



SENATE BILL 762

BIANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2025





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



\$25 MILLION
Engine Program



\$3 MILLION
Community Wildfire
Risk Reduction Grant



\$6 MILLION
2024 Wildfire Season
Staffing Grant



17
Conflagrations

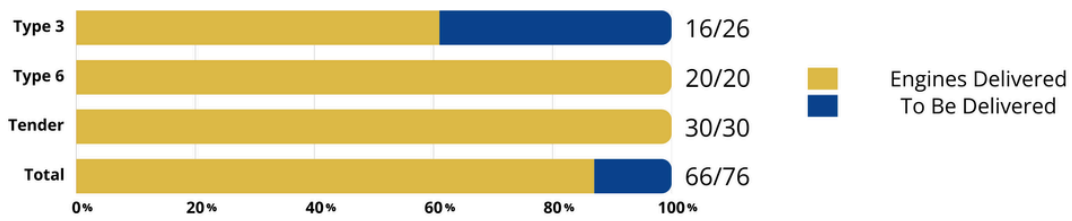


192
Fire agencies funded
2024 Wildfire Season
Staffing Grant



1,596
Firefighters funded
2024 Wildfire Season
Staffing Grant

ENGINE PROGRAM DELIVERIES



DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSESSMENTS

Total Assessments: 2,974
Total Assessors: 430
Total Agencies: 97

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE & PRE-POSITIONING

*2024 is the fourth year these
tools were available*

2024

27 mobilizations

2023

21 mobilizations

2022

18 mobilizations

2021

16 mobilizations

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION



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



\$1.1 million investment
for wildfire prevention
projects



48 organizations pre-
applied for funding



56 training hours for
90 people for fire-
adapted communities

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. People ranking high on the social vulnerability index and living in the wildland-urban interface are prioritized in many programs. These programs work cohesively to protect people and property in Oregon.



COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION

The OSFM established a Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program with directors from partner agencies and organizations to work together to protect Oregonians. All partners are creating programs and services to combat Oregon’s wildfire crisis. The partnership agreement was finalized and signed by partners in December 2024.

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.



COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION UNIT HIGHLIGHTS

- Collaborated with local partners, using OSFM and other funding, to support community risk reduction and wildfire mitigation projects, including messaging, education, wildfire risk assessments, fuel reduction, defensible space, and community protection.
- Educated 6,600+ people at the 2024 Oregon State Fair about home fire safety, defensible space, wildfire prevention, and fire-resistant plants.
- Supported wildfire prevention activities and programs, including:
 - Facilitating the Oregon Community Wildfire Adaptation Training, a collaboration between the OSFM, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon State University. Classes will be offered in spring and summer 2025 to provide modular training that promotes fire-adapted communities throughout Oregon's diverse communities.
 - Assisting with creating a landscaper defensible space curriculum, a collaboration between the OSFM and Oregon Department of Forestry.
 - Funding community wildfire protection plan updates for four communities and training partners how to create their own plan.
 - Coos County - \$189,000 agreement
 - SW Polk Fire District - \$40,102 agreement
 - Tillamook County - \$150,000 agreement
 - Wheeler County - \$30,000 agreement
 - Creating green debris disposal days in Lake County for June 2025. This includes purchasing a trailer for people without a way to haul debris and helping create a marketing plan and timeline. This project is in collaboration with Lake County and Lakeview Fire.
 - Partnering with Clackamas Fire with investments to boost their community recycling sites in spring 2025.
 - Partnering with the City of Cascade Locks to fund a contractor for debris removal in spring 2025.
 - Partnering with the Oregon Department of Forestry for an interagency wildfire summit, fostering collaboration on wildfire resilience to educate, promote shared ownership, and inspire leadership and action toward creating fire-adapted communities. This project is in planning stages for fall 2025.
- Hosted a community wildfire protection plan training in November through the Ember Alliance for the structural and wildland fire service and other partners to build fire-adapted communities resulting in 56 hours of training for 90 people.
- Organized community wildfire mitigation best practices training sessions in collaboration with Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc., held in Pendleton and Salem in April and again in Salem in October.
- Held two partner meetings for the Post-Fire Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), helping 48 organizations submit funding pre-applications. This was in partnership with the Oregon Department of Emergency Management and Deschutes County Emergency Management.
- Supported 105 grant recipients from the \$18-million Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant and 40 grant recipients from the latest \$3-million grant.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION GRANT

The OSFM's final Senate Bill 762-funded grant supports wildfire mitigation projects for structural fire protection agencies, counties, and cities across Oregon. The \$3 million commitment supports projects focused on defensible space and community protection based on the OSFM's established criteria that prioritized applications by wildfire risk, social vulnerability, and review committee feedback. Grant awards range from \$50,000 to \$75,000 across 40 recipients.

