



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

NOVEMBER 2024



FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season is just around the corner, and that means more Oregonians will be cooking in the kitchen.

Each year around this time, firefighters are called to hundreds of cooking-related fires.

To help in the kitchen, the Oregon State Fire Marshal offers several tips to ensure a safe and happy holiday filled with joy.

[Read more on page 2.](#)

OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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THE SECRET INGREDIENT IS FIRE SAFETY

With the holiday season quickly approaching, many Oregon families are preparing to gather and celebrate. The time spent in the kitchen whipping up turkey, mashed potatoes, pies, and other festive dishes brings with it an increased risk of household fires.

Follow these essential tips to ensure you and your loved ones stay safe while cooking this holiday season:

Stay alert: Always keep an eye on what you're cooking and never leave the stove unattended. A clean kitchen is a safe kitchen—be sure to clear cooking areas of any combustibles like potholders, food packaging, and towels.

Create a safety zone: Establish a three-foot kid- and pet-free zone around the stove. Older children should only cook with permission and adult supervision.

Be ready to smother flames: Keep a lid or cookie sheet handy in case of a fire. To extinguish small flames, carefully slide a lid over the pan from the side and turn off the burner. Don't move the pan until the fire is fully out and cooled—never try to transfer it to the sink.

In case of fire: If a fire does happen make sure to get yourself and your family out of the house immediately. If possible, close doors behind you to help contain the fire, and call 911 from a safe location outside.

Stay safe this holiday season and enjoy your celebrations by putting fire safety first.



FRY IT RIGHT

- Never use a deep fryer on a wooden deck, under a patio cover, in a garage, or in an enclosed space.
- Fryers should only be used outdoors on a sturdy, level surface isolated from anything that could burn.
- Keep children and pets out of the 3-foot radius around your fryer to protect against burn injuries.
- The pot, lid, and handles of a turkey fryer can be incredibly hot. To protect hands and arms against burns, wear long, well-insulated cooking gloves.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby, and never use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and thoroughly dried before it is placed in a fryer. The water from a frozen turkey will not mix with the oil in the fryer and can be an explosion hazard.

TEAM SENT TO NORTH CAROLINA TO HELP WITH RECOVERY

An incident management team from the Oregon State Fire Marshal was sent to North Carolina to help communities recover from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene in October. The storm caused severe flooding in the western part of the state, cutting off many areas from essential services.

The Oregon team, led by Incident Commander Ian Yocum, included six members with expertise in operations, planning, and logistics. They were stationed in Yancey County, northeast of Asheville, where they helped coordinate recovery efforts.

This isn't the first time Oregon's incident management teams have been called to assist with hurricane recovery. In 2022, the team helped in Florida after Hurricane Ian.

On October 31, four of the six team members returned home, while two had their time extended. Incident Commander Lance Lighty and Plans Section Chief Bill Boos were mobilized. These deployments were coordinated through the Oregon Department of Emergency Management and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, a nationwide mutual aid system that helps states share resources during disasters.

North Carolina State Fire Marshal Brian Taylor visited the team to thank them for their work in Yancey County.



APPLY FOR THE OSFM INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM PROGRAM



Are you interested in joining one of the OSFM's three all-hazard incident management teams? Recruitment is opening in early November.

Applicants must meet the qualification criteria to be considered. Applications must be signed by your fire chief or – if the applicant is a fire chief – their supervisor within their local structure. An application is a commitment by the agency to make the prospective IMT member available for training, meetings, and mobilizations and to provide a vehicle to respond.

The IMT recruitment process is highly selective. Applicants, references, or others within the applicant's agency may be contacted by the OSFM staff or current IMT members during the selection process and all applicants should expect to be interviewed.

If you or someone you know has a passion for incident command structure or other aspects of managing and supporting response, consider applying! Questions can be directed to shane.wooton@osfm.oregon.gov. More details about specific positions being actively recruited will be announced in the coming weeks. [Learn more here!](#)

2023 CR2K ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY NOW AVAILABLE

The Oregon State Fire Marshal Community Right to Know (CR2K) 2023 Annual Summary is available on its website. It includes the datasets for the Community Right to Know program from the 2023 Annual Hazardous Substance Inventory Report year.

