



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

# THE GATED WYE

SEPTEMBER 2025



## FIRE SERVICE RESPONDS TO FLAT FIRE IN AUGUST

Mid-August wildfire in Central Oregon saw a large response from the Oregon State Fire Marshal, Oregon fire service, and wildland partners.

The 23,346-acre Flat Fire threatened more than 800 homes, prompting level 3 evacuations.

**READ MORE ON PAGE 2.**

OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## CENTRAL OREGON'S **FLAT FIRE** PROMPTS STATEWIDE RESPONSE IN AUGUST

In August, the Oregon State Fire Marshal supported response efforts on two wildfires. Early in the month, the department mobilized Immediate Response air resources to a fire south of The Dalles in Wasco County, using three single-engine scoopers through agreements with the Oregon Department of Forestry. These aircraft supported local firefighters working to slow the fire's spread and protect nearby communities.

Later in the month, Governor Tina Kotek invoked the Emergency Conflagration Act for the Flat Fire burning in Jefferson and Deschutes counties. The Oregon State Fire Marshal mobilized more than a dozen task forces and strike teams and its Red Incident Management Team. Firefighters from across Oregon joined local districts to protect homes and critical infrastructure as hot, dry, and windy conditions drove rapid fire growth. The coordinated response included significant air and ground resources from local, state, and federal partners.

The fire burned 23,346 acres. The Flat Fire is the seventh time the Emergency Conflagration Act was invoked in 2025.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal would like to thank the firefighters and partner agencies working tirelessly to protect communities, and reminds all Oregonians that prevention remains the best defense. Creating defensible space around homes and practicing fire-safe behaviors helps reduce risks during wildfire season.

**MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 3.**



# FIRELINE PHOTOS



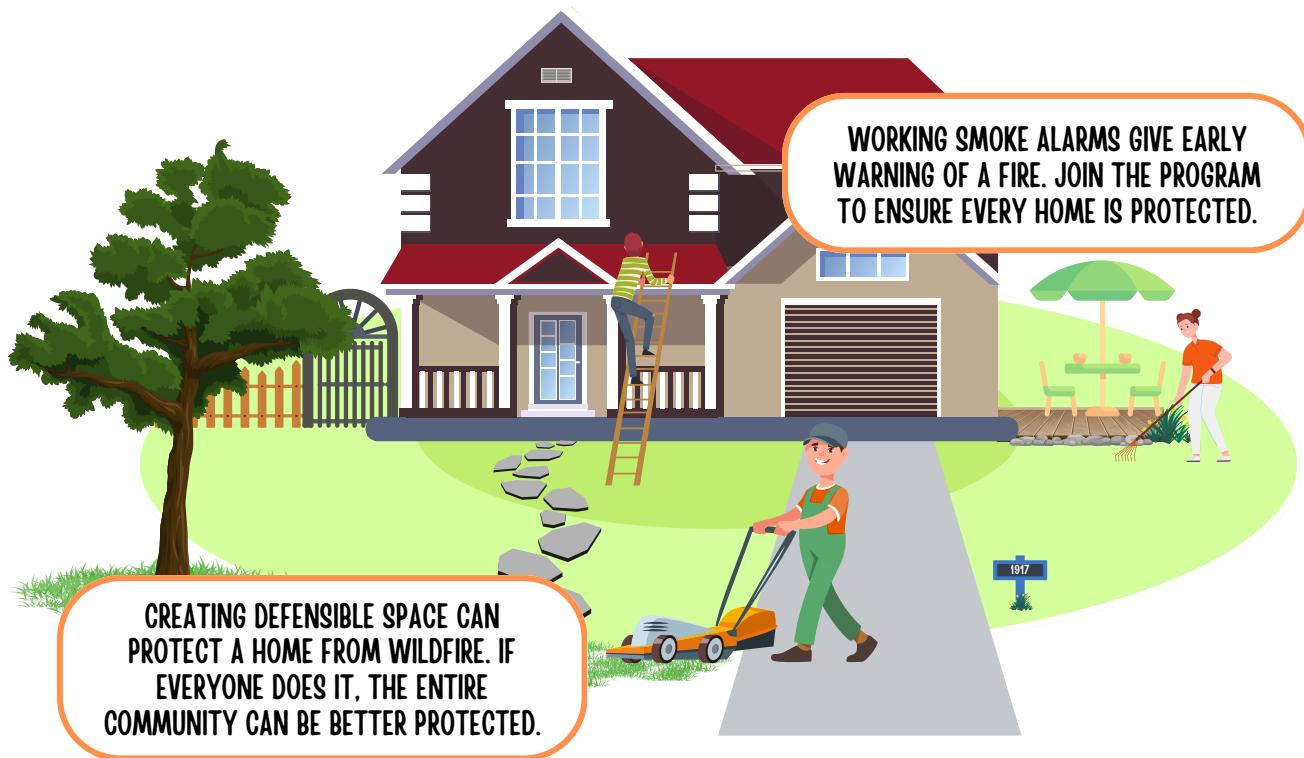
# PROTECT HOMES IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## INSIDE AND OUT