This grant builds on the \$18 million CWRR grant awarded last year that funded larger community projects. The current grant will enhance protection around individual homes and buildings. This grant concludes the Senate Bill 762 investments, and no additional funding has been identified to continue these grant programs.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

The defensible space program is continuing to make strides in making Oregon more wildfire resilient. Since its launch in June 2023, OSFM staff and partners educated thousands of home and property owners.

In December, the OSFM added several communities to its one-time incentive program for people who live in a high-risk area. After receiving an assessment, eligible participants receive a \$250 one-time payment to offset defensible space improvement costs. By empowering Oregonians to create and maintain defensible space, we will reduce the devastating impact of wildfires.



2,974

Homes & properties assessed

430

Trained assessors

97

Partner agencies involved

424

One-time incentive payments

\$106,000

Incentive payments total

To allow for more assessments around the state, the OSFM developed a train-the-trainer program for non-governmental groups, including homeowners' associations, project wildfire groups, and other community organizations. The first training was delivered to CWRR grant recipients and fire service members in fall 2024.

PROACTIVE HOME HARDENING PROGRAM REPORT

The OSFM worked 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 delivered the report in September to the Oregon legislature.

RESPONSE READY OREGON PROGRAM UPDATES

The OSFM is successfully tackled the record-setting 2024 wildfire season with more than 1.9 million acres burned. This was the fourth year the agency mobilized resources outside a conflagration through pre-positioning and immediate response. These tools keep wildfires small and away from communities through rapid response, saving 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 partnership with the Oregon Department of Forestry and federal agencies, firefighting aircraft like air tankers and helicopters.

The **\$6-million 2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant** funded 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. The grant period concluded in October, and the project is now in the data reporting phase. Preliminary analysis indicates that the grant played a critical role in Oregon's ability to manage this year's unprecedented wildfire season.

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 2024. To date, 63 apparatus have been delivered.

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

The OSFM developed the Oregon Fire Service Health & Safety Collaborative to support firefighters and local fire agencies by prioritizing health and safety, improving firefighter well-being, and strengthening emergency response capacity—an investment in community safety and stability. There are four main focus areas: cancer risk reduction, physical health and fitness, behavioral health, and incident safety.

The collaborative regularly updates their [website](#) with new training and other opportunities for the fire service.



RESPONSE READY OREGON 2024 MOBILIZATION COSTS

CONFLAGRATIONS

- Service, Wheeler
- Shoe Fly, Wheeler
- Rail Ridge, Grant, Wheeler
- Copperfield, Klamath
- Dixon, Douglas
- Town Gulch, Baker
- Elk Lane, Jefferson
- Telephone, Harney
- 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: \$29.82 MILLION

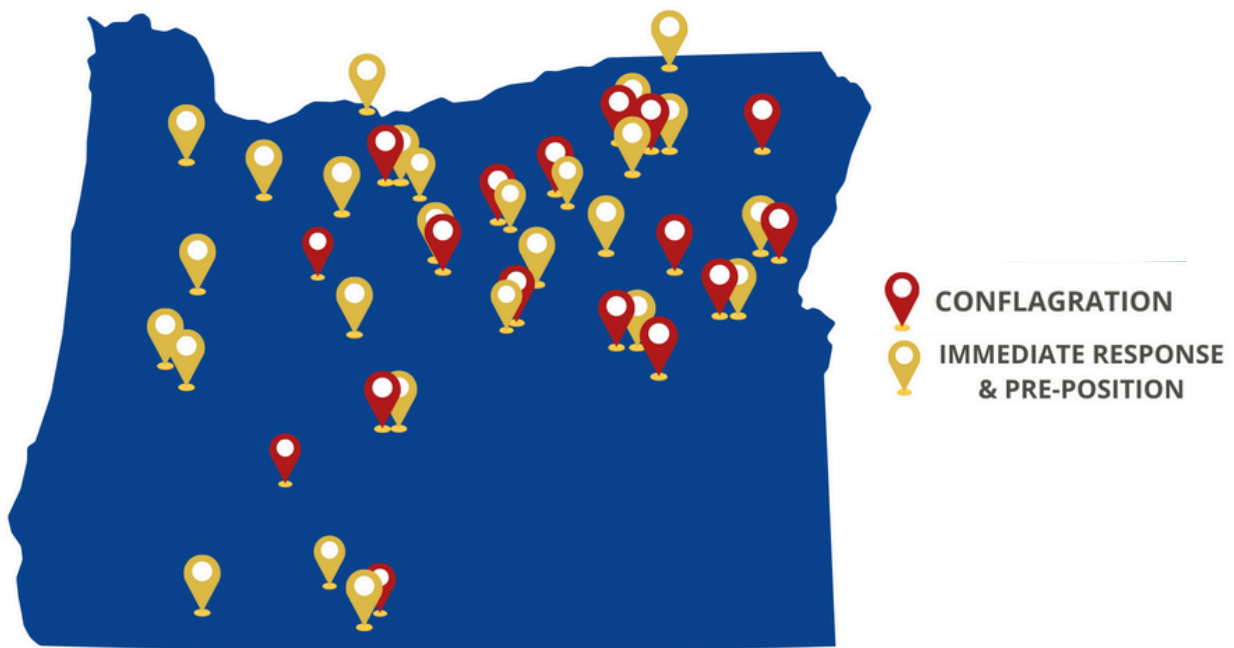
IMMEDIATE RESPONSE & PRE-POSITION

27 assignments

TOTAL: \$4.77 MILLION

AIRCRAFT AVAILABILITY

In 2024, the OSFM and ODF have an agreement to share costs to have aircraft in The Dalles from mid-June to July 1, two weeks of high fire danger in a vulnerable area.



