTREACH STATS

- **State Fair Attendance: 16,500 in 11 days**
- **306 Summer Safety Boxes**
- **115 Fire Prevention Month Boxes**

FIRE PREVENTION EDUCATION OUTREACH STATS

- The Oregon Life Safety Team underwent a restructuring to expand membership and act as a more impactful stakeholder resource for educators statewide. This includes April's community risk reduction training presented by the National Fire Protection Agency and adding three subcommittees: OLST advisory, smoke and carbon monoxide alarm, and top causes committees.
- Youth Fire Intervention Specialist Training attendees: 70
- Smoke alarms provided to Oregon's fire agencies: 272
- Smoke and carbon monoxide law class trained 120 real estate agents, 33 property management staff, four fire service personnel, and two OSFM staff.
- Resource request orders filled and campaign resources provided: 305 total within 40,382 individual packs of educational materials.



FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION DIVISION

ANALYTICS & INTELLIGENCE

The Analytics & Intelligence Unit had a busy year in 2023, marked by several significant accomplishments focused on enhancing its ability to improve public safety and better serve the fire service and the public.

The unit focused on developing its capacity and capabilities in analytics and research, report development and data dissemination, data governance, and stewardship, and NFIRS incident reporting. Through these areas, the unit contributes and supports agency programs, the fire service, and other partners with developing strategies that ultimately prevent fatalities and injuries. Below is a summary of the unit's activities during 2023:

Updated purpose statement: The unit's new purpose statement is "to provide accurate, actionable data to the Oregon State Fire Marshal's programs, partners, and the public to improve public safety through the prevention of fire-related fatalities, injuries, and economic loss."

Data and technology governance program: The unit developed and implemented a chartered data and technology governance program to ensure effective management and enhancement of data and information technology resources within the OSFM.

Software tools integration: New reporting, geo-mapping, and analytical software tools were integrated into the unit's operations.

Structural fire casualties research study: The unit completed a formal analysis of structural fire casualties, evaluating the top-related factors and developing a predictive structural fire fatality model.

Dashboard development: Several dashboards related to core areas of interest and program functions were developed by OSFM members.

Implementation of coordination tools: The Analytics & Intelligence Unit implemented multiple tools to coordinate better and track projects, tasks, and successes.

Although 2023 was a busy and exciting year for the Analytics & Intelligence Unit, we look forward to continuing to make significant strides in 2024 by providing analytical tools and data resources to the fire services to enhance public safety within their jurisdictions.

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COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

The Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Unit is tasked with providing the Oregon fire service and partners with technical assistance, funding, and planning assistance to reduce their fire risk. Supporting the Fire Adapted Oregon initiative, the unit builds and maintains relationships with partner agencies, stakeholders, and communities to prepare for and adapt to wildfire, while also reducing the risk of loss of lives and property. The OSFM has seven regional fire risk reduction specialists (FRRS) who work with local partners to create and promote fire-adapted communities in Oregon. These FRRS are the regional contact for fire chiefs and local partners for community risk reduction needs.

Noteworthy accomplishments include the remarkable progress in community wildfire risk reduction grants, including more than 130 projects totaling \$21 million in Senate Bill 762 funding, strategic investments, support for County Wildfire Preparedness Plans (CWPP), and supporting the establishment of Firewise USA.

Leading up to and during May's Wildfire Awareness Month, the team hosted a webinar series to better educate Oregonians about wildfire. The topics included everything from how homes really ignite during a wildfire to what type of fire-resistant plants are available.



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IMT PROGRAM

The OSFM coordinates three all-hazards incident management teams (IMT) of more than 100 team members representing 52 local fire service agencies, tribal, state, county, and local governments across Oregon. IMTs train year-round to be prepared to assist in any emergency or disaster.

In 2023, IMTs responded to seven conflagrations across Oregon to serve in communities impacted by wildfire: Hat Rock, Mt Hebron, Golden, Lookout, Tyee Ridge Complex, Smith River Complex, and Bensel Road.