From home fires to wildfires, the Oregon State Fire Marshal offers essential programs to help you protect your community year-round.

Your agency can:

- Become a **defensible space assessor** to help homes withstand wildfire
- Participate in the **Smoke Alarm Installation Program** to protect the people inside



SCAN



Defensible Space Program

SCAN



Smoke Alarm Installation Program

Empower your agency to enhance fire safety—inside and out.

## GET STARTED TODAY!

# FIVE YEARS LATER: LABOR DAY FIRES

It has been five years since the devastating wildfires of Labor Day 2020 swept across Oregon, burning more than a million acres and upending countless lives. The path of recovery has been long and challenging, as communities continue to rebuild and people work to restore a sense of normalcy.

On September 7, 2020, fires ignited under critically hot and dry conditions, spreading rapidly because of high winds. Nearly 500,000 Oregonians were under evacuation notices, and 40,000 were forced to flee their homes. The response relied on a massive mobilization through the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFGAS), with 179 fire agencies contributing resources. Nearly 300 firefighting apparatus and more than 2,000 structural firefighters were deployed to protect lives and property.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal extends heartfelt gratitude to the thousands of firefighters, first responders, volunteers, and community members whose dedication and service made a lasting difference during and after the fires. The resilience shown over the past five years—through recovery, rebuilding, and continued vigilance—remains an enduring testament to Oregon's strength and unity in the face of disaster.

As Oregon reflects on this milestone, the ongoing work of recovery reminds us of the importance of preparedness, community support, and the unwavering commitment of those who protect and serve.



## HONORING THE FALLEN: 9/11 MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE

Each year, the Oregon fire service joins the nation in remembering the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Firefighters played a heroic role on that day, responding with courage and selflessness to one of the most tragic events in American history.

The 9/11 memorial is a time to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice and to reflect on the enduring commitment of first responders. Across Oregon, local fire agencies hold ceremonies, moments of silence, and community gatherings to pay tribute to fallen firefighters and emergency personnel.

As we observe this day, the Oregon fire service encourages everyone to take a moment to reflect, remember, and show gratitude for the heroes who continue to serve.



## SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH: BE READY, OREGON

Disasters can happen at any time—wildfires, floods, heatwaves, ice storms, or even a major earthquake. In Oregon, being prepared can make a lifesaving difference. During September, Oregonians are encouraged to focus on disaster preparedness as part of National Preparedness Month, supported by FEMA and the Oregon Department of Emergency Management.

The Oregon Department of Emergency Management has a helpful 'Be 2 Weeks Ready' toolkit, available online in English, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Vietnamese, with American Sign Language videos coming soon. The toolkit provides practical guidance for individuals, families, and communities to get ready for emergencies and practice preparedness together.

The Be 2 Weeks Ready program is designed for neighborhood groups, faith organizations, 4-H clubs, schools, workplaces, and other community groups. By collaborating, these groups can improve readiness and test emergency skills. One way to practice is through the Great Oregon Camp-In, happening the weekend after the Great ShakeOut on October 16. Participants spend time without electricity or running water, testing their preparedness in a safe, practical way. If an overnight event isn't possible, even a few hours or a full day without conveniences is a helpful exercise.

Being ready means more than just having supplies; it's about knowledge, skills, and community support. This September, take the time to plan, practice, and help your community prepare for the unexpected.

For the Be 2 Weeks Ready Toolkit and more preparedness resources, visit [Oregon.gov/OEM](http://Oregon.gov/OEM).

