



SENATE BILL 762

BIANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 2024





MISSION

To protect people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.

VISION

A prepared, protected, and resilient Oregon.

VALUES

Integrity, Dedication, Leadership, Partnerships, and Service to Others

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Oregon Revised Statutes
 Chapters 336, 453, 470, 476, 478, 479, 480

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BY THE NUMBERS

Stats as of July 29, 2024



\$25 MILLION
Engine Program



\$6 MILLION
2024 Wildfire Season
Staffing Grant

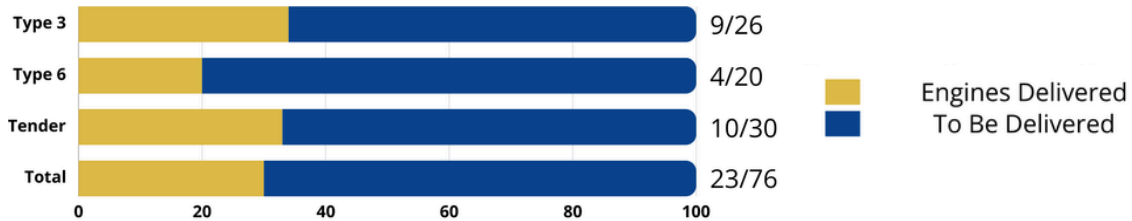


\$13.5 MILLION
Oregon Fire Service
Capacity Grant



\$3 MILLION
Community Wildfire
Risk Reduction Grant

OSFM ENGINE PROGRAM DELIVERIES



DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSESSMENTS

Total Assessments Completed: 2,021
Total Assessors: 406
Total Agencies: 71

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE & PRE-POSITIONING

2024 is the fourth year these tools are available to the OSFM and Oregon fire service
**as of July 29, 2024*

2024

Immediate Response: 11 mobilizations*
Pre-positioning: 2 mobilizations*

2023

Immediate Response: 16 mobilizations
Pre-positioning: 5 mobilizations

2022

Immediate Response: 12 mobilizations
Pre-positioning: 6 mobilizations

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION



231 incentive payments for home and property owners to create defensible space



\$1.1 million investment for wildfire prevention projects



SENATE BILL 762 REPORT OVERVIEW

Statute requires the Oregon State Fire Marshal to provide the Oregon legislature with biannual reports to document work relating to 2021's Senate Bill 762 (ORS 476.398). Senate Bill 762 codified wildfire prevention, community risk reduction, and proactive emergency response tools for the OSFM.

This report provides status and financial updates for:

- **FIRE ADAPTED OREGON**

- Community risk reduction and the establishment, administration, and enforcement of defensible space requirements.

- **RESPONSE READY OREGON**

- Mobilizations, pre-positioning, immediate response, and conflagration costs.

- **MOBILIZATION COSTS**

- Money expended during the year for fire suppression on wildland-urban interface lands.

- **STATE FIRE MARSHAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Including but not limited to legislative action, current or future resource and funding needs for community risk reduction, and establishing, administering, or enforcing defensible space requirements.



FIRE ADAPTED OREGON PROGRAM UPDATES

Fire Adapted Oregon establishes strong, community-driven initiatives to enhance wildfire resilience. Special emphasis is given to people ranking high on the social vulnerability index and areas of our state in the wildland-urban interface. These programs, working together, represent Oregon's primary way to safeguard people and property from wildfires, helping every Oregonian protect what they hold dear.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

The OSFM created a Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program with agency directors from wildfire partner agencies and organizations working together to protect Oregonians. All partners are creating programs and services to combat the wildfire crisis. The partnership agreement was finalized in May 2024 and is being signed by partners.



Members include the Oregon State Fire Marshal, Oregon Department of Forestry, Department of Consumer Business Services Building Codes Division and Division of Financial Regulation, Department of Land Conservation and Development, Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and Oregon State University.

This group is working to better serve Oregonians by:

- Reducing barriers for those who need wildfire services.
- Providing all-encompassing solutions to wildfire in Oregon.
- Increasing interagency communication to provide better experiences and service.



OREGON
Department of
Land Conservation
& Development



Oregon State
University

INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS & HOME SAFETY

In July, State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple and Chief Deputy Claire McGrew joined top fire and insurance executives to discuss improving wildfire resiliency. The meeting highlighted ongoing research about wildfire spread between structures. These collaborations help ensure our efforts are science-backed and follow the latest best practices. [Watch the demonstration video here.](#)

CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL VISIT

In June, OSFM leadership traveled to Sacramento to meet with the California Office of the State Fire Marshal's leadership. The states share common landscapes and fire problems, and this was valuable time to discuss neighborhood programs, home hardening, fire prevention best practices, community wildfire preparedness and mitigation programs, and defensible space. The group learned from each other's successes as they continue to tackle the growing wildfire crisis.

