



OREGON OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

NOVEMBER 2021



The OSFM rolls out new district maps

To better connect the Oregon fire service with key programs and contacts, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal launched a new interactive map.

This new feature on OSFM's website is a clickable map by County, Regional Mobilization Coordinator, or Fire Risk Reduction Specialists. The map shows who best to contact at OSFM to help facilitate work with key new initiatives around wildfires and other hazards. [READ MORE ON PAGE 2.](#)

OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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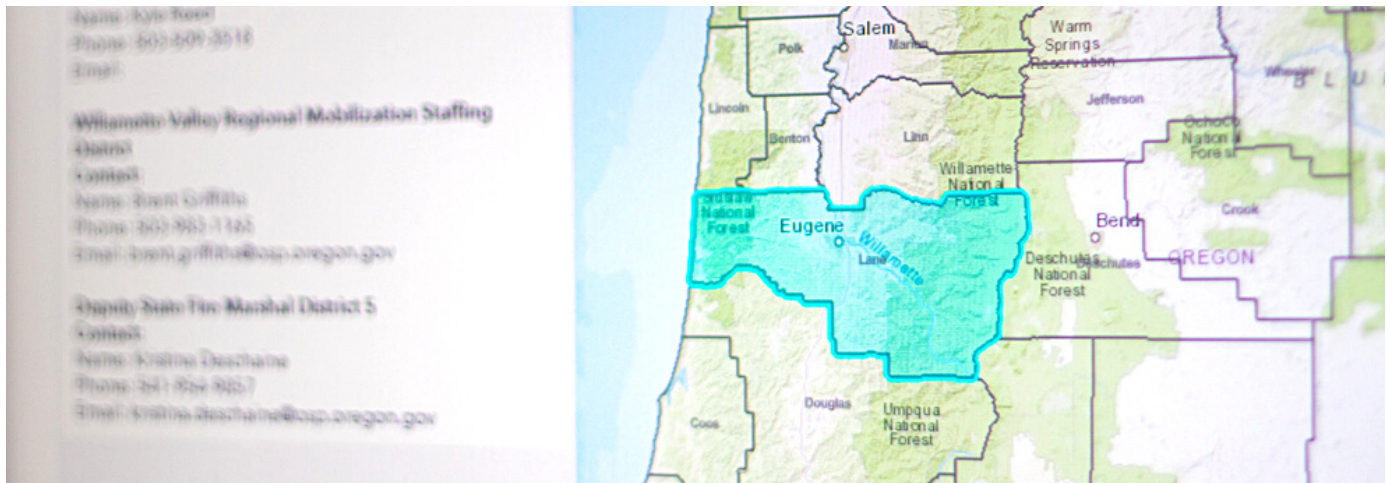
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OSFM launches new mapping program and initiatives

The Office of State Fire Marshal is designing our organizational structure to provide additional support for Oregon's fire service to ensure our communities and responders keep pace with the changing wildfire reality. Our Office launched two new initiatives to modernize statewide response and reduce community risk to add to our existing educational and response programs. Fire agencies and our partners will see new faces, based regionally, focused on supporting our office's new initiatives, Response Ready Oregon and Fire Adapted Oregon.

Response Ready Oregon will support local fire service agencies through regionally-based mobilization coordinators. OSFM's Regional Mobilization Coordinators will assist with local and regional mutual aid plans, conflagrations, mobilizations, long-range planning, and liaise with partner agencies. This will give all of OFMAS additional capacity, technology, and training to ensure Oregon's response system is outpacing disasters that may impact our communities.

Fire Adapted Oregon is a holistic community risk reduction initiative that will begin by focusing on wildfires. This initiative will also have dedicated regional staff to support the fire service and our partners. Fire Risk Reduction Specialist will assist with the development, administration, and maintenance of community risk reduction strategies; and assist in and support ongoing tactics and plans to reduce the occurrence and impact of fire in communities within the assigned region.

Each region for OSFM's Deputy State Fire Marshal's, Mobilization Coordinator's, and Fire Risk Reduction Specialist's maps are based on the programs' goals and services provided by OSFM's field staff. The map regions are drawn based on population densities, fire occurrence, and existing support services offered to the fire service. In addition, OSFM has developed an interactive map so that each fire chief can determine how to contact their local, regional capacity. To learn who your contacts are. **[OSFM Regional Contact Map](#)**

Governor appoints Grafe Wildfire Programs Director

As part of Senate Bill 762, a new Wildfire Programs Advisory Council has been formed; 19 people from diverse backgrounds will make up the council. Governor Kate Brown has appointed Doug Grafe as Wildfire Programs Director, a position created through SB 762. In this role, Grafe will serve as the principal advisor to the Governor on wildfire prevention and will oversee the implementation of SB 762, including coordinating activities of the involved state agencies and other entities. His appointment was effective October 18th, 2021

Grafe joins the Governor's Office from the Oregon Department of Forestry. He has worked for the last 17 years in various positions, including stewardship forester, Toledo unit forest manager, fire operations manager, deputy chief of fire protection, and chief of fire protection.



