



OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

JUNE 2022

this 4th of july

**KEEP IT LEGAL.
KEEP IT SAFE.**

OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

FIREWORKS SALES SET TO BEGIN JUNE 23RD

"Keep it Legal, Keep it Safe" is the message from the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal this June and July as fireworks legally go on sale in Oregon on June 23rd.

The OSFM is tasked with issuing permits for fireworks sales and public displays.

The OSFM also provides messaging to help ensure all Oregonians are safe when using fireworks this time of year.

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**OSFM'S MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**

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OSFM URGES SAFETY WHEN USING FIREWORKS, FOLLOW LOCAL RESTRICTIONS

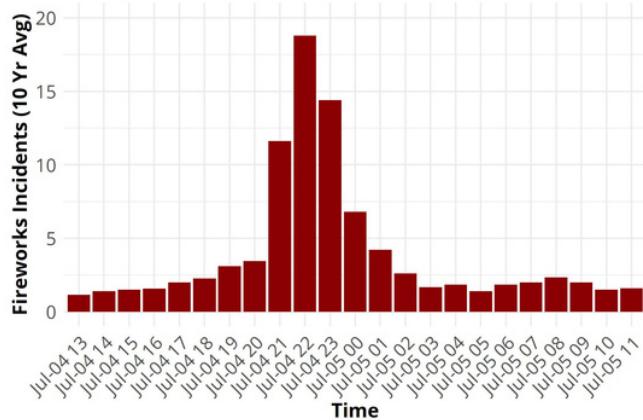
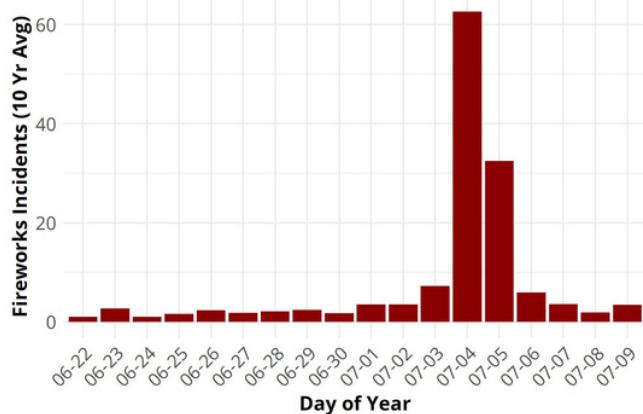
Whether it is the dazzle, the different colors, or the crackle of fireworks, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal is urging Oregonians and visitors to check local regulations and to be safe if they plan to use fireworks to celebrate this Independence Day.

In Oregon, the 2022 fireworks retail sales season runs from June 23rd to July 6th. The OSFM wants to remind everyone to know which fireworks are legal to use, where they can be used, and how to use fireworks safely.

To reduce the risk of starting a wildfire, some local governments across the Northwest have put in place bans on the sale and use of fireworks. It is important to check the local restrictions and to follow them where you live or where you may be traveling to celebrate the 4th of July holiday.

"We ask that those using fireworks be responsible when using them," Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal Assistant Chief Deputy Mark Johnston said. "Every year, we see fires sparked because of improper use or use of illegal fireworks. Our message is to Keep It Legal, Keep It Safe as people celebrate the holiday."

Consumer legal fireworks can only be purchased from permitted fireworks retailers and stands. State regulations also limit where those fireworks may be used. People who plan to visit public lands and parks are asked to leave all fireworks at home. The possession and use of fireworks is prohibited in national parks and forests, on Bureau of Land Management lands, on U.S. Fish and Wildlife properties, on state beaches, in state parks, and in state campgrounds. The use of fireworks is also prohibited on many private lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry.



DATA CONNECTION: FIREWORK RELATED FIRES

As the July 4th holiday approaches, the OSFM's Analytics and Intelligence Unit (A&I) analyzed fireworks incidents over the past 10 years to better understand this issue in Oregon.

They found that 2021 had the fewest incidents of the past 10 years— this could be in part due to fire bans enacted by local governments across the state.

While fires started by fireworks occur throughout fireworks season (June 23rd-July 6th), A&I found most fires are indeed started on July 4th and July 5th. Most fireworks incidents occur between 9 p.m. - 11 p.m. on July 4th and taper off from there—by 3 a.m. July 5th, incidents are close to the fireworks season baseline.