You can find the [report here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

For questions about this notification, or for more information about the CR2K program, please contact:

Todd Raska

Community Right to Know Program Manager

Todd.Raska@osfm.oregon.gov





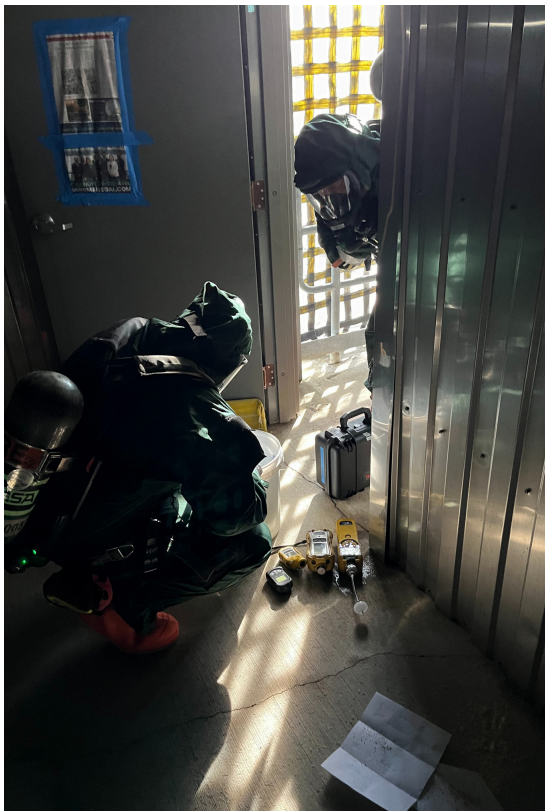
STATE HAZMAT PROGRAM WRAPS UP TRAINING

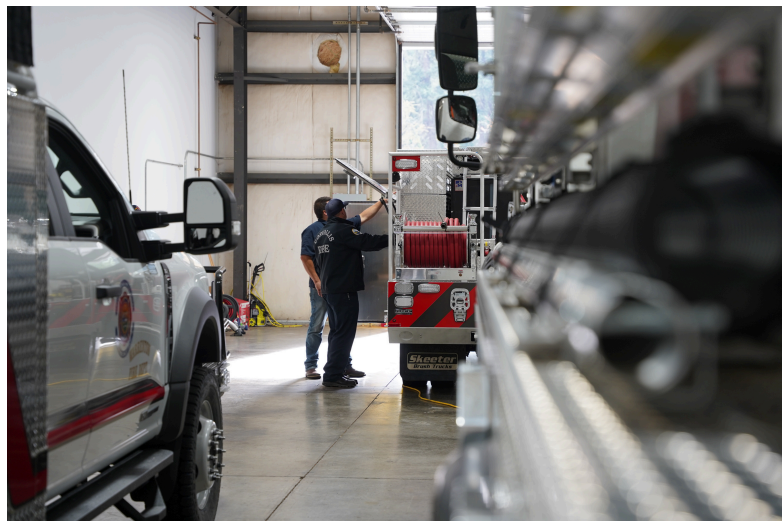
On October 25, students from several local fire agencies from across Oregon completed 160 hours of training. After completing the coursework, they returned to their state Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team (RHMERT) fully trained and ready to respond in their local community, and in support of partner agencies and Oregonians.

This year, OSFM staff, with the support of the RHMERT Teams, developed and implemented an updated curriculum that consisted of an 80-hour, 5-week online training program that students completed at their home department, followed by an 80-hour in-resident training course at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) that culminated exercise lanes where students demonstrated hands-on competency in the areas of high-hazard rail response, industrial accidents, roadway emergencies, clandestine laboratory response, weapons of mass destruction response, monitor operations, sample collection and field analysis, grounding and bonding, plugging and patching, technical and mass care decontamination, and hazardous material hot-zone entry offensive and defensive operations in all levels of personal protective equipment.

We had students from Coos Bay, Medford, Salem, Benton/Linn County, Eugene, Ontario, Astoria, Gresham/Clackamas, and special thanks to our responding partners that provided instructor support from Portland Hazmat Team 07, TVFR Hazmat Team 09, Salem HM Team 13, Benton/Linn Hazmat Team 05, and the Oregon National Guard's 102nd Civil Support Team.

Check out more pictures on page 6.





ENGINE PROGRAM DELIVERIES PASS 75%

The Oregon State Fire Marshal is excited to share its Engine Program delivered more than 75% of the new fire engines and tenders to communities across Oregon. This achievement reflects the agency's ongoing commitment to enhancing firefighting capabilities and supporting local fire agencies statewide with additional resources.

The Engine Program, launched in response to Oregon's increasing fire seasons, focuses on equipping local fire agencies with specialized engines that are critical in wildland firefighting and emergency response.