Members voluntarily gathered to coordinate two fallen firefighter memorial services in Oregon they were for Brandon Norbury and Brian Flowers.

In February, several members of the OSFM's incident management team took part in the S-420 course which was held in Hillsboro. Those who participated had a chance to hone their skills for responding to and managing a disaster like a wildfire.

The weeklong course culminated in a simulation where four incident management teams worked through a wildfire scenario.

In June, the Metro Advanced Wildland School (MAWS) was held in Molalla. More than 125 firefighters from 40 Oregon agencies participated. MAWS is a unique opportunity for everyone involved to work together in a low-stress environment to hone skills necessary for wildfire response. 26 IMT members planned and staffed this event.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES DIVISION

HAZMAT



In 2023 the Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams (RHMRTs), enhanced readiness for potential threats during the 2024 elections. Efforts include updating standard operating procedures and conducted training to ensure swift and coordinated responses to incidents involving unknown substances and hazardous materials.

The program is developing a standardized 160-hour Hazardous Materials Technician Academy, in partnership with the Team Advisory Group (TAG), to minimize operational risks and maintain readiness amidst personnel turnover.

Modernizing radiation response capabilities statewide, RHMERT revamped its standard operating procedures, updating training curricula, and acquiring advanced equipment for timely and accurate incident management.

To optimize communication during emergencies, the OSFM program worked to modernize communication for the teams with Starlink internet, new radio packages, and in-suit communication systems.

New equipment was also delivered in 2023 to Hazmat Team 13 in Salem and Hazmat Team 10. This is a part of the OSFM's commitment to modernizing response equipment within the program.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Regional teams respond to hazardous materials emergency incidents that exceed the resources of local jurisdictions. There are 12 teams across Oregon. They are a technical resource for local incident commanders.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES DIVISION

HAZMAT BY RAIL

Throughout 2023, the OSFM worked directly with partner agencies and industry representatives from Class 1 railroad companies, to provide and participate in training opportunities. In June, Sherman County Emergency Management, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Department of Transportation, the OSFM, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, clean-up contractors, Washington state agency partners, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, and others participated in a large-scale oil spill functional exercise. This event was an opportunity to test emergency plans, response tactics, and the incident command structure.

Union Pacific Railroad and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad provided training to first responders throughout the year, critical to the Oregon fire service hazmat rail response readiness. These railroad companies also provided free virtual rail-based operations and awareness refresher courses to all fire agencies across the state.



REGULATORY SERVICES

LEPC

In 2023 the OSFM took part in the Local Emergency Planning Committee conference in Deschutes County. The group represented public sector and private industries from around the state.

Conference speakers emphasized the progress made in emergency preparedness over the last few decades and recommended ways to continue improving.

Terry Wolfe who has been a fixture in local emergency planning and has led the OSFM program for many years retired in 2023. He was honored at the conference by Chief Deputy Travis Madema. Wolf has 28 years of service to the OSFM and 43 years of service with the state of Oregon.

The OSFM welcomed MaryAnn Christian as the new LEPC Coordinator in October.



REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW

The Oregon Community Right to Know and Protection Act (ORS 453.307-414) requires Oregon employers to report hazardous substances to the OSFM, including where they are stored and the associated hazards. The OSFM's Community Right to Know (CR2K) program tracks and maintains these records. Information is provided to emergency planners, first responders, health professionals, and the public so measures can be taken to protect Oregonians, their property, and the environment from the risks associated with these substances.

- Visited **289** facilities in 2023 resulting in **106** facilities beginning to report to CR2K.
- **315** substances reported for the first time by a facility.
- **41** new substances added to the substance database.

REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION

FIREWORKS

One of the state fire marshal's authorities is to oversee the permitting process for several aspects of fireworks. The OSFM issues:

- Permits to sell retail and wholesale fireworks.
- Permits for use of general, limited, special effects, and pest control or agriculture-related issues.
- Certifications for operators to conduct a display.