# SIMPLE STEPS TO BE TWO-WEEKS READY

### Here are some simple steps to start:

- Sign up for local emergency alerts at [ORAlert.gov](http://ORAlert.gov).
- Turn on Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on your phone.
- Learn about Oregon's evacuation levels and routes.
- Check road conditions on [TripCheck.com](http://TripCheck.com).
- Pack go-bags with essentials for every family member, including pets.

Stay in touch with local emergency management offices, community emergency response teams (CERT), sheriff's offices, or tribal police for more advice and updates.

Make copies of important documents and keep them in a password-protected online drive or on a flash drive in your go-bag.

The goal is to make sure everyone feels ready and confident about handling emergencies.



# HAZMATH HIGHLIGHT

The Salem Fire Department's Regional Oregon State Fire Marshal Hazmat Team 13 partnered with the Silverton Fire District to host an outreach and operations refresher training. The training focused on enhancing preparedness and strengthening response capabilities for hazardous materials incidents.

Silverton Fire personnel worked alongside Hazmat 13 specialists to review safety protocols, practice real-world scenarios, and sharpen their skills. The session emphasized the importance of teamwork, regional cooperation, air monitor training, and shared resources to keep communities safe.

Working with neighboring departments is invaluable. By training together, these teams and local fire agencies build stronger relationships and ensure that when an emergency happens, they're ready to respond as one team.

By sharing expertise, Hazmat Team 13 helps strengthen regional readiness for complex and potentially hazardous incidents.



## WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Andy Dwyer joins the Oregon State Fire Marshal as the Region D fire risk reduction specialist. Andy comes to the agency from Oregon Department of Forestry where he worked as a community wildfire forester and, most recently, as a learning and development specialist.

He brings experience in wildfire ecology, education, fuels reduction, and partnership building to the fire risk reduction specialist role.

Andy lives in The Dalles and enjoys spending time with his family and exploring the Gorge and all that Oregon has to offer.

# FALL PREVENTION AWARENESS WEEK

## SEPT. 22-26, 2025

Fall Prevention Awareness Week is Sept. 22-26, 2025, and the Oregon State Fire Marshal is encouraging fire service agencies and partners to help reduce fall risks for adults 65 and older.

Falls are a leading cause of injury and death among older adults.

- Nationally, 1 in 3 older adults will experience a fall.
- Falls among Oregonians 65 and older account for 17% of all 911 calls, with 21% classified as “lift assists.” Nearly half result in a second call within two weeks.
- In 2023, hospital records showed 3,257 fall-related hip fractures among Oregonians 65 and older. These injuries impact mobility and increase the risk of death months after the injury.
- Falls are also a leading cause of traumatic brain injuries, with Oregonians 65 and older representing the highest share of fatal TBIs between 2021 and 2023.

The Oregon Falls Prevention Coalition, Oregon Wellness Network, Aging and Disability Resource Connection, and Oregon Care Partners are among the many organizations providing education, resources and programs to reduce falls and support older adults.

### What can you do?

Prevention education is an important part of community risk reduction. The Oregon State Fire Marshal offers resources to support these efforts, including a social media kit, a large-print home safety checklists for fire and fall prevention, and emergency contact and medication list cards. Visit the [OSFM website](#) to access these materials.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal also supports the National Fire Protection Association's [Steps to Safety initiative](#), which provides free online training, presentation materials, and tools to help teach older adults about fire and fall prevention. The program encourages participants to connect with local, evidence-based services that promote safety and independence.

Join the Oregon State Fire Marshal Fire Prevention Education Unit for a free 30-minute virtual event, Sept. 30, to highlight fall prevention partners and available resources. [Register here](#).

Contact Paula Shelly at [paula.shelly@osfm.oregon.gov](mailto:paula.shelly@osfm.oregon.gov) to learn more about the fall prevention program.



### Educational Webinar

## Older Adult Fire and Fall Prevention

Tuesday, Sept. 30, 2025

1-1:30 p.m. PST

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

*Scan below to register*

SCAN HERE





## STATE FIRE MARSHAL RUIZ-TEMPLE SWORN IN TO NASFM BOARD

Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple was officially sworn in to the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) Board of Directors during the organization's annual conference in August.

The conference brought together fire marshals and safety leaders from across the country to address some of the most pressing issues in fire prevention and safety. A key topic was the transition to the new National Emergency Response Information System (NEIRS). While the system is nationally significant, states like Oregon with established laws and advanced data processes have faced challenges during the rollout. NASFM continues to advocate for state fire marshal voices in shaping the system to ensure it delivers streamlined processes and high-quality data for local fire services.