With more deliveries on the way, the OSFM is on track to complete the program's full deployment, ensuring that even more communities receive the support they need to protect lives and property. These engines not only boost local response but also play a vital role in statewide mobilization during large-scale emergencies, reinforcing Oregon's preparedness and resilience in the face of wildfire.

The OSFM remains dedicated to supporting and collaborating with fire agencies across Oregon, continuously building on programs and resources that protect our communities.

FIRE SERVICE TOUTS STAFFING GRANT SUCCESS

As we look back on the 2024 wildfire season, we celebrate the positive impact of the Oregon State Fire Marshal's 2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant had. Recently, Bly Rural Fire Protection District shared how the one-time funds allowed their all-volunteer agency to respond quickly and efficiently, especially under the intense demands of this year's season.

This season brought 22 Red Flag Warnings to Bly's fire district, with fires breaking out on two of those high-risk days. Notable among their responses were incidents like the Spring Creek Fire on July 5, where their team of six volunteers responded with a type 1 engine to a fire beneath a 500-kilovolt power line near structures. The mutual aid from neighboring districts was instrumental in containing this fire to just one acre, thanks to the grant-funded teams who arrived with two engines from District 3 and three from District 5.

Another critical response came on July 16 when lightning sparked the Miller Fire near the district boundary, threatening a nearby subdivision of approximately 50 homes. With the combined efforts of other federal and state partners, the fire was contained to just four acres, demonstrating the life-saving value of rapid response.

The district shared the grant funds made a significant impact by:

- Recruiting, training, and retaining our volunteer force
- Improving response times during critical moments
- Strengthening our mutual aid capabilities
- Increasing our ability to protect life and property

The OSFM is proactively working to find a funding option to support the grant for the 2025 summer and beyond.



REMINDER

2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant final reports are due Friday, November 22. Included in the final report is a fire chiefs survey.

YOUTH BUILD HELPING WITH DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROJECTS

Community Services Consortium's Youth Build program was recently recognized at the national level for their work with forest fuels reduction and the youth involved with Oregon Conservation Corps and Oregon State Fire Marshal crews.

These community wildfire risk reduction crews and Oregon Conservation Corps crews are active in Linn, Marion, Benton, Polk, and Lincoln counties. These crews create defensible space around homes and buildings, as well as ingress/egress clearance work when needed. The Oregon Conservation Corps crews take on larger fuels reduction prescriptions beyond 200 feet and assist landowners with fuels reduction on properties larger than an acre.

The Youth Build crews assist private, public, and nonprofit organizations and people with essential fuels reduction work. The group partners with a variety of fire departments in five counties, three Oregon Department of Forestry Districts, county and municipal land managers, nonprofit land managers, and others to write fuels reduction prescriptions for our crews.

"We help our crews overcome different challenges they may face, such as issues with education, housing, transportation, and finding jobs. We train and give our young crew members hands-on experience so they can get well-paying jobs in natural resource management," Operations Manager Robert Swain said. "Before they finish their time with us, our case managers help them write resumes and search for jobs. Many of our youth have gone on to work for city fire departments, wildland fire teams, logging companies, and landscaping or tree-care companies."

This fall, the organization are creating two more adult fuels reduction crews in the Santiam Canyon to assist community members with fuels reduction on public, private, and nonprofit owned land. This work will be funded by the U.S. Forest Service, and will have adult crews stationed in the canyon for the next five years to complete fuels reduction and wildfire prevention work.



CHILOQUIN HONORS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Last month, Chiloquin Fire & Rescue (CF&R) celebrated the women who make up 33% of its firefighting force, a significant number above the national average. Dedicated, compassionate, and resilient, these women bring skill and commitment to a field still largely male-dominated. Long-serving firefighter and EMT Angela Montoya shares that their mission is “for the community,” while Lieutenant Carla Baker finds purpose in “helping people in their time of need.”



CF&R’s women train rigorously every week, responding to everything from fires and rescues to medical emergencies, which make up 75% of their calls. Most members are licensed EMTs, equipped for a wide range of emergency situations. In addition to responding to emergencies, CF&R actively educates the community through fire safety and prevention programs, with initiatives like the Chiloquin Wildfire Initiative, first aid/CPR training, and more. Lt. Baker emphasizes that their role includes “educating the community to help them protect themselves.”

With a “family-first” culture, CF&R’s supportive environment encourages long-term commitment, and they welcome new members to join. In October, CF&R also promoted breast cancer awareness, highlighting their dedication not only to community safety but also to women’s health.