In conjunction with issuing permits, the OSFM created a robust messaging campaign about using legal fireworks safely and the threat of wildfire if fireworks are not used properly.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **176** general display permits
- **57** limited display permits
- **58** special effects permits
- **570** retail permits



REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION **CARDLOCK**

The OSFM cardlock staff continued in-person facility inspections and operator audits in 2023.

Staff conducted **302** inspections and **63** record audits. The team also processed five operator acquisitions and/or closures and inspected and licensed three new cardlock facilities.

The program saw a **62** percent overall in-compliance rate which was a **22** percent increase from the previous year.



REGULATORY SERVICES DIVISION **LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS**

LPG LICENSES SENT

- Company: 423
- Employee: 466

TANK INSPECTIONS

- Conducted **400+** LPG tank inspections





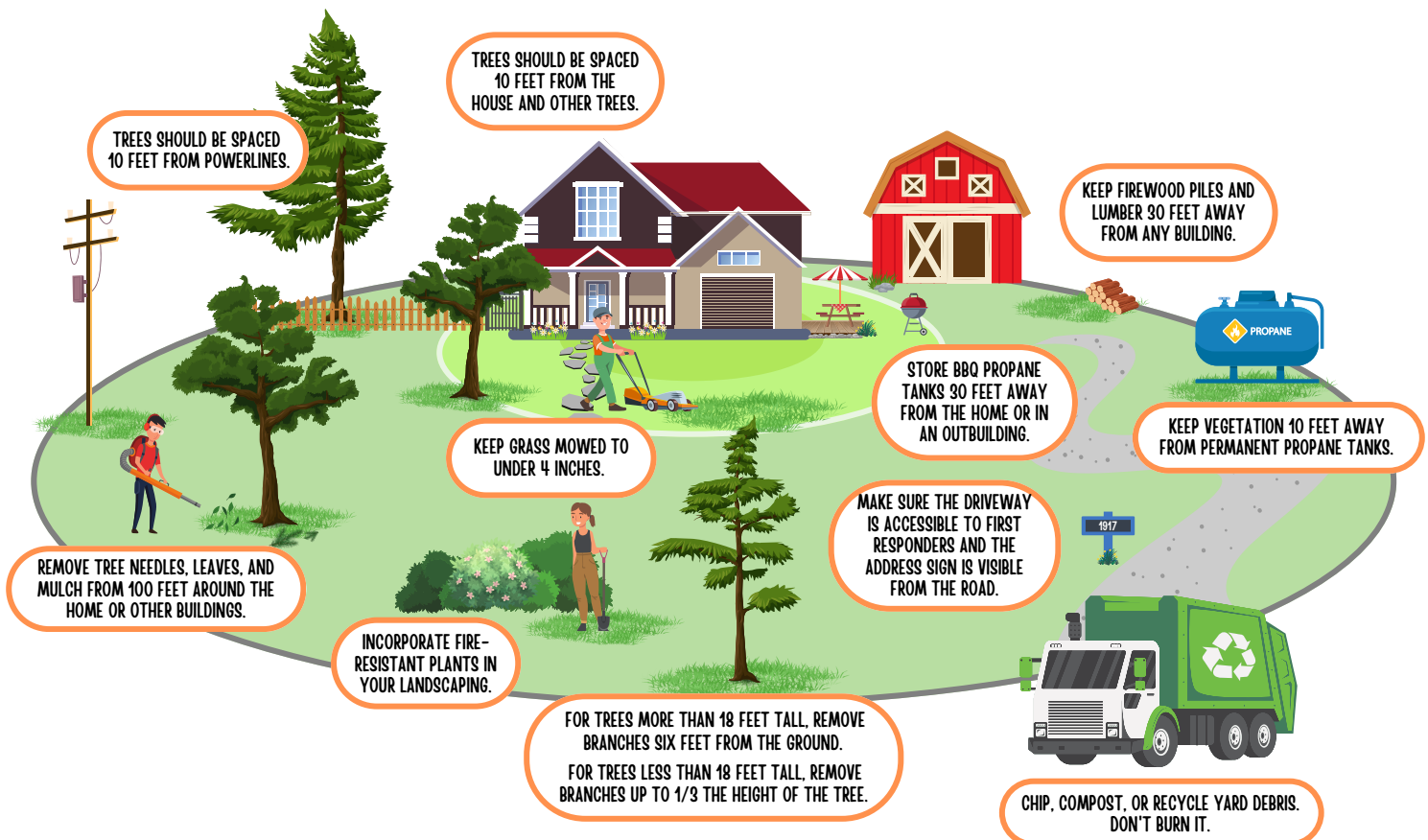
FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY DIVISION