SB 762 rule-making process continues, key deadlines met

The rulemaking process is currently underway as part of Senate Bill 762. There are currently three different Rulemaking Advisory Committees (RACs): Wildland Urban Interface boundary criteria, Statewide Fire Risk Mapping, and Certified Burn Manager. The Certified Burn Manager RAC is gathering guidance for administrative rules and overall program administration for Section 25 of SB 762 requiring a prescribed fire program. The other two RACs were combined to add clarity to the scope of work between the two groups.

The Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) definition has been reviewed by the RAC, approved by the Board of Forestry, and accepted by the Secretary of State. The WUI definition was required to be passed 100 days from the signing of the bill. The deadline outlined in legislation was met.

Progress made as OSFM implements SB 762 initiatives and programs

As the rollout of SB 762, the state's wildfire response omnibus continues, the Office of State Fire Marshal is moving forward with hiring for key initiatives, reaching out to the Oregon fire service to assess needs, and preparing for the code adoption process around the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI).

CODES PROCESS

The Oregon Board of Forestry has adopted a definition of what the Wildland-Urban Interface in Oregon is. The next step is to apply the WUI definition and create a map showing communities that fall within the Wildland Urban Interface. Once there is a map, the OSFM and stakeholders will go through the code adoption process using the ICC as a framework. Currently, the OSFM is developing the stakeholder committee list and a framework for stakeholder meetings.

ENGINE PROGRAM

Senate Bill 762 helps the OSFM to modernize the Oregon Fire Service and increase response to wildfires. Last month the OSFM sent out a gap analysis survey to the fire service to gather information on where firefighting apparatus is across Oregon. With that information, the OSFM plans to make strategic investments in new wildland firefighting apparatus and position them in areas of Oregon where they would provide the most benefit to the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS).

NEW INITIATIVES

Hiring for mobilization coordinators continues as part of the Response Ready Oregon initiative. The coordinators assist with local and regional mutual aid plans, conflagrations, mobilizations, long-range planning, and liaise with partner agencies. Hiring also continues for Fire Risk Reduction Specialists as well, these folks assist with the development, administration, and maintenance of community risk reduction strategies. They also assist in and support ongoing tactics and plans to reduce the occurrence and impact of fire in communities within the assigned region. Currently, the OSFM is conducting one-on-one interviews with fire districts in the top 50 communities with the greatest cumulative housing-unit exposure to wildfire to assess local community risk reduction capacity.



Grand Ronde begins new chapter with new fire district

With the push of a fire engine through the bay doors, two years' worth of planning and preparation became a reality for Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the beginning of a new fire department.

On October 1st at a ceremony held, Grand Ronde, officially became its own fire and emergency services department.

During the ceremony, those in attendance heard from Tribal Council Members and state fire officials on how monumental the day was for not only Grand Ronde but for the Oregon Fire Service.

"We have taken on a responsibility and duty to not only serve and protect our local community but, render aid wherever it is needed and wherever we are able." Grand Ronde Tribal Emergency Services Chief Steve Warden said.

Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple attended the event along with other staff. "It's a great honor to be here today and see what this means to this community and the people of Oregon," Ruiz-Temple said. "The vision of your Tribal Council members, the support of your community, and the leadership of Chief Warden are why you are here today. It's exciting for this area, your people, and beneficial to your visitors. You have built a premier fire service agency and it is a shining example of your commitment to the community."



Courtesy: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Department of Emergency Services



Courtesy: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
Department of Emergency Services

Grand Ronde was previously a part of the West Valley Fire District. In 2009, the two signed an intergovernmental agreement to build and operate the fire station in Grand Ronde to cut response time for fire and medical emergencies in the Grand Ronde area. The station opened in 2010.

The October 1st event ended with a "push-in ceremony" where a new fire truck was pushed into the station. The tradition dates back more than 100 years when fire trucks were not motorized and operated with horses. In those days, firefighters had to push their equipment back into the station after a call. Today, it's a symbolic move to mark a new station or department.

Regional HazMat teams train at TVF&R

In October, firefighters from across the state gathered at TVF&R's training center to attend a Hazardous Materials Technician Academy. Firefighters from the Portland Metro Area, Coos Bay, Medford, and Astoria attended the four-week-long course.