U.S. FIRE ADMINISTRATION SUMMIT ON FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

In October, Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple attended the U.S. Fire Administration's summit where leaders from around the globe came together to discuss wildfire, code, technology, and vision for the national fire service. Alejandro Mayorkas, the director of Homeland Security, and representatives from FEMA were in attendance.

This year, we celebrated the 50-year anniversary of the USFA which came out of the watershed report "America Burning." State fire marshals and Chief Amy Hanifan with McMinnville Fire attended a one-day strategic planning session to help USFA in their #onevoiceinitiative.



SWEARING-IN CEREMONY HELD



On October 24, the Oregon State Fire Marshal held a swearing-in ceremony for two of its staff. They were joined by members of their families at OSFM headquarters in Salem.

Casey Cioffi was sworn in as the new healthcare surveyor in the Fire and Life Safety Division Healthcare Unit.

Kelsey Hunter was sworn in as a fire risk reduction specialist. She is assigned to the Lane County area and helps communities reduce the risk of wildfire.

Congratulations to both!

training



**CLICK
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CODE**

REGISTER TODAY: UPCOMING CWPP TRAINING

In an era where megafires are becoming more common and impacting communities across Oregon and beyond, planning for wildfire resilience has never been more important. One of the best ways to lay a foundation for wildfire risk reduction is through community wildfire protection plans. These plans provide a clear understanding of the wildfire risks a community faces and outline strategies to reduce those risks through targeted actions and collaboration.

Community wildfire protection plans are powerful tools because they not only increase awareness of wildfire dangers but also open doors to funding. With a plan in place, communities gain access to federal and state grants that support wildfire mitigation across all kinds of land – public, private, local, and state. This financial support makes it easier for communities to invest in long-term safety improvements and build partnerships, ensuring resources are used efficiently and effectively.

For those interested in developing these plans but unsure where to begin, there's a valuable training opportunity now available in Oregon. This training empowers fire departments, nonprofit groups, community leaders, and local government staff to write clear, actionable protection plans that meet or exceed both federal and local standards. Plans created with this training are designed to be updated every five years, making them adaptable to changing conditions.

This course, brought to Oregon through a collaboration with The Ember Alliance and the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Fire Adapted Oregon program, marks the first time the training is available locally. [LEARN MORE.](#)

STATE FIRE MARSHAL VISITS FEMA HEADQUARTERS

On her trip to the U.S. Fire Administration Summit, State Fire Marshal Ruiz-Temple toured FEMA headquarters in coinciding with agency' response to Hurricane Helene. This visit shows the crucial role that collaboration and communication play in emergency management at all levels.

As Oregon faces its own unique set of natural disaster risks, the state fire marshal's visit provided valuable insights into FEMA's operations during a major hurricane, including resource coordination, interagency cooperation, and strategic decision-making.

Strengthening relationships with federal partners like FEMA ensures that Oregon is prepared to leverage national resources and expertise during emergencies. This visit highlights the shared commitment of both state and federal agencies to protect lives, property, and communities through proactive collaboration, enabling a swift, unified response when disasters strike.



HMEP GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

2025-2026 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant applications are now open! The HMEP Grant helps communities prepare for emergencies involving hazardous materials. It provides funding for training, planning, and exercises to improve local emergency response.

Who can apply?

State, local, and tribal governments are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs).

What does the grant cover?

The grant supports projects that help communities plan for and respond to hazardous materials incidents, including transportation accidents.

Applications are now being accepted. Be sure to apply by the deadline to secure funding for your community's safety efforts! Learn more on our [website](#).



CODES CORNER

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION, TESTING, & MAINTENANCE

Maintaining a building's fire resistiveness is important to protect the structure, those who use the building, and firefighters. Chapter 7 of the Oregon Fire Code (OFC) establishes many of the inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) requirements in existing buildings and structures. In general, these passive requirements are intended to maintain the required fire-resistance ratings and limit fire and smoke spread as addressed in the Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC).

Elements of passive fire-resistance-rated construction are:

- Structural members
- Exterior walls
- Fire walls, fire barriers, fire partitions
- Horizontal assemblies
- Shaft enclosures

The OFC and OSSC include requirements for fire-resistance ratings, continuity, and opening and penetration protection in these types of assemblies. Because these assemblies and their opening protectives are critical life safety components of a building, they must be maintained throughout the life of the building. Opening protective maintenance provisions for these types of assemblies are contained in NFPA 80 and 105.