The board also discussed ongoing concerns with legislative efforts to adopt codes outside of the traditional public process, including recent debates around single exit stairwells. NASFM emphasized its commitment to preserving the integrity of code development through an inclusive and transparent process.

As part of the conference, Ruiz-Temple also participated in a wildfire panel alongside fire marshals from California, Colorado, Texas, and Massachusetts. She also connected with Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Jon Davine regarding a tragic assisted living facility fire that has drawn national attention and may prompt future code changes, particularly around sprinkler systems.

"I'm honored to serve on the NASFM Board of Directors and to represent Oregon at the national level," Ruiz-Temple said. "The conversations we're having, whether on wildfire, building codes, or national data systems, have a direct impact on our ability to protect communities here at home."

Ruiz-Temple will continue her service on the board through her current term, working to advance national policies and partnerships that strengthen fire prevention and public safety.

# FIRE SAFETY IN FOCUS AT OREGON STATE FAIR



From wildfire prevention to home fire safety, Oregon State Fire Marshal staff were on hand at the Oregon State Fair in August to share important safety information. The agency was located in the natural resource area, where staff had a fantastic opportunity to connect with fairgoers and partner agencies, raising awareness about the important work we do.

Thanks to the support of our Fire Prevention Education and Community Wildfire Risk Reduction teams, and the extra help from agency staff who attended each day, our presence at the fair was a resounding success. We appreciate everyone who came out to the fair and helped make this year's event such a positive experience. We look forward to continuing our work in fire prevention and community safety, both at the fair and beyond.

## WELCOME TO THE TEAM

We're excited to welcome Philip Hofmann as our new procurement manager. Philip has been in state procurement since 2018, spending time with ODOT and most recently serving as deputy director of procurement at the Oregon Department of Education.

He brings a strong background in process improvement, data analytics, and business operations, and holds degrees in law and politics from Southern New Hampshire University and an MBA from Willamette University. Originally from Colorado, Philip has called Oregon home for most of his life. Outside of work, he enjoys reading, the outdoors, and spending time with his niece and family.



# IMPORTANT NERIS+ UPDATE

After months of preparation, Oregon has officially kicked off the transition from NFIRS to the new NERIS+ reporting system. This marks a major step forward in strengthening our state's fire data infrastructure and aligning with national reporting standards.

To ensure a smooth transition and enable the creation of your agency's federal-level profile, we need all fire agencies to complete the tasks outlined in the July communication from Eric Gemmil titled, "Action Required: NERIS Agency Profile Update in Oregon Fire Incident Repository" if you haven't done so already.

## Here's what your agency needs to do:

- Log into the Oregon Fire Incident Repository.
- Update your Agency Locations via the Resources menu.
- Confirm your Agency Information under the Agency Administration menu—be sure both the Details and NERIS tabs are accurate.

These updates are critical for onboarding into NERIS+ and will help avoid delays in future reporting. Training videos, FAQs, and step-by-step guides are available on the NERIS+ webpage to support you through the process.

Need help or ready to confirm completion? Contact Michelle Vold at [michelle.vold@osfm.oregon.gov](mailto:michelle.vold@osfm.oregon.gov).



**Welcome to NERIS+**

The Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is piloting NERIS+, a new statewide incident reporting system built in partnership with the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI). Based on the new national reporting framework, NERIS+ is designed to modernize fire data collection and improve how Oregon's fire service responds and analyzes incidents.

This page is your home for everything related to NERIS+—from rollout timelines and training materials to system updates, FAQs, and eventually the login for access.

We're continuing to refine the process and data requirements. As development continues, this page will be updated with important dates, training resources, and login access when available.

**I am Looking for Information About:**

[Timeline](#) [How to Prepare](#) [Training](#) [FAQs](#) [Contact Us](#)

**What to Expect**

• [Single Submission, Dual Reporting](#)  
Upon submission of local incident reports, incident

[NERIS+ Rollout Timeline](#)

\*Click this button below to learn more about the MEDICA.



## WELCOME TO THE TEAM

We're excited to share that Greg Davis has rejoined the Oregon State Fire Marshal. In his new role, Greg will oversee the Special Operations Unit, which includes hazmat, hazmat by rail, the incident management teams, and the agency operations center.