HELP SHARE THE MESSAGES OF FIREWORK SAFETY

To better share the messages of firework safety the OSFM has put together several elements for the Oregon fire service and partner agencies to use. A social media kit will be available in early June. The OSFM also has a downloadable half sheet infographic and coloring sheet for kids, of which are available in English and Spanish. The messaging is in line with the "Four B's of fireworks safety, Be Responsible, Be Prepared, Be Aware, & Be Safe."

- Be Prepared:** Before lighting fireworks: keep water available by using a garden hose or bucket.
- Be Safe:** Keep children and pets away from fireworks. Never use fireworks near or on dry grass or vegetation.
- Be Responsible:** Never relight a dud. Wait for 15 to 20 minutes, then soak it in a bucket of water before disposal.
- Be Aware:** Use only legal fireworks and use them only in legal places.

COOLER TEMPS DELAY FIRE SEASON, OREGON FIRE SERVICE & OSFM PREPARE FOR WILDFIRE

Taking a peak out the window during the month of May, Oregonians saw more clouds and rain drops than sun and 75 degrees. The cooler weather and rain has given firefighters a reprieve from back to back years of an early start to wildfire season.

Though the month of May was cool and wet, there is still concern as Oregon moves into the summer months of an active fire season due to persistent drought.

"We're seeing persistent drought signals primarily in Central Oregon but also in Southwest Oregon and creeping in and worsening in central Washington as well," John Saltenberger the Fire Weather Program Manager at the Northwest Coordination said at a press briefing. "Those are proportionally worse in 2022 than they were at this time in 2021."

The OSFM and fire agencies across the state used this cool and wet weather to be better prepared is and when conditions worsen.

Since April 23rd, training and mobilization staff at the OSFM have facilitated training for 189 structural fire service personnel.

In Douglas County 69 students representing 12 Douglas County agencies worked on: line construction, progressive hose lays, Incident Command, prescribed burning, fire holding, and engine company operations.

In Lincoln County where 21 students representing five agencies worked on: firing operations, hose operations, engine operations, line construction, structure triage and prep, drafting and rural water supply operations.





LANE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY PREPARES CREWS FOR WILDFIRE

The month of May was dedicated to annual wildland refresher training for Lane Fire and many other organizations in Lane County. The primary focus of this is to assure that crews are ready to meet the challenge of the upcoming fire season. Much of the county has significant wildland urban interface fire potential and Lane Fire plays a significant role in response along with Oregon Dept. of Forestry.

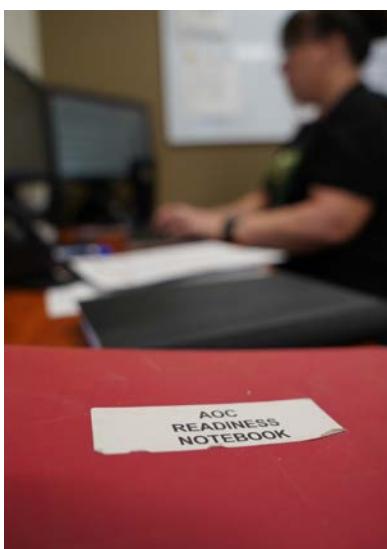
Certification as a wildland firefighter 1 is part of the recruit program for our organization, and this annual training enforces skills like deploying emergency fire shelters, deployment of progressive hose lays, using hand tools to build fire trails and weather conditions. This year also included training provided by ODF about safety issues related to the use of fire to control fire and identification of where wildfires may have originated from to aid in cause determination.

Over the course of the month, roughly 40-50 members completed this training, as well as three new recruits completing their basic wildland fire training. Around 20 members of the organization also successfully completed the Work Capacity Test (Pack test) to be eligible for deployment to mobilizations declared by OSFM.

Lane County saw first-hand the effects of a significant fire with the onset of The Holiday Farm fire in 2021 and other smaller fires in recent years. This has enforced the need for annual trainings such as this to assure that crews are proficient and able to safely make the best efforts possible to protect lives and property.



OSFM AGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER READY TO MOBILIZE RESOURCES



To get ready for wildfires this summer, the OSFM Agency Operations Center (AOC) ran a day-long drill on May 24th. OSFM staff activated resources, tracked them, and filled requests in a mock scenario with the Oregon fire service.

The folks who run the Agency Operations Center are OSFM employees who take on this work in addition to their regular duties.

Last summer between July 30th and September 15th, 36 OSFM staff members worked 293 individual shifts, supporting 57 Oregon taskforces.

When the AOC is activated, it is open until the last resource has returned home.