Fire-resistant-rated construction is always at risk of degradation after the building is occupied. Maintenance workers, IT personnel, and others in the building are typically unaware when a wall or ceiling is fire-resistance-rated construction, and their actions may damage the construction with penetrations and openings during remodeling and renovation activities. It is with this thought in mind, that the OSSC provides a marking requirement for specific areas.



OSSC Section 703.5 Marking and Identification.

Where there is an accessible concealed floor, floor-ceiling or attic space, fire walls, fire barriers, fire partitions, smoke barriers and smoke partitions or any other wall required to have protected openings or penetrations shall be effectively and permanently identified with signs or stenciling in the concealed space. Such identification shall:

1. Be located within 15 feet (4572 mm) of the end of each wall and at intervals not exceeding 30 feet (9144 mm) measured horizontally along the wall or partition.
2. Include lettering not less than 3 inches (76 mm) in height with a minimum 3/8-inch (9.5 mm) stroke in a contrasting color incorporating the suggested wording, "FIRE AND/OR SMOKE BARRIER—PROTECT ALL OPENINGS," or other wording.

Identification marks are not intended to be in areas not visible to the public. Specific locations set forth in the provisions indicate that the identification is to be provided above any lay-in panel ceiling or similar concealed space that is deemed to be accessible. In addition to the requirements of locating the identifying markings at maximum 30-foot (9144 mm) intervals, it is also necessary that such markings be provided no more than 15 feet (4572 mm) from the end of each wall requiring such identification.

It is the building owner's responsibility to maintain and inventory of all required fire-resistance-rated construction. This inventory record is critical and necessary in performing a complete inspection of the existing protection elements and allows for the continuing documentation that they are still in place and able to perform their required function.



FROM THE INTERNET

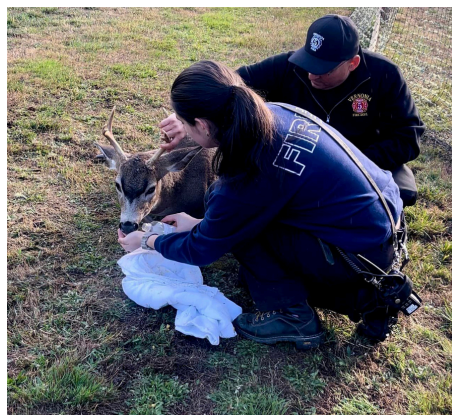
The Illinois Valley Fire District conducted fire attack training in October to enhance the firefighter skills and readiness. Fire attack training is essential for ensuring crews can effectively respond to fires, control the spread of flames, and protect lives and property. This hands-on practice helps firefighters improve their techniques in high-pressure situations, such as interior fire suppression, ventilation, and search and rescue operations.

Regular training like this is crucial for building teamwork and keeping firefighters prepared for real-life emergencies. It also allows them to familiarize themselves with the latest equipment and strategies, ensuring they are ready to face the challenges of any fire situation. By staying sharp and well-trained, the Illinois Valley Fire District continues its commitment to keeping the community safe and reducing the impact of fires.

OH DEER!

In October, firefighters in Northwest Oregon had quite the rescue. Vernonia High School staff requested help from the Vernonia Fire District to free a young buck entangled in sports field netting. The deer had netting wrapped around its antlers and hoof.

Vernonia Fire responded and called Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD's Large Animal Rescue Team for assistance. Crews quickly devised a plan to immobilize the deer using the netting, then safely freed it. After regaining strength, the deer stood and ran into the nearby woods, unharmed. Vernonia Fire thanks Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD for their help, and they are happy the rescue ended safely for all.



ANALYTICS & INTELLIGENCE Reporting Reminders

Has there been a fire related death or serious injury?

Please remember to submit a Fire Casualty Report Form (ORS 476.210). The form can be found at: [Fire Casualty Report Form](#)

**Note: the form must be completed by the primary responding fire agency and in addition to the NFIRS Fire Incident Report.*

Has there been a change in your agency's contact information or leadership?

If so, please remember to complete the appropriate contact update form found here: [Fire Agency Contact Update Forms](#)

Have a NFIRS question? Need Coding Help? Struggling with Elite?

If you need help related to incident reporting or the state repository, please reach out to the Fire Incident Reporting System Program Coordinator Michelle Vold.
(503-586-6568 | michelle.vold@osfm.oregon.gov)



CONTACT US

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

Kassie Keller, public affairs specialist
Kassondra.Keller@osfm.oregon.gov

John Hendricks, public affairs specialist
Johnathan.Hendricks@osfm.oregon.gov

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