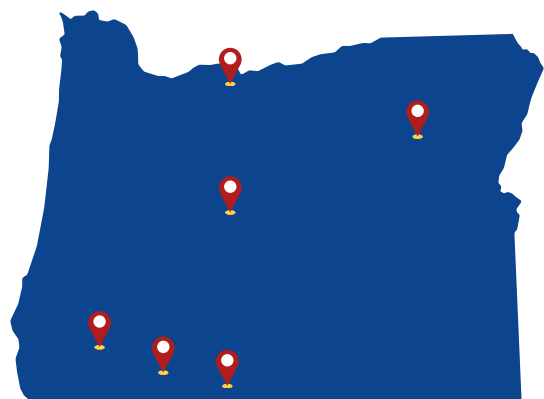


COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

- Partnered with Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc., the Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon State University to offer a free wildfire mitigation best practices course. National experts trained more than 70 people during the April course.
- Started a multi-agency pilot collaboration with local, state, and federal partners to conduct wildfire risk assessments of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) lands and facilities. The goal is to implement a wildfire risk assessment program for OPRD statewide.
- Partnered with the World Forestry Center to offer a weekend of free wildfire preparedness training during Wildfire Awareness Month in May.
- Educated more than 16,000 people at the Oregon State Fair in 2023 about home fire safety, defensible space, wildfire prevention, and fire-resistant plants. Staff are attending again in 2024.
- Providing \$1.1 million for wildfire prevention activities and programs, including:
 - Three full-day home ignition zone training classes
 - Developing a statewide landscaper training certified by the state landscaping board to promote safety in wildland-urban interface areas
 - Developing two large community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) classes
 - Updating CWPPs in priority areas around the state to enhance wildfire prevention
 - Creating a green waste recycling pilot project with public education materials

DEFENSIBLE SPACE EDUCATION

OSFM leadership attended six open houses to educate attendees about defensible space best practices. The Oregon Department of Forestry hosted the meetings to talk about their revised wildfire hazard map. Following the final map release, the OSFM will release a defensible space code. The code was developed after months of collaboration with partners and robust public feedback.



 MEETING LOCATIONS

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

Since the program launch in June 2023, OSFM staff and partners educated thousands of home and property owners. To allow for more assessments around the state, the OSFM is developing a train-the-trainer program for non-governmental groups, including homeowner’s associations, project wildfire groups, and other community organizations.

In March 2024, the OSFM started a one-time incentive program for people who live in a high-risk area and received an assessment. Eligible participants received a \$250 one-time payment to

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|
|  | 2,021 | Homes & properties assessed |
| | 406 | Trained assessors |
| | 71 | Partner agencies involved |
| | 231 | One-time incentive payments |
| | \$57,750 | Incentive payments total |

offset defensible space improvement costs. By empowering Oregonians to create and maintain defensible space, we will reduce the devastating impact of wildfires.

TRIBAL GRANT

The OSFM developed a \$50,000 grant for each of the nine federally recognized Oregon tribal nations. The funds helped continue wildfire mitigation work on tribal lands. This is the second investment for tribes across Oregon to increase wildfire protection, bringing the total investment for each tribal nation to half a million dollars.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION GRANT

The OSFM’s final grant from Senate Bill 762 funds will fund wildfire mitigation projects for structural fire protection agencies, counties, and cities. The \$3-million grant will focus on defensible space and community protection projects. Awards range from \$50,000-75,000 and are expected to be announced in October.

This grant builds upon the initial \$18 million CWRR grant last year that focused on larger community projects. This second grant will bring greater protection around structures. These grants help communities complete projects to enhance wildfire resilience.

PROACTIVE HOME HARDENING PROGRAM REPORT

The OSFM is working with the Department of Consumer and Business Services to develop a long-term, sustainable home hardening program report for the legislature as directed in House Bill 4016. The agencies will deliver the report in September.



RESPONSE READY OREGON PROGRAM UPDATES

The OSFM is successfully tackling the challenging 2024 fire season. This is the fourth year the agency mobilizes resources outside a conflagration through pre-positioning and immediate response.