The Office of State Fire Marshal in partnership with fire departments and districts across the state, operates 13 regional hazardous materials (HazMat) emergency response teams as part of the Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams (RHMERT) program. The OSFM provides state coordination and funding of vehicles, equipment, and training. Local agencies provide personnel, house equipment and vehicles, and contribute other critical overhead to support the program.

These 13 teams across Oregon are a technical resource for local incident commanders who often request regional HazMat teams to respond to hazardous materials emergencies where the scope and scale of the emergency exceeds locally available resources.

Team members attend a minimum of 160 hours of specialized training to become hazardous materials technicians. Technician training in Oregon is standardized ensuring all team members have the same level of advanced training. Team members maintain their specialized knowledge and skills through annual refresher training and a HazMat technician Task Book every two years.



Interested in having OSFM at your next event?

Do you have any event planned? Looking to get the word about fire safety? The Fire Prevention Education Unit (FPEU) is here to help. If there is an event happening in your area that would be interested in our presence or need resources, please submit an **event request** through the form on our website. The FPEU will review these requests and work to support local events as much as our resources allow. Over the summer the FPEU team traveled across the state to county fairs, most recently the team was in The Dalles for the Fall Harvest Festival.



OSFM to offer Risk Based Response to Battery Emergencies class

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal is excited to offer training on Risk-Based Response to Battery Emergencies. This 8-hour course includes classroom and hands-on training to prepare responders to conduct risk-based response to battery emergencies for multiple types of batteries including lithium-ion (Li-Ion). The course covers batteries found in transportation including passenger vehicles, ground transport, air and sea shipping, as well as residential, commercial, and industrial settings.

The cost for the class, travel, lodging, and per-diem will be paid for through the HMEP Grant. The class is open to all emergency responders with emphasis given to firefighters. It is recommended that all participants be trained to the HAZMAT Operations level or higher prior to the class.

These classes are being provided through a partnership with the hosting agencies. Classes are limited to 30 participants and will abide by the COVID-19 requirements in place for the jurisdiction at the time of the class. Participants will receive an email with the current requirements the week prior to the class. Sign-up will close one week prior to the start of the class. ***Click the links on the right to learn more.***

Find a class near you

Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District
301 S Elm St,
Sisters, OR

Thursday, December 9, 2021
Klamath County Emergency
Management
7390 S 6th St, Building 7,
Klamath Falls, OR

Friday, December 10, 2021
Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue
2625 US-101,
Florence, OR

Saturday, December 11, 2021
Molalla Fire District
320 N Molalla Ave,
Molalla, OR

For additional questions about this or any other training offered by the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal please contact:

Training Specialist

Rick Heuchert,

Email:

richard.heuchert@osp.oregon.gov

Phone:

503-983-3860



OSFM to host Fire Investigation classes, sign up to secure a spot

This November and December the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal will be hosting several classes focused on the core principles of fire investigations. Space is limited so be sure to register as soon as possible. ***Click the class location or date below to learn more.***

NFPA/DPSST CERTIFIED FIRE INVESTIGATION COURSE

Fire Origin and Cause Investigator course is a 40-hour "REQUISITE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS" class for volunteer, combo, and career fire service and law enforcement personnel who are assistants to the State Fire Marshal and have fire investigation responsibilities as one of their primarily assigned functions. The class is based on NFPA 1033 Standards for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, IFSTA Fire Investigator 2nd Edition, and Oregon DPSST Task Book objectives with an associated final exam at the end of the course (this course replaces the need to take the DPSST Fire Investigator Exam). After completing this class, the student will have a basic understanding of "Fire Origin and Cause", documenting the fire scene, evidence collection/preservation, interviews/interrogations, post-incident investigation protection, and fire investigation case presentation. In addition to obtaining a certificate of course completion (NOCC), the student will be required to complete the Oregon DPSST NFPA 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator JPR "Skills" portion of the Task Book prior to applying for state certification.

Sign Up For a Class

Fire Origin and Cause Investigator

[Newport, Oregon](#) [Clackamas, Oregon](#)

[Nov. 15th-19th.](#)

[Dec. 6th-10th.](#)

Company Inspector

[Estacada, Oregon](#)

[Nov. 12th, 2021](#)

[Nov. 13th, 2021](#)

[Nov. 15th, 2021](#)

COMPANY INSPECTOR

This training provides a broad framework for fire personnel who have little or no experience with fire inspections. This class is for firefighting company personnel responsible for fire and life safety inspections or full-time inspection personnel with less than six months of experience. The course is designed to provide a high-level understanding of the legal authority to conduct inspections, common fire code violations associated with business and mercantile occupancies, and the various steps involved in the inspection process.