Greg brings 29 years of fire service experience and previously served with Oregon State Fire Marshal from 2004 to 2019. Greg is looking forward to reconnecting with colleagues and contributing his expertise to the team's important work. Outside of work, Greg enjoys spending time with his wife of 28 years, Lindsey, their two sons and growing family.



**LEARN MORE  
ABOUT THE  
CAMPAIGN**



## **FIRE MARSHAL ATTENDS AUGUST NFPA BOARD MEETING**

State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple attended her first National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Board of Directors meeting this month, an important step in bringing Oregon's voice to national fire and life safety conversations.

The meeting addressed a wide range of issues shaping the future of the NFPA, including the evolution of fire and building codes, trademark and public access concerns, and financial updates.

Ruiz-Temple is also serving on three NFPA committees: Finance, Governance, and Nomination & Awards.

"It has already been a rich learning experience," Ruiz-Temple said. "It's been especially valuable to bring Oregon-centric topics into the discussion."

As part of this new role, Ruiz-Temple is collaborating with OSFM training specialist Rick Heuchert to explore electric vehicle (EV) training opportunities in partnership with Tesla and other national leaders.

During the recent NFPA Conference & Expo, Ruiz-Temple and Sara Jasmin participated in the launch of NFPA's latest safety campaign, ["Safety Doesn't Happen by Chance."](#) The campaign highlights the vital role codes and standards play in protecting people in everyday life. The NFPA is also partnering with the Property Brothers to promote the message through a series of public service videos.

Oregonians can view the campaign video and promotional content by scanning the QR code provided above.

# OSFM HOSTING FREE BATTERY RESPONSE TRAINING

The Oregon State Fire Marshal is encouraging members of the Oregon fire service to register for a free, hands-on training opportunity focused on risk-based response to battery emergencies.

The 8-hour course, which includes both classroom and practical instruction, is designed to prepare firefighters and other emergency responders to safely handle battery-related incidents involving multiple battery types, including lithium-ion (Li-Ion) batteries. Scenarios will cover transportation settings — such as passenger vehicles and cargo shipments by ground, air, and sea — and residential, commercial, and industrial environments.

The training is open to all emergency responders, though firefighters are especially encouraged to enroll. It is recommended that participants have HAZMAT operations-level training or higher before attending.

There is no cost to participate. Registration, travel, lodging, and per diem expenses will be covered by the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant.

Space is limited to 30 participants per class. Registration is open now through Sept. 12, 2025, at 5 p.m. Click the links below to register.

- [Sept. 17 – Eugene Springfield Fire, Eugene](#)
- [Sept. 18 – Bend Fire & Rescue, Bend](#)
- [Sept. 19 – Portland Fire & Rescue, Portland](#)
- [Sept. 20 – Clatsop Community College, Astoria](#)

For more information, contact OSFM Training Specialist Rick Heuchert at 503-983-3860 or [richard.heuchert@osfm.oregon.gov](mailto:richard.heuchert@osfm.oregon.gov).



# FIRE PREVENTION MONTH APPROACHING

October is Fire Prevention Month, and the Oregon State Fire Marshal invites you to join us in celebrating fire safety. Our focus this year is on rechargeable battery safety. This October, we encourage you to "Take Charge of Fire Safety!" This campaign is an extension of the National Fire Protection Association's Fire Prevention Week, which highlights this year's theme, "Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home."

Here are some tips to keep your home safe:

- **Buy only certified products.** When buying a product that uses a rechargeable battery, look for a safety certification mark such as UL, ETL, or CSA. This means it meets important safety standards.
- **Charge devices safely.** Always use the cords that came with the product to charge. Follow the instructions from the manufacturer. Buy new chargers from the manufacturer or one that the manufacturer has approved. Charge your device on a hard surface. Don't overcharge your device. Unplug it or remove the battery when it's fully charged.
- **Recycle batteries responsibly.** Don't throw rechargeable batteries in the trash or regular recycling bins because they could start a fire. Recycle your device or battery at a safe battery recycling location. Visit [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org) to find a recycling spot near you.

Oregon State Fire Marshal's Fire Prevention Education Unit is here to help you celebrate Fire Prevention Month by spreading the word about fire safety. Scan the QR code to request a Fire Prevention Month box that contains everything you need to help educate your community.

Stay tuned to the Oregon State Fire Marshal on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn for fire safety messages all month about rechargeable battery safety. Fire Prevention Month is the perfect time to remind everyone to plan, prepare, and prevent fires in their homes. Let's work together to make our communities safer.