We would like to thank all of the OSFM employees who take on this added responsibility when they are called upon.

ASHLEY BUOL JOINS OSFM PROCUREMENT

Ashley Buol joins the OSFM as a Senior Procurement Specialist. Prior to joining the OSFM team Ashley worked at the Oregon Department of Justice where she worked as a Procurement and Contract Specialist.

Before joining DOJ, Ashley worked as a victim-witness paralegal in the Specials Assaults & Homicide Unit of the Anchorage, Alaska District Attorney's Office. While serving there, she was awarded the Model of Excellence accolade. Ashley holds a bachelor's degree in Justice and a master's degree in Public Administration, with an emphasis in Justice, from the University of Alaska Anchorage.



OSFM LAUNCHES NEW GRANT FOR WILDFIRE STAFFING

To better meet the challenge of increasingly difficult fire years, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal has rolled out a new grant program to add capacity at the local level.

As part of the OSFM's [Response Ready Oregon](#) Initiative, roughly \$4 million in grant funding is available to all 306 local fire districts and departments to bring on additional staff during the 2022 wildfire season. When [applying for this grant](#), local fire agencies can request up to \$35,000 to support staffing during this critical time of year.

This additional funding will increase on-duty capacity throughout the 2022 fire season at the local level and allow agencies to mobilize quickly to fires at the local, regional, and state (conflagration) level. Having more "on duty" firefighters will help keep fires small before they can impact communities.

"The Office of State Fire Marshal is taking a multipronged approach in combating wildfire in Oregon," Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple said. "We're investing in communities through risk reduction programs, along with firefighting equipment and people to keep Oregonians protected from wildfire. This grant opportunity will give the Oregon fire service much needed capacity during a critical time of year."

Current staff and volunteers are eligible for additional hours under the grant using the current agency staffing model and pay scale.

Application review will begin June 6, 2022. Applications may be considered through August 12, 2022, subject to availability of funds. Applications will be periodically reviewed during the application window. Funding awards will be distributed on a rolling basis as applications are reviewed and approved.

OSFM SET TO ROLL OUT SUITE OF GRANT PROGRAMS

The wildfire staffing grant is just one in a multifaceted approach to help fund wildfire mitigation and response capacity across the state. The OSFM has put together a grant program designed to help all Oregonians. The OSFM is focused on helping boost underserved and under resourced parts of the state through these opportunities.

Over the next year, assistance will be available to communities and local governments to complete wildfire defensible space projects. Training, equipment, and staffing are also being developed.

[READ MORE ABOUT FUTURE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES ON PAGE 8.](#)





OREGON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

WILDFIRE READINESS & RESPONSE GRANTS

DATES ARE TENTATIVE

FIRE ADAPTED OREGON

DEFENSIBLE SPACE INCENTIVE GRANT

NOW

- Incentive to create defensible space around schools and hospitals.
- The Defensible Space Incentive Grant is available to any Oregon public or private school, university, or hospital.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WINTER '22/'23

- Financial assistance to local governments for the administration of local preparedness efforts, administration, and enforcement of defensible space with the priority of certain vulnerable populations.
- Grants will be available to counties (emergency managers), cities, & local fire agencies.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

2023

- Planning is currently underway and will focus on incentive programs for members of the public.

RESPONSE READY OREGON

OREGON FIRE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM 2022 WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING AWARD

JUNE '22

- Awards fire service agencies the ability to boost staffing during the 2022 wildfire season.
- Increase on-duty capacity throughout the fire season at the local level for quick mobilizations at local, regional, and state (conflagration) scale.
- More firefighters will help keep fires small before impacting communities.

OREGON FIRE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM 2022 WILDFIRE TRAINING AWARD

FALL '22

- Funds transferred to the Department of Public Safety Standards & Training DPSST to address local training needs of the fire service.
- Funds could be used for training opportunities.

OREGON FIRE SERVICE STAFFING

WINTER '22

- Increase capacity across the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System by creating a grant similar to the Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE READINESS

WINTER '22

- Funding for projects to support fire service agency readiness.

OREGON FIRE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM ENGINE PROGRAM

ON GOING

- Build response capacity by strategically deploying Type III, Type VI, and water tenders to areas where capacity exists to mobilize regional mutual aid and conflagration resources.