- The **\$6-million 2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant** funds local structural fire agencies around the state for firefighters and staff throughout wildfire season. These firefighters allow fire agencies to respond to other calls, improving response times and saving lives. This is the final year the OSFM is funded for this grant.
- The **\$25-million Engine Program** is providing 76 local fire agencies a new type 3, type 6, or water tender to increase firefighting capacity. Delivery to local agencies began in January. As of July 29, 2024, 23 apparatus were delivered.
- The two tools below keep fires small and away from communities, minimize catastrophic structural fires and wildfires, and save Oregon millions of dollars. Initially funded by one-time Senate Bill 762 funds, they are now funded by one-time Senate Bill 5701 funds.
 - **Pre-positioning** places firefighting equipment and personnel in high-risk areas during brief periods of increased fire danger.
 - **Immediate response** sends equipment and personnel to wildfires outside of a conflagration. The OSFM mobilizes Oregon fire service structural task forces and, through collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry and federal agencies, firefighting aircraft like air tankers and helicopters.
- The **\$13.5 million Oregon Fire Service Capacity Grant** funded 33 small- and medium-sized local fire agencies for firefighters and prevention staff. Awarded in May 2023, this funding is increasing local on-duty capacity throughout the next three years.

Learn more about the OSFM grant programs [here](#).



RESPONSE READY OREGON MOBILIZATION COSTS*

Stats as of July 29, 2024

2024 CONFLAGRATIONS

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Battle Mt. Complex | Grant, Morrow, Umatilla |
| Durkee | Malheur |
| Boneyard | Morrow, Grant |
| Pilot Rock | Umatilla |
| Lone Rock | Gilliam, Morrow, Wheeler |
| Falls | Harney, Grant |
| Cow Valley | Malheur |
| Larch Creek | Wasco |
| Darlene 3 | Deschutes |

TOTAL: \$18.84 MILLION

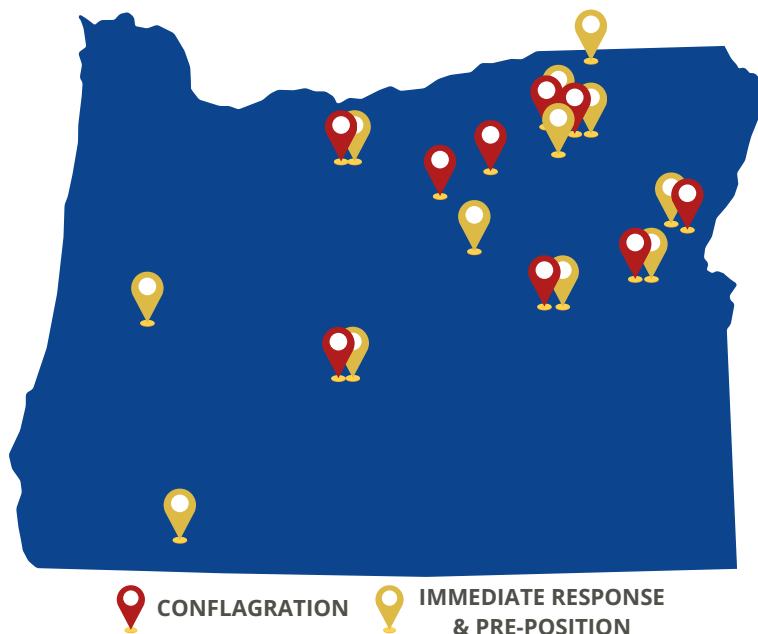
IMMEDIATE RESPONSE & PRE-POSITION

13 assignments

TOTAL: \$2.67 MILLION

AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY

The OSFM and ODF have an agreement to share costs to have aircraft in The Dalles available mid-June to July 1, two weeks of high fire danger in a vulnerable area.



*This report is mid-season, and the numbers may change as the season progresses. As fires burn together, they may be complexed.

COMBINED TOTAL COST: \$21.5 MILLION

2024 OSFM GRANTS SUCCESS STORIES

“

On June 21, the South Gilliam County Rural Fire Protection District traveled to Salem to pick up this beautiful new tender. This tender was made possible through an **Oregon State Fire Marshal Engine Program**. It will greatly enhance our fire protection capabilities for local incidents and mutual aid.

We were able to send two people to Salem for the day and staff the station to ensure coverage because we received the **OSFM's 2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant**. This is the third year being awarded this grant.