**SIGN UP  
TODAY!**

# RISK REDUCTION TRAINING KITS

The OSFM is happy to announce the addition of risk reduction kit training this fall! The risk reduction kits – focusing on cooking, heating, and electrical safety – have been embraced throughout Oregon. To meet popular demand, three new offerings are available:

- **Eugene Springfield Fire**, Sept. 2, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- **Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Emergency Services**, Sept. 24, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- **Grants Pass Fire Rescue**, Oct. 15, 1 - 4 p.m.

## EACH KIT INCLUDES:

Visuals, props, and a presenter's guide for hands-on fire safety education fire safety topics. The kit has all the props and presentation tools to share fire prevention education for cooking, heating, electrical distribution (including rechargeable battery safety).

These kits have tailored lessons for all ages, including adults, young adults, youth, and seniors.

## WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

All Oregon fire agencies with an FDID or DCIN.

## HOW TO GET YOURS

To receive a kit, agencies must attend a mandatory three-hour, in-person regional training. Agencies will receive their kit, learn how to use the tools for presentations, and know how to evaluate outreach within the community.

## TRAINING LOCATIONS & SIGN-UP

Preregistration for training is required.

More than one agency representative is invited to attend, though one kit per FDID or DCIN. Each attendee should enroll separately, to ensure compliance with training room capacity.

Scan the QR code or [click this link](#) to find a training near you and to register.

***Let's work together to reduce fire risks and make Oregon safer!***

Questions? Contact: [Laura.Chaffey@osfm.oregon.gov](mailto:Laura.Chaffey@osfm.oregon.gov)





## NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

September is National Suicide Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about mental health and the importance of suicide prevention. Firefighters face unique stressors from long shifts, high-pressure calls, and exposure to traumatic events. Recognizing these challenges, the Oregon Fire Service is committed to promoting behavioral health and providing resources for all first responders.

The Oregon Fire Service Health and Safety Collaborative offers a variety of behavioral health resources to support firefighters and their families. Programs include:

- IAFF National Recovery and Suicide Prevention Month resources: Online training for safety planning interventions, a Suicide Prevention Safety Stand Down Toolkit, and webinars on strategies to save lives.
- National Volunteer Fire Council's Share the Load Program: Provides guidance on creating psychologically healthy fire departments and supporting peer networks.

Community engagement is another critical part of raising awareness. Firefighters, families, and community members are encouraged to participate in Out of Darkness Walks hosted by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Upcoming walks in Oregon include:

- [Portland, OR. 10/04/2025](#)
- [Columbia County, OR. 9/20/2025](#)
- [Newberg, OR. 9/27/2025](#)
- [Salem, OR. 10/11/2025](#)
- [Eugene, OR. 9/21/2025](#)
- [Central, OR. 9/6/2025](#)
- [Coos County, OR. 9/27/2025](#)
- [Southern Oregon. 9/13/2025](#)

For more information about firefighter behavioral health resources or to register for training and community walks, visit the [Oregon Fire Service Health and Safety Collaborative website](#).

## NATIONAL SLEEP STUDY

The Center for Fire, Rescue & EMS Health Research is conducting a national study to better understand how sleep patterns and fatigue impact firefighter health and well-being. The study is open to both career and volunteer firefighters, as well as spouses and partners of volunteer firefighters.

Firefighters face sleep disruptions from shift schedules, call volume, and operational demands. This study's goals are to:

- Identify sleep-related challenges in the fire service
- Explore how sleep affects health, safety, and job performance
- Develop recommendations to improve firefighter sleep health

Participation is anonymous and takes about 30-45 minutes to complete. [Take the survey here](#)

Volunteer firefighters will also have the option to invite their spouse or partner to participate in a separate survey about how firefighting affects sleep in their household.

Your input is critical to improving firefighter health, safety, and future policies.

For questions, contact Dr. Brittany Hollerbach at [hollerbach@ndri-usa.org](mailto:hollerbach@ndri-usa.org).

# REGISTER TODAY!

Registration is now open for the **2025 Central Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Conference**, taking place September 15-16 at the Riverhouse Lodge in Bend. The annual event brings together safety professionals, emergency responders, and industry leaders to explore the latest in workplace safety, health, and leadership.