OSFM PROGRAM FOCUSES

HOW THE OSFM CAN SUPPORT YOUR AGENCY

DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHALS

FIRE CODE ENFORCEMENT & INSPECTIONS
FIRE INVESTIGATIONS
CODE INTERPRETATION GUIDANCE
HEALTHCARE FACILITIES
FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS & WATER SUPPLY PLANS

REGIONAL MOBILIZATION COORDINATORS

MOBILIZATION SUPPORT & REQUESTS
MUTUAL AID ASSISTANCE & GUIDANCE
INCIDENT RESPONSE NEEDS
MOBILIZATION PLAN ASSISTANCE

FIRE RISK REDUCTION SPECIALISTS

WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS
COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION PLANNING & FUNDING ASSISTANCE
HOME IGNITION ZONE TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
EDUCATION & OUTREACH
COMMUNITY EVENTS

HOW THE OSFM FIELD STAFF CAN HELP YOU

Over the last nine months the Office of State Fire Marshal has been working diligently to bring on new staff to meet the growing threat of wildfire and serve the needs of Oregon. Since Senate Bill 762 (wildfire omnibus bill) was passed last summer, the OSFM has brought on more field staff, Fire Risk Reduction Specialists, Regional Mobilization Coordinators and more Deputy State Fire Marshals. Each of these three field staff have a critical role to play within the OSFM to help carry out our mission.

These staff are here to help the Oregon fire service and the communities they serve. Below are the different ways they can lend a hand.

Fire Risk Reduction Specialists: The FRR's are tasked with helping communities be prepared for wildfire through outreach, education, and community action. This team recently has been working on wildfire preparedness through webinars, community talks, and home ignition zone training.

Regional Mobilization Coordinators: The RMC's are tasked with helping being the conduit between the Oregon fire service and OSFM. They are support to help with mobilizations and planning assistance among other things.

Deputy State Fire Marshals: The DSFM's are tasked with fire code enforcement and inspections, fire investigations and can provide code guidance if needed. They are also the person to contact with questions about fire department access and water supply planning.

WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE GRANTS HELPING FIRE AGENCIES ACROSS THE STATE

As part of preparing for the increased threat of wildfire, the OSFM was granted funding from the legislature to help fire agencies impacted by the 2020 wildfires, or under-resourced agencies get the tools they need.

Nearly \$5 million was awarded to fire districts and departments across the state.

Sumner Fire & EMS in Coos County was able to purchase a skid pump. Within two weeks of getting the pump installed the agency responded to a trailer fire that had run into the trees. Firefighters were able to get it knocked down quickly thanks to this investment.

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Department of Emergency Services was able to fully outfit two engines and a rescue with new fire house, as well as replace attack lines on their ladder truck. In total, the agency says they were able to purchase 6,000 feet of structural hose, 2,000 feet of wildland hose, six nozzles and additional small appliances.

OSFM was thrilled to grant funding to 114 fire service agencies across Oregon, which included a large number of volunteer departments.



SHIRLY SMITH TO LEAD OSFM PROCUREMENT



Welcome Shirley Smith to the OSFM family. Shirley will lead the OSFM Procurement team and also be the OSFM's designated procurement officer.

Shirley has been with DAS Procurement Services for 10 years and was previously with Oregon Military Department for 11 years. She has spent the last 21 years providing excellent professional service as a Public Official on behalf of State agencies, cities, and counties within Oregon and nationally. Shirley holds many certifications and has achieved many awards throughout her career, and is proud of her accomplishments in state government.

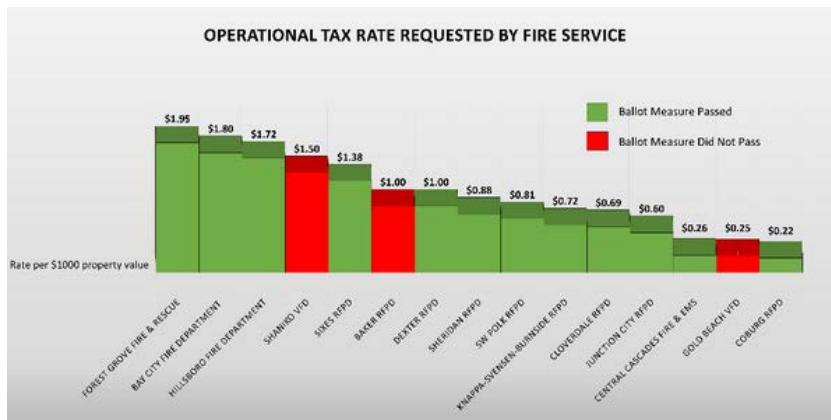
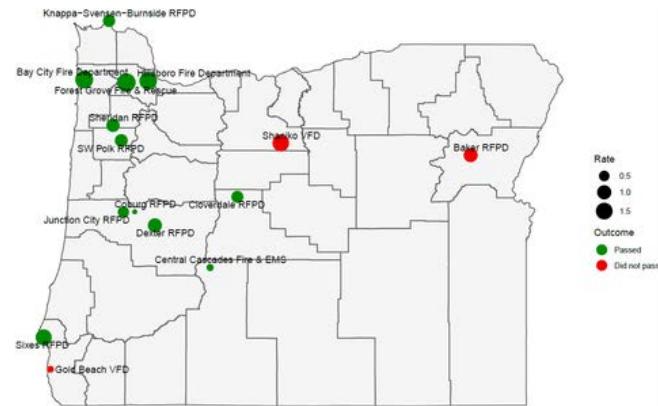
MAY PRIMARY: RESULTS IMPACTING THE OREGON FIRE SERVICE

