



State of Oregon Advancing Wildfire Protection

Office of Governor Tina Kotek





State of Oregon
Wildfire Programs Director - Report 19
Advancing Wildfire Protection in Oregon

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Implementation Agencies

- Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS)
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)
- Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
- Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)
- Oregon Department of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Oregon Department of Emergency Management (ODEM)
- Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
- Oregon State University (OSU)
- Public Utility Commission (PUC)
- Wildfire Programs Advisory Council (WPAC)

Executive Summary

As required by law, this implementation status report is produced by the Wildfire Programs Director every two months for the Governor, the Presiding Officers of the Oregon Legislature, and the chairs of relevant legislative committees.

Wildfire Program Highlights

The most significant wildfire programs activity during this report period, occurred in California: The Los Angeles Fires of 2025.

On January 7th and 8th, OSFM and ODF received firefighting resource requests for the Palisades and Eaton fires. In total, Oregon mobilized 142 engines and water tenders, along with 437 firefighters which included resources from 96 local fire agencies around the state. Our resources were essential to support the containment of the fires, including region wide initial attack responsibilities on new fires, structure protection and fire perimeter control. Five days after ignition of the fires, an Oregon task force from Douglas County was on patrol and responded to cries for help from a residence impacted by the fires. An elderly couple who was unable to escape was sheltering in place and suffering from third-degree burns and lack of food and water. The taskforce provided initial medical aid and transported the couple to the hospital. During the chaos of catastrophic wildfire, there are countless examples of our first responders taking action to save lives and structures and protect our natural resources. At these moments I take pride in Oregon's wildfire programs that have advanced Oregon's state of readiness, and I find solace in the actions of Oregon's brave first responders who answer the call, every time the fire bell rings.

Ultimately, the Los Angeles wildfires have consumed over 16,000 structures and taken 29 civilian lives. All Oregon firefighters have returned home following their 16–18-day assignments.



Of significant importance here in Oregon, the wildfire hazard map remains the final significant milestone to complete the initial workload from the passage of SB 762 (2021). On January 7th the final wildfire hazard map was announced with 106,000 notification packets distributed to property owners identified as high hazard and within the wildland urban interface on the map.

To date, the wildfire hazard map call center has received 1,311 calls to address questions regarding the map. Over 40,000 visitors have viewed the wildfire hazard map at the Oregon Explorer: [Oregon Statewide Wildfire Hazard Map](#). ODF has received 276 intent-to-appeal forms, which initiates conversations between the interested party and ODF to better understand the appeals process. March 10th is the finale date to file an intent-to-appeal form to ODF. Following March 10th, the appeals process will transition to the Office of Administrative Hearings.

It is important at this time to recognize that there remains significant consternation regarding the wildfire hazard map by citizens and some counties with significant high hazard and wildland urban interface parcels identified on the map. Additionally, the Legislature has signaled through existing bills an interest in considering the wildfire hazard map during the 2025 Legislative Session.

Duties of the Wildfire Programs Director

- Oversee implementation of the Wildfire Programs.
- Coordinate activities across all wildfire implementation agencies.
- Ensure compliance with deadlines.
- Monitor and assess the equity of any financial impacts from implementation activities on local jurisdictions.
- Supervise council staff and develop director reports every two months.
- Explore current and future opportunities to reduce wildfire risk.



Roles of the Wildfire Programs Advisory Council

- Advise and assist the Wildfire Programs Director.
- Monitor Wildfire Programs implementation and evaluate agency reports.
- Advise on changes necessary to dramatically reduce wildfire risk and ensure regional defensible space, building codes and land use applications are appropriate.
- Strengthen intergovernmental and multiparty collaboration including government, stakeholders and the public.
- Assess how Oregon's wildfire risk map may inform building codes and land use laws, rules and decisions in a regionally appropriate manner.
- Assess the application of defensible space requirements to vineyards, crops and other cultivated vegetation.
- Review the findings and recommendations in the DLCDC's October 2022 report and make additional recommendations to land use planning, local comprehensive plans, and zoning codes to minimize wildfire risk.
- Report every October to the Governor and appropriate committees or interim committees of the Oregon Legislative Assembly.

Wildfire Programs Implementation Status

2025

○ Reporting requirement ○ Other implementation requirements.

Date	Responsible Party	Required Action	Implementation Status
Jan 1	OSU / ODF	Final wildfire hazard map announced on January 7, with notification letters distributed to high hazard parcels in the Wildland Urban Interface.	(In Progress) A 60-day appeals process for wildfire hazard mapping designations is now underway. Oregon Statewide Wildfire Hazard Map
Feb. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(Complete) OSFM report Jan 2025
Aug. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(On Track)
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor/relevant legislative committees	(On Track)

2026

Date	Responsible Party	Required Action	Implementation Status
Jan. 1	Counties	Required to ensure that all lands within the county that are outside of forest protection districts and susceptible to wildfire have baseline level or higher of wildfire protection	(Potential Adjustments) The legislature may consider proposals to adjust this section of the law given the modernization of fire protection since the passage of SB 762 (2021).
Feb. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(On Track)
Aug. 1 (approx.)	OSFM	Biannual report to wildfire legislative committees/Director/Council on defensible space	(On Track)
October	WPAC	Annual report to Governor/relevant legislative committees	(On Track)

Note: OSFM biannual defensible space reporting and WPAC reporting requirements do not sunset.

Thank you.

The Wildfire Programs Director's Report is made possible by the dogged leadership of Oregonians across the state, the Legislature, and the Governor's office, working together to address the rising risk of catastrophic wildfire in Oregon.



Governor Tina Kotek Wildfire Program

900 Court St NE, Suite 254

Salem, Oregon 97301