This year's conference features a dedicated emergency services/first responder track, with sessions on:

- Lithium-ion battery safety considerations
- Fostering mental health through peer support teams
- Fire service leadership and promoting safety culture
- An emergency services panel on physical and mental health
- Early CPR intervention and "Stop the Bleed" response

Beyond the first responder track, the conference covers a wide range of safety topics including OSHA regulations, industrial hygiene, AI in safety, driving safety, total worker health, fall protection, and situational awareness.

Keynote speaker Hoan Do, an international speaker, author, and American Ninja Warrior finalist, will present "Turning Obstacles into Opportunities." Attendees can also explore exhibits featuring the latest safety and health products and services. New this year, participants will have the opportunity to earn continuing education units.

Cost to attend ranges from \$120 to \$240. Register now to secure a spot or view the full program and registration form online.

## BUILDING STRONGER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUPPORT

In June, Curry County fire service members took part in the first of a new series of behavioral health awareness trainings designed for first responders. More than 80 participants attended the Resilience 1 class, thanks to the efforts of local leaders such as Captain Ashley Moore of Sixes Fire and collaborative partners including the Oregon State Fire Marshal and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

This training is part of a larger pilot program that will grow to include advanced awareness courses, leadership-focused training, and peer support development. The goal is to build a comprehensive and practical behavioral health program for firefighters, leaders, peer supporters, and local clinicians and eventually expand access to all first responders and public safety professionals.

This is only the beginning. More trainings and opportunities to engage are coming this fall. Stay tuned as we continue to build stronger behavioral health support across Oregon.



# CODES CORNER

## EMERGENCY GENERATORS: *Ensuring Safety and Readiness through Inspection, Testing and Maintenance*



On Oct. 7, 2020, 42 residents of a Junction City, Ore., assisted living facility were evacuated after a power outage revealed that the building's emergency generator had never been installed. Residents were left without lights, heat, refrigeration for medication, or reliable oxygen support until state and local fire officials ordered their relocation.

Similarly, on Aug. 28, 2019, the University of Oregon's Knight Law Building experienced a failure of the

emergency generator powering its fire alarm system during routine maintenance. Until repairs could be completed, the building was placed under a mandatory fire watch, since any outage would have left the facility without life-safety alarms.

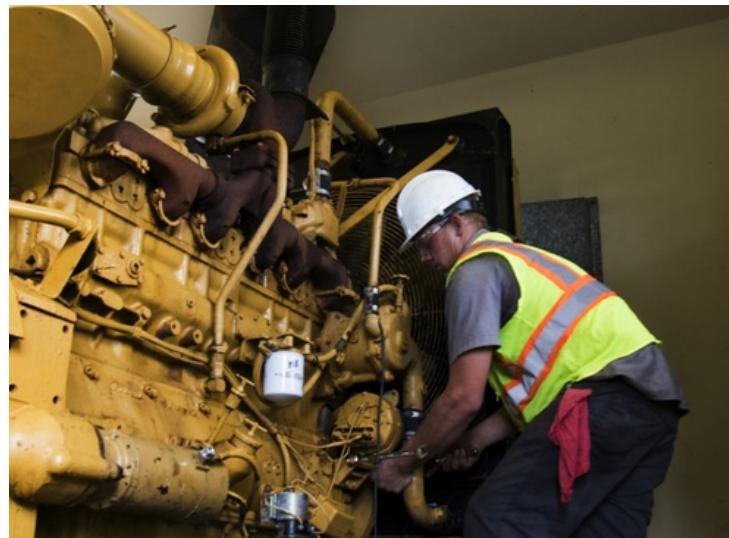
Emergency and standby power systems are critical to public safety, and they must be properly installed, tested, and maintained. For health care, residential, and educational occupancies alike, generator failure puts lives at immediate risk. The 2022 Oregon Fire Code (OFC) details the requirements for inspecting, testing, and maintaining the systems that help keep people safe.

OFC Section 1203.4 covers the maintenance requirements for emergency and standby power systems. References for this section include National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 110, Emergency and Standby Power Systems, and NFPA 111, Stored Electrical Energy Emergency and Standby Power Systems. NFPA 110 is geared toward power sources, such as diesel-driven generators, while NFPA 111 is geared toward power supplies, such as lead-acid battery systems.

Existing generators must be properly maintained to continue to serve the purpose for which they were installed. OFC 1203.1.9 requires maintaining existing installations in accordance with the original approval. NFPA 99 (2021) establishes the maintenance and inspection requirements for generators installed at hospitals, nursing homes, and ambulatory care facilities, ensuring that lifesaving systems work when they're needed most.