Voters in 11 counties went to the polls on May 17th, 2022 and passed 12 ballot measures concerning operational tax levies for the Oregon fire service.

Funding measures failed to pass for Shaniko Volunteer Fire Department, Baker Rural Fire Protection District, and Gold Beach Volunteer Fire Department.

A bond measure requesting funds for a new fire and police station in the City of Gearhart failed to secure necessary support.

Klamath County voters chose not to continue with the proposed annexation of property into Bly Rural Fire Protection District.



The OSFM knows data is important as an agency begins conversations with their community. Our [Analytics and Intelligence Unit](#) can assist in acquiring fire service data.

The OSFM A&I Unit can be reached at **1-877-588-8787** or by email: OSFMData@OSP.Oregon.gov

PLEASE WELCOME GINO VILLANUEVA TO OSFM

Gino Villanueva joins the OSFM as a Human Resource Analyst. He previously worked at the Department of Revenue.

Gino is a lifetime Oregonian. He went to college at Portland State University, where he both worked and studied, and found HR as an opportunity to combine an analytical mind with a caring humanist heart. He has been working ever since to find ways to improve workplaces and employee-employer relationships with the unending goal to “make everyone’s workday just a little bit better” wherever possible.



OREGON HAZMAT TEAMS MEET & TRAIN AT BIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN CANYONVILLE

For the first time in several years the OSFM held the biennial 2022 Oregon Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference in person. This year it was held in Canyonville. The conference included several trainings and presentations including trainings on current HazMat Program FTIR/Raman, Multi-Gas Monitors, and Radiation Equipment, Get Back on Track HazMat by Rail, HazMat Technician Academy Train the Trainer, and many more.

The conference was a chance for Oregon hazmat teams and fire service partners to network, learn and check out some of the latest equipment.

The Office of State Fire Marshal along with its Oregon fire service partner agencies supports 13 regional hazmat response teams across the state. [LEARN MORE HERE](#)



SHELLEY GERLACH JOINS THE OSFM TEAM

Shelley Gerlach joins the OSFM as a Human Resource Analyst. Prior to joining the OSFM team, Shelley served as a 911 dispatcher for roughly 14 years at the Willamette Valley Communications Center in Salem. She joined state service in 2006.

She started her first human resource position with the Oregon Youth Authority as a rotation in 2010.

She is thrilled to join the State Fire Marshal team during this momentous time. It's not often that the State creates new agencies, so being a part of helping build OSFM is very exciting to her! It also brings her back to her roots and passion for serving in emergency services.



AWARDS HANDED OUT AT HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAMS CONFERENCE



Pictured Above: Eric Zurita, Ryan Campbell, Shon Christensen, Forrest Chambers, Steve Takis, Jamie Kometz, and Rachel Fellis. Not pictured: Reed Godfrey, Dan Crutchfield, and Brian Hollis

During the 2022 Oregon Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference four awards were handed out. Congratulations to the award winners!

So Others Will Succeed: Awarded to an individual who has worked thanklessly helping HazMat Teams succeed. **Forrest Chambers, HM02 Eugene**

Behind the Scenes: Awarded to an individual who works behind the scenes to contribute to the success of a team or the Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams Program. **Eric Zurita, HM08 Medford**

Office of State Fire Marshal Appreciation: Awarded to an individual for their contributions and dedication to the Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams Program.

Ryan Campbell, HM10 Hermiston

Office of State Fire Marshal Appreciation: Awarded to an individual for their contributions and dedication to the Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams Program.