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

The OSFM's Defensible Space Assessment Program launched in June 2023, gaining momentum throughout the year. The OSFM and the Oregon fire service both provided free assessments to homeowners, empowering them with tailored recommendations to fortify their properties against potential fire threats.

With 54 local fire agencies joining hands, the program is rapidly expanding its reach. In 2023, 601 homes and properties were inspected, improving their defensible space and adding protection against wildfire impacts. Our staff worked to train a total of 254 assessors by the end of 2023 to conduct inspections around the state.

To help Oregonians learn about defensible space and to have a dedicated place to sign up for a defensible space assessment, the OSFM created www.OregonDefensibleSpace.org. The website provides resources for those looking to begin a defensible space plan. Resources include everything from fire-resistive plants to recommendations for around the home. Most resources are available in multiple languages.



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY DIVISION

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHALS

In 2023, the OSFM deputy state fire marshals set a record for the most fire and life safety inspections completed in a single year. Deputies did 3,990 inspections statewide. The number of deputy state fire marshals double in size to better serve Oregonians. The OSFM now has 26 deputy state fire marshals across the state.

The deputy state fire marshals performed plan reviews for access and water supply where construction and development plans were evaluated for fire and life safety code compliance. Deputies provided fire code inspections to identify and abate fire hazards in commercial buildings and institutional occupancies such as schools, multi-family housing of three or more units, and high hazard operations.

Deputies help save lives and property by determining fire origin and cause and identifying whether the cause is a result of carelessness or design. Fire investigations aim to identify the fire's origin and cause and leverage lessons learned to build program messaging and outreach to further prevent similar types of fires before they start.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Tony Miller received the Fire Investigator of the Year award for Oregon from the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI).

BY THE NUMBERS

- **17** in person classes & two courses, **267** fire service member attendance
- **4,561** inspections completed by field staff
- **323** fire investigations conducted



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY DIVISION

TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT

Technical service coverage for Oregon is comprised of one supervising deputy state fire marshal, three deputy state fire marshals, and three healthcare compliance surveyors.

HEALTHCARE PROGRAM

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has a condition of participation for healthcare facilities to receive federal monies. To comply, the OSFM's three life safety code compliance surveyors complete unannounced federal recertification surveys to federal standards at hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, hospice, end-stage renal facilities, and skilled nursing facilities/long-term care facilities statewide. The CMS surveyors provided guidance to healthcare facilities by reviewing emergency preparedness plans and erecting temporary barriers, creating isolation rooms or areas, which reduced or eliminated illness spread from the healthcare facilities. The surveyors provided life safety code plan review through Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Department Human Services for new and remodeled healthcare facilities statewide. Surveyors also presented fire and life safety education to healthcare administrators, maintenance directors, and staff.

BY THE NUMBERS**HEALTHCARE**

- **202** CMS facility surveys completed
- **202** CMS facility emergency preparedness reviews
- **97** facility fire plan reviews

CODES & STATE PROPERTIES**242** Inspections**51** Plans Reviews**MOBILE FOOD UNIT CODE**

Oregon became the first state in the country with a code in place to make operating a mobile food unit safer. Requirements include 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. These requirements are being phased in through 2024.

- Five mobile food unit courses were delivered to fire service and mobile food unit owner and operators with 112 in person attendees.





This report was prepared by:

OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

www.oregon.gov/osfm