



Oregon Fire Service Coronavirus Response Team

05/05/2020 Information Bulletin 2020-07

Updated January 11, 2021

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY ACTIVITIES GUIDANCE

- Fire & life safety of all Oregonians continues to be a critical need as Oregonians have engaged in the changes from COVID-19. As Oregon works through vaccination considerations and the public may soon have the opportunity to engage in group activities, it is imperative that we remain resilient in slowing the spread of the virus, while keeping Oregon safer from the dangers of fire. The Governor's Office and the Oregon Health Authority will continue to drive decisions on when and how Oregon re-opens, but ensuring resiliency and flexibility in your fire agency for fire prevention activities is key. Many of these activities should be considered after making sure it follows the Governor's Guidance Details/Metrics. As you plan and prepare please consider the following:

Personnel Work Areas

- Continue to engage in physical distancing measures by considering staff members schedules for staggering or alternate shifts, field operations or telecommuting.

Inspections

- Assess the risks of fire and life safety hazards vs the risk of conducting inspections.
- Consider delaying regular inspections on COVID-19 higher virus transmission risk occupancies such as care facilities, retirement facilities, assembly occupancies (including restaurants), institutional occupancies, etc., unless they are extremely overdue. Investigate/inspect/follow-up on any fire & life safety complaints. Wear personal protective equipment suitable for the environment. (P100/N95 would be the preferred facial covering)
- Consider a self-inspection program or using virtual means where appropriate and possible.
- Conduct license inspections where possible, practicing physical distancing and wearing PPE if social distancing cannot be accomplished or if there is a known risk. (P100/N95 would be the preferred facial covering)

New Construction

- Consider new construction plan review and inspection activities using virtual means where appropriate. Practice physical distancing and use of appropriate PPE when in-person contact must be made such as on-site inspections. (P100/N95 would be the preferred facial covering)

Fire Investigations

- Practice physical distancing and wearing PPE if physical distancing cannot be accomplished or there is a known risk.

Public Education

- Continue physical distancing requirements for group public education presentations and the current recommendations for gathering limitations and refer to the Governor's Guidance Details/Metrics.
- Utilize media releases, social media, and fire agency reader boards to get fire & life safety information out.
- Consider virtual meetings and videos for your community to continue to educate them on the dangers of fire that impact them while they are at home.

Meetings

- Consider virtual meetings or teleconferences unless physical distancing can be accomplished and the conditions for group meetings is lifted by authorities and meets the Governor's risk matrix.
- Conduct electronic meetings such as virtual, teleconference or email as much as possible.

Contact Tracing Measures

- Consider keeping a record of name, contact information and date/time of your visit/inspection for purposes of contact tracing if needed.

Monitoring

- Consider regular health checks (e.g., temperature and respiratory symptom screening) or symptom self-report of employees.
- Stay home if you have a fever or are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms.

Health and Wellness

- Take care of yourself.
- Utilize Employee Assistance Programs (EAP), Peer Support Programs, and Critical Incident Response Teams (CIRT).

Fire & Life Safety Resources

- ICC – White papers and articles:
<https://www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/coronavirus-response-center/latest-news/>
- NFPA – Includes position on ITM and Fire Protection Systems:
<https://www.nfpa.org/Codes-and-Standards/Resources/Standards-in-action/NFPA-responds-to-the-coronavirus/Coronavirus-government-officials>
- NFPA- Guidance on Remote Inspections:
<https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Code-or-topic-fact-sheets/RVIFactSheet.pdf>
- CMS – 1135 Waivers which waive certain activities based on the declared state of emergency, including certain survey and ITM activities:
<https://www.cms.gov/medicare/quality-safety-oversight-general-information/coronavirus>
- Oregon OSHA:
<https://osha.oregon.gov/Pages/re/covid-19.aspx>
- Guidance Based on County Risk Level:
<https://coronavirus.oregon.gov/Pages/guidance.aspx>