COMBINED TOTAL COST: \$34.5 MILLION

2024 OSFM GRANTS **SUCCESS STORIES**

In 2023, the City of Rufus, a small Columbia River Gorge community, showcased the impact of **strategic wildfire risk reduction grants** by using a \$35,000 Oregon State Fire Marshal grant. The funds supported a micro-grant program, offering up to \$2,000 per applicant for fuel reduction and defensible space within the urban growth boundary. Activities included volunteer-led cleanup days and purchasing a dump trailer for debris collection. The first round drew 17 applications, with applicants connected to pre-approved contractors as needed. With just one full-time and one part-time staffer, neighboring Gilliam County's Fire Resilience Coordinator provided crucial support, hosting an educational luncheon and open office hours. Partly funded by a 2022 OSFM grant, the coordinator's role highlights how capacity-building grants benefit rural and underserved communities.



The South Willamette Forest Collaborative (SWFC), a community-based nonprofit in Oakridge, received \$200,000 in 2023 from the **Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant** to provide free home assessments and fuels reduction treatments. Their efforts focused on high-risk, low-income, physically disabled, elderly, and non-English-speaking residents. Wood removed from treated properties was chipped for landowners or donated as firewood to those in need. SWFC's strong community trust and holistic outreach made the program a success. Using a tiered risk evaluation system, they prioritized cost-effective risk reduction, surpassing their home assessment goal. To further fire adaptation, SWFC established

Oregon's first Fire Safe Council and secured nearly \$1.2 million from the USFS Community Wildfire Defense Grant to expand their work.

On July 22, as 30-mile-per-hour winds drove a wall of flames toward homes near Monument, Oregon, firefighters, local ranchers, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and contract crews joined forces in a high-stakes battle. Thanks to the proactive efforts of the community to become a certified Firewise Community, creating defensible space and hardening their homes, firefighters were able to defend these properties successfully.

While flames came within feet of several homes, only a barn wall suffered minor damage. This story shows how vital the firefighters from the **2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant** were. Read the full story [here](#).



"Our crews responded to a brush fire spreading in the I-5 median just north of Creswell, OR in the late afternoon. Temperatures and winds had the potential to spread this fire across I-5. South Lane Fire units responded with tender 202 attained through the **OSFM Engine Program**. This was the first deployment of the tactical tender on a live fire in the district. The pump and roll capability enhanced firefighter safety and helped us rapidly control this fire. The tactical tender was used instead of our type 3 engine, deployed to a conflagration at the time."

-South Lane County Fire & Rescue

The investments in the Engine Program and wildfire season staffing grants had a significant return on investment during this historic 2024 wildfire season that burned more than 1.9 million acres.

The Oregon fire service responded day and night to protect communities and mobilize more task forces than ever before. Without those two grants, it wouldn't have been possible, leaving Oregonians, homes, and communities at risk. Agencies responded to wildfires all while maintaining normal service calls.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

RECOMMENDATIONS



Wildfire is a crisis that affects everyone in Oregon, wreaking havoc on our communities and landscapes. To effectively continue to rise to these challenges, the OSFM requires immediate and sustained solutions in collaboration with many partners.

The agency needs continuous funding to sustain the successful community risk reduction programs in the built environment and emergency response from the one-time Senate Bill 762 investments. While this one-time funding was successful, sustained funding is key.

One priority is to secure funding for the wildfire season staffing grant early in legislative session to ensure the agency can implement the funding for 2025 wildfire season response.

The OSFM is working with the [Oregon wildfire funding workgroup](#) to find solutions for durable and sustainable large fire funding and wildfire prevention and mitigation funding that's paramount to protect Oregonians from the new wildfire reality. House Bill 5701 (2024) directed the Department of the State Fire Marshal and the Oregon Department of Forestry to create the workgroup. The key to solvency for the OSFM is a solution that addresses gross wildfire costs.

Along with overall fire funding, the agency needs to increase capacity and provide specific wildfire safety equipment, including personal protective equipment and communications. This ties into the work of the wildfire funding group.

Prevention, preparedness, mitigation, and suppression are a coordinated system that works together to prevent fires before they start, prepare communities, and respond to fires when they occur.

If you want to read more about the issues facing the fire service, read the [Convening of the Fire Service Report](#).



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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