Rachel Fellis, OSFM

Group Award: Awarded to two or more individuals, functioning as a committee, who have worked together towards a common goal. The committee award may be awarded for a specific performance of exceptional quality or for continued, professional performance and dedication to duty by the committee as a whole. **Forrest Chambers, HM02 Eugene, Shon Christensen, HM07 Portland, Dan Crutchfield, HM11 Astoria, Brian Hollis, HM13 Salem, Reed Godfrey, HM13 Salem, & Steve Takis, HM15 Coos Bay**

Jamie Kometz received an award from the Office of State Fire Marshal recognizing her for her invaluable service to the Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams (RHMERT) Program. The award was presented on behalf of the 13 regional teams for her dedication and support to the RHMERT Program for the last 18 years.

FACES OF FIRE: BRETT DEEDON

Being a part of the Oregon fire service is a family affair for Brett Deedon, who's a firefighter and paramedic with Eugene Springfield Fire. Deedon joined the fire service as a volunteer right out of college and learned the ropes. Eventually he landed a full time job with Eugene Springfield.



The career runs in the family; Deedon's dad, Greg, is a captain with Eugene Springfield Fire and his mom was a volunteer with Crow Valley Fire when Brett was growing up.

"I grew up in a car seat in the backseat of a fire engine," Deedon said. "I got to learn a lot about the service from that perspective."



The Deedons don't just serve their local community, both Brett and Greg are on OSFM Incident Management Teams, Greg as a Safety Officer and Brett as a Public Information Officer.

"It's a troubling time for the communities that we go and serve, but it is a time to be able to use the skills that I have attained to help those in their most vulnerable moments," Deedon said.

If balancing life at the fire station and helping communities around the state wasn't enough. Brett is also a technician on the regional hazmat team, where he says he puts his degree in microbiology and minor in chemistry from Oregon State University to work.

"When I got into the fire service I noted I was using some aspects of my education in the fire service, but the hazmat team was a great opportunity to use some of that additional study and knowledge I received from my college degree," Deedon said.

He says anyone looking to join the Oregon fire service should go for it, adding there is a job for everyone and one day you might inspire the next generation.

"We look at increasing the diversity in the fire department. I believe it is an important factor for both growth and progress in the fire service, as well as inspiring the next generation of kids of all backgrounds to see themselves in the best profession out there," Deedon said. "I would encourage people who haven't otherwise thought about the fire service to talk to their local department."



OSFM'S CHAD HAWKINS RECEIVES OFMA 'PRESIDENT'S AWARD'

Congratulations are in order for Asst. Chief Deputy Chad Hawkins. This week during the Oregon Fire Marshal's Conference (OFMA) he was awarded the President's Award. OFMA President Sean Olson said Hawkins was chosen because of his guidance and leadership in supporting OFMA board members.

Hawkins is on special assignment with the Office of State Fire Marshal overseeing the development of the Oregon Defensible Space Code outlined in Senate Bill 762. Prior to, and after this assignment Hawkins oversees the Fire and Life Safety Services division at the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal, which includes the Deputy State Fire Marshals.

Unfortunately, Chad couldn't make it to the conference this year, but OSFM staff were on hand to accept the award on his behalf. Congratulations Chad!



SHAUN PARKMAN TO LEAD OSFM GRANTS PROGRAM

Shaun Parkman joined OSFM on a job rotation as the agencies Grants Manager. Previously, Shaun worked on the Covid-19 emergency response in the Oregon Health Authority's Covid-19 Response and Recovery Unit since March 2020. In that role, he helped develop and improve a system for Oregon medical facilities to request emergency medical and non-medical staff across the state. In addition, he designed a training system for contact tracers early in the pandemic. He has also served as a strategic partnership and policy lead in OHA's unit that works to prevent chronic diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

Shaun enjoys dancing, reading, traveling, and hiking in the PNW.

OSFM CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Community Risk Reduction Manager

This position will manage the OSFM's Community Risk Reduction Unit. The unit consists of eight team members who collaborate with the Oregon fire service as well as other public and private entities to provide technical assistance, advice, and resources that work towards the protection of the lives and property of all the peoples of Oregon. [**FULL JOB POSTING**](#)

Operations & Policy Analyst 2

You will be responsible for identifying and developing long-range plans, goals, objectives and milestones related to the development, implementations, administration and maintenance of the Oregon Defensible Space Program to support a network of over 300 fire departments across Oregon. [**FULL JOB POSTING**](#)



Contact Us

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

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