Courtesy: Illinois Valley Fire Dist.



Lang Johnson retires following 34 years in Oregon Fire Service

Following a storied 34 years in the Oregon Fire Service, Grants Pass Fire Chief Lang Johnson retired in October. During his career, he worked for the Oregon Department of Forestry, Valley Fire Service, Rural Metro Fire Department, and Grants Pass Fire & Rescue. After serving as Deputy Chief of the Public Safety Department, he was hired as the new fire chief at the beginning of September.

Johnson worked with OSFM teams closely and was the fire defense board chief for Josephine County for many years. He has also been part of the mobilization plan committee representing Southern Oregon for a decade.

During a ceremony on September 30th, Johnson was honored for his decades of service. Johnson's long dedication and commitment to the fire service were unwavering. He was a strong leader and a mentor to many young firefighters.

Crystal Weston sworn in

In October, the OSFM welcomed a new sworn OSFM member. On October 11th, Crystal Weston was sworn in as a Fire Services Safety Specialist. Weston joined OSFM in July and has been hard at work ever since.

At OSFM, Weston will be conducting statewide policy analysis and coordination of operational safety practices that support health, safety, infectious disease and mental wellness initiatives.

Weston has worked for several years in public health, including occupational and environmental health, mental health, and chemical exposure issues.



Stay safe in the kitchen this holiday season

The Thanksgiving holiday is upon us and Oregon families will be coming together for a time of celebration. The hours spent in the kitchen preparing turkey, mashed potatoes, pies, and all the other fixings, however, comes with an increased risk for household fires.

In 2020, cooking was the number one cause of residential structure fires in Oregon, making up 20 percent of all residential structures.

Here are some tips to keep you and your family safe in the kitchen this holiday season.

Safety tips to remember when cooking:

- Keep an eye on what you're cooking- don't leave cooking unattended.
- Keep your cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles (potholders, food packaging, towels, etc.) and wipe up surface spills.
- Create a three-foot kid and pet-free zone around the stove.
- Older children should only cook with permission and under the supervision of an adult.
- Have a lid or cookie sheet within reach while cooking (to smother flames) in case of a fire.

Safety tips for if a cooking fire does start:

- Put a lid on it! Slide a lid over the pan (from the side) and then turn off the burner.
- Don't move the pan until the fire is completely extinguished and cooled, and don't try to transfer the pan to the sink.

If you cannot extinguish the fire:

- Get you and your family safely out of the house.
- If you can, close doors as you are escaping, to help contain the fire.
- Call 911 from a safe place (outside).



Turkey Frying Safety Tips

- 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.
- Wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from oil splatter.
- 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.

CODES CORNER

Designating the Exit for Safety – Part I

When it comes to building safety, properly functioning exit signs and egress illumination lighting is important – and property owners need to prioritize them, along with other elements of their life safety systems. When these units are not functioning properly, building occupants and visitors may be misdirected or left in the dark to find their way to safety.



Property owners and managers are responsible for scheduling and/or performing maintenance of their illuminated exit signs and egress illumination lights. During a power outage, primary lighting may go out, making it more difficult to navigate egress pathways, for those seeking shelter in the event of an emergency or egressing the building.

In this two-part series, we will review the general code provisions for illuminated exit signs along with the inspection, testing, and maintenance (ITM) provisions outlined in the 2019 Oregon Fire Code (OFC) and other regulatory agencies.

EXIT SIGNS: DESIGNATING THE EXIT LOCATION

Where an occupancy has two or more required exits or exit accesses, the means of egress must be provided with illuminated signs that readily identify the location of and indicate the path of travel to the exits as outlined in OFC Section 1013. This will include many commercial occupancies such as assembly, education, hotels, mercantile, and businesses.

All illuminated exit signage must be listed and labeled as outlined in UL 924, Standard for Emergency Lighting and Power Equipment. Listed exit signs are required by UL 924 to meet the same graphics, illumination, and power sources defined in OFC Sections 1013.6.1 through 1013.6.3 for externally illuminated signs. The signs must be illuminated with letters reading “EXIT.” Exit signs must be illuminated at all times, including when the building may not be fully occupied.

Every exit sign and directional sign must be continuously illuminated to provide a light intensity at the illuminated surface of at least 5 foot-candles. These signs need to be visible from any direction of the exit access and are required to be internally or externally illuminated. An external illumination source with the power capabilities specified by OFC Section 1013.6.3 is acceptable.

In Part II - we will discuss electrical energy and emergency power required for maintaining the illumination of exit signs along with the ITM requirements from the industry and manufacturers.

Contact Us

Have an idea for a story or subject you would like to know more about?

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