



# Fire Defense Board Preparedness COVID-19 Responder Recruitment Extension

July 1, 2020

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**The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has extended recruitment to fill COVID-19 Responder positions for the 2020 fire season.**

All selected applicants will be placed into a pool or assigned to a team to be mobilized as a COVID-19 Module in concert with the mobilization of the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System through OSFM or an Incident Management Team (IMT) mobilization through Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Personnel may need to create separate agreements with ODF; that conversation is ongoing.

## Positions & Applications

1. Health Liaison - these positions have been filled for the 2020 season
2. COVID-19 Responder (<https://www.oregon.gov/osp/Docs/EMTApp.doc>)

All selected personnel are expected to be capable of mobilizing within 2 hours of a request and must arrive at the incident prepared to remain self-sufficient for 72 hours, (food, water, tent, sleeping bag, etc.). Personnel should be prepared to remain at an incident for up to 14 days.

Both OSFM and ODF will be providing a cache of PPE for all resources but encourage personnel to bring their own PPE as well if possible. Anyone responding with either OSFM or ODF should be familiar with the Northwest Incident Management Team Best Management Practices guidance, available here: <https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/pdfs/Northwest%20Incident%20Management%20Teams%20Recommended%20Best%20Management%20Practices%20%28COVID-19%20Pandemic%29.pdf>.

**The Health Liaison** is a position defined in the Northwest Incident Management Team Best Management Practices and outlined in Appendix C: <https://www.oregon.gov/osp/Docs/HealthLiaison.pdf>. One Health Liaison will be mobilized to each mobilization of the OSFM and ODF teams and will oversee mobilized COVID-19 Responders.

**COVID-19 Responders** will report to the incident's Health Liaison and will serve as intake medics for personnel who have identified COVID-19 symptoms during their self-screening. Selected Responders should expect to work directly with COVID-19 patients following guidance from the CDC and OHA and must be prepared for the associated risks. The most appropriate position description is NWCG's Fireline EMT: <https://www.nwcg.gov/ad-positions/emtf>, but in this case the focus will be on COVID-19.

Each incident's Health Liaison and assigned Responders will form a module as one and must maintain physical distancing and wear masks when outside their module as one. That module may expand to include other members of the incident's Medical Unit as determined at the time of the incident.

All resources mobilized by OSFM are expected to adhere to guidelines in the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan (Mob Plan) as well as guidelines set forth by OSFM or the Incident Management Team.

All resources mobilized by OSFM are expected to be available 24/7, though all efforts are made to meet a 2:1 work/rest ratio.

Personnel will be reimbursed per the Mobilization Plan. Career personnel will be reimbursed at their standard rate of pay and based on their agency's standard pay practices.

Volunteer personnel who are selected for these positions will be reimbursed per the OSFM's Standard Operating Guideline relative to this subject.

[https://www.oregon.gov/osp/Docs/SOGs\\_Reimbursement\\_Rate\\_Volunteer\\_IMT\\_Members.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/osp/Docs/SOGs_Reimbursement_Rate_Volunteer_IMT_Members.pdf)

- Health Liaisons will be reimbursed at the AD-K rate.
- EMTs serving as COVID-19 Responders will be reimbursed at the AD-I rate.
- Paramedics serving as COVID-19 Responders will be reimbursed at the AD-J rate.

This recruitment for COVID-19 Responders has been extended. All applications must be received by Sunday, July 12, at 1700 hours. Selections will be made and communicated on Monday, July 13. **Applicants should save the date of July 14 at 1400 hours for a web-based orientation.**

Any questions should be addressed to OSFM Mobilization Coordinator [Mariah.Rawlins@osp.oregon.gov](mailto:Mariah.Rawlins@osp.oregon.gov).