Section 1203.4.2 focuses on the schedule of inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) of emergency and standby power systems, ensuring that standby and emergency power continues to work over the life of the building and its associated equipment. This section also requires that a schedule be created and approved at the completion of the installation.

Section 1203.4.3 establishes record keeping requirements. Documentation must specify what was inspected, tested, and where potential problems exist. It details the name of the inspector and inspection agency for future reference. These documents must be available to the fire code official on request. Section 109.3 requires records to be maintained for three years, and the fire code official can prescribe the form and format of recordkeeping.



One of the most important features of emergency and standby power is the ability for it to be used within a specified time. Section 1203.5.2 describes the process for testing transfer switches. The transfer switch test starts with the switch moved from the normal position to the alternate position and back again. Emergency power must be available within ten seconds of the loss of primary power. Sixty seconds is allowed for standby power. Refer to the guide below:

**Generator Levels, Classes, and Types**

**Level**  
Performance and maintenance criticality. Examples:

- **Level 1:** Critical – could result in loss of life or injuries such as fire systems, emergency lights, communication systems.
- **Level 2:** Less critical, non-emergency – such as heating systems, general lighting, occupant processes.

**Class**  
Hours to run at load.

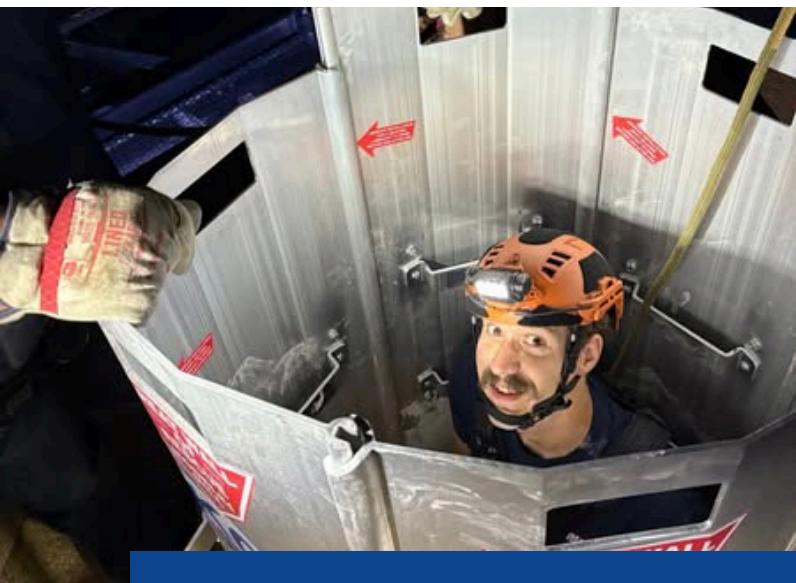
- **Example:** Class 0.25 = 15 minutes. Class X is application-driven hours (usually represents between 48 and 96 hours of fuel for a Level 1 facility). Minimum 4 days of fuel in certain seismic categories.

**Type**  
Seconds to transfer secondary power.

- **Examples:** Type 10 = 10 seconds. Type U = uninterrupted. Type M = manual transfer.

Other parts of the code also pertain to the reliability of these systems. Section 1203.4.4 addresses the long-term reliability of the transfer switches. NFPA 110, Chapter 8, Routine Maintenance and Operational Testing, sets requirements for fuel quality checks, lubricating fluid levels, battery condition, and load bank testing.

In combination, these parts of the fire code help ensure that emergency and standby power systems are ready to use when and where they are needed most.



## FROM THE INTERNET

Boardman Fire Rescue District is the first in Oregon to have specialized grain rescue equipment. The district recently held a multi-company drill with Lexington Volunteer Fire Department focused on grain elevator rescues, with training provided by the National Center for Agricultural Safety. The equipment was made possible through support from Nationwide Insurance and Morrow County Grain Growers. [See their post here.](#)

## FOR THE DOGS

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Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue had a pawsome time at the Canine Community Carnival in Beaverton in mid-August!

The event was hosted by the Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District. It was a family-friendly event. The agency said in their post they loved meeting so many furry friends and their humans.

[See more images here.](#)



## CONTACT US

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

Send it by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month to:

[osfm.thegatedwye@osfm.oregon.gov](mailto:osfm.thegatedwye@osfm.oregon.gov)

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