SOUTH GILLIAM RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



“

Thanks to the **OSFM's 2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant**, we started our seasonal staffing program on July 1. This enhances our response capabilities during peak wildfire season, ensuring our community is well-protected. Our fire station will be staffed daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This allows us to respond promptly and effectively, providing greater safety and security for the residents of Lookingglass.

We are grateful to the OSFM for their support through this grant, which made this important program possible. Lookingglass Rural Fire is committed to serving our community with the highest dedication and preparedness.

LOOKINGGLASS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

“

In late June, Lake Creek was able to stop a fire from becoming a catastrophe because we had a firefighter on patrol employed by the money from the **2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant**. He was on scene in less than two minutes to a fire that would normally have taken us 20 to 25 minutes to get to. He was able to stop the fire from jumping the driveway and going up the side of Heppsie Mountain on a 60 to 70° slope pushed by wind, causing a huge catastrophe.

LAKE CREEK RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT





July 1 was the first day of the OSFM's **2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant** for us. This is the third consecutive year we were awarded this grant. The grant funds two extra seasonal firefighters on top of our paid full-time staff from July 1 through October 31.

This grant will give the citizens in the Hubbard Fire District a guaranteed three firefighters from 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily. We extend our deepest gratitude to Oregon State Fire Marshal for providing us with this opportunity.

HUBBARD FIRE DISTRICT



Senate Bill 762 significantly increased staffing and capacity through the OSFM Engine Program and seasonal staffing. Marion County fire agencies can now provide a deeper level of support than ever before. Equipment is crucial, but having personnel is equally important. The OSFM's wildfire season upstaffing grants significantly boosted our capacity, enabling us to achieve what was previously unattainable with equipment and staffing to protect our own backyards and support OFMAS.

Marion County deployed nearly four task forces simultaneously (16 brush trucks, four water tenders, and four task force leaders), a notable increase from the past.

Marion County, collectively with 19 fire agencies, can now dig deeper in providing support to the OFMAS because of SB 762 funds.

I can personally attest to the effectiveness of the OFMAS task forces. On a recent deployment, our task force saved at least 13 homes by redirecting the wildfire around the threatened structures. The investments from SB 762 are saving millions in protecting property and even saving lives. On the same deployment, we found a ranch that was out of water. The owners asked if we could spare some to water 300 head of cattle that fled the wildfire. The cattle were drinking the water as fast as we could provide it.

CHIEF JIM TRIERWEILER, MT. ANGEL FIRE DISTRICT CHIEF & MARION COUNTY FIRE DEFENSE BOARD CHIEF



Of the 81 structural fire agencies that responded to the Darlene 3 Fire, 25 sent resources while sustaining staffing at their home agencies because they were supported by the **OSFM's 2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant**.

The Yamhill County task force protected a construction business on Finley Butte. Five of the seven agencies that make up the Yamhill County task force received upstaffing grant funds in 2024: Amity, Gaston, Lafayette, and Dundee fire departments and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Emergency Services.

Darlene 3 Fire was the OSFM's first mobilization of 2024. To protect the community of La Pine, 410 personnel mobilized to the wildfire that sparked on Bureau of Land Management land near the Deschutes National Forest.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL RECOMMENDATIONS



Wildfire is a growing crisis in Oregon that wreaks havoc on our communities and landscapes. The causes are complex and diverse and require robust solutions from many partners.

The OSFM needs sustained funding to continue the successful programs in the built environment from the one-time investments from Senate Bill 762. **Our priority is to secure funding to continue the \$6 million wildfire season staffing grant for 2025, and the 2025 fire season and beyond.**

This is the last year the highly successful wildfire season staffing grant has funding. In 2022 and 2023, the grant increased capacity by 3,476 firefighters in 220 communities.

Senate Bill 762 funds built successful response and wildfire prevention and mitigation programs that helped local communities create risk reduction solutions. They allowed the OSFM to build a robust grants program to boost staffing at local fire agencies around the state. The one-time funds also created the OSFM Engine Program that provided engines and water tenders to 76 agencies around the state.

While the Senate Bill 762 funds helped us build successful programs, the wildfire problem remains. We must continue to prioritize and strategize resources to best address the crisis.

Prevention efforts must continue to help prevent wildfires and conflagrations, saving our state millions of dollars and saving lives.

Sustainable and durable funding will ensure these programs continue and the OSFM can successfully meet its mission of protecting life and property in the face of increasing and devastating wildfire.



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

503-934-3473

oregon.gov/osfm

oregon.sfm@osfm.oregon.gov

