



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

JULY 2024



OSFM MOBILIZES FOR DARLENE 3 FIRE

Fire season kicked into high gear in late June as the state saw the first declared conflagration of the 2024 wildfire season. The Darlene 3 Fire sparked near La Pine in Deschutes County and quickly grew prompting level 3 (go now) evacuations.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal responded quickly by sending several task forces and the Red Incident Management team.

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OSFM'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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CONFLAGRATION **DECLARED** FOR DARLENE 3 FIRE IN CENTRAL OREGON

On June 25, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek invoked the Emergency Conflagration Act for the Darlene 3 Fire burning near La Pine in Deschutes County. The fire sparked around 1 p.m. one mile south of La Pine on the east side of Darlene Way.

Pushed by gusty winds, hot temperatures, and low relative humidity, the fire ripped across 1,700 acres in just hours. The Deschutes County Sheriff's Office issued levels 3 and 2 evacuations for homes near the fire. The Oregon State Fire Marshal Red Incident Management Team was activated along with two structural task forces from Linn and Marion counties. The OSFM mobilized four additional task forces from Clackamas, Clatsop, Lane, and Yamhill counties who arrived the following morning.

"This fire quickly grew within a few hours; we knew we had to act fast. The Emergency Conflagration Act allows us to send the full power of the Oregon fire service to protect life and property," Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple said. "As we enter the hot and dry summer months, I ask Oregonians to do everything they can to prevent wildfires."

By Saturday, the fire was 50 percent contained and had burned 3,889 acres.

Because of the reduced threat to the community, our structural task forces and the Red Incident Management Team demobilized and headed back to their home agencies. The Central Oregon team will remain in command of the fire.

We can't thank the Oregon fire service enough for the work they've done over the last few days!



LET'S TALK FIREWORKS

As July 4 approaches, the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) urges everyone to check local fireworks regulations and practice safety. The 2024 fireworks retail season runs from June 23 to July 6. It's crucial to know which fireworks are legal and where they can be used. Only consumer-legal fireworks bought from permitted retailers are allowed, and they are prohibited in national parks, forests, Bureau of Land Management lands, U.S. Fish and Wildlife properties, state beaches, parks, and many private lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

Fire officials recommend the four Bs for safe fireworks use:

- Be Prepared: Have water available (garden hose or bucket).
- Be Safe: Keep children and pets away; avoid dry grass or vegetation.
- Be Responsible: Don't relight duds; soak them in water after 15-20 minutes.
- Be Aware: Use only legal fireworks in permitted areas.

Legal fireworks in Oregon include novelty devices, wheels, flitter sparklers, fountains, smoke devices, and ground spinners. Be mindful of your neighbors when using fireworks. Report illegal pyrotechnics to local law enforcement via non-emergency numbers. For disposal of unwanted fireworks, contact local law enforcement or the Oregon State Police at 1-800-452-7888.

The OSFM offers a social media kit in English and Spanish to help share important safety messages. The agency also offers other resources. [Learn more here.](#)



PLEASE WELCOME XEA SPRAGUE TO THE OSFM TEAM

Xea Sprague joins the OSFM as the special ops assistant. Xea will support our hazmat and incident management teams. Xea's past five years as a firefighter/medic with Scio Fire District will serve her well in this position.

In her free time, Xea loves to be outdoors, especially at the beach! When not outside, Xea enjoys thrifting with her younger sisters and watching horror movies.



TWO TASK FORCES MOBILIZED TO UPPER APPLGATE FIRE

The Oregon State Fire Marshal mobilized two structural task forces to the Upper Applegate Fire in Jackson County on June 21. The task forces were from Lane and Polk counties and were mobilized through Immediate Response, a tool the state fire marshal uses to send firefighting resources outside of a conflagration.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office had evacuation notices in place for homes near the fire. The Oregon Department of Forestry says the fire was mapped at 830 acres.

"Our priority is to proactively protect our communities from the threat of wildfires. We're sending resources to boost capacity and support the Applegate Valley Fire District until the fire is contained," said Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple. "We urge everyone to help our firefighters by taking preventive measures to follow all burning restrictions and avoid sparking a wildfire this summer."

The two task forces were demobilized on June 24.



SIGN UP FOR SOFSA TODAY

Since 2018, OSFM and the Oregon Department of Forestry have partnered to make the State of Oregon Fire Situation Analyst (SOFSA) available to the wildland and structural fire service. SOFSA provides a statewide common operating picture of incidents and response. Accessible by a web browser on any device, SOFSA displays real-time fire intelligence from several federal fire reporting systems, weather, jurisdiction, and other reference information.

To request access to SOFSA, please use [this link](#). For a walkthrough of SOFSA, [watch this video](#).



FIRST OSFM WATER TENDERS DELIVERED

The Oregon State Fire Marshal is proud to announce the first deliveries of new water tenders to the Oregon fire service as part of the agency's Engine Program. These initial deliveries mark a significant milestone in the state's ongoing efforts to enhance firefighting capabilities and protect communities from the growing wildfire crisis.

The first four water tenders were delivered to the Amity Fire District, Winston-Dillard Fire District, Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District, and South Gilliam County Rural Fire Protection District. These tenders are the first of 30 that will be distributed across the state, boosting the resources available to local structural fire agencies.

The state fire marshal purchased 76 apparatus as part of the OSFM Engine Program, including 26 Type 3 engines, 20 Type 6 engines, and 30 water tenders. To date, eight type 3 engines have been delivered, with more expected to arrive throughout the summer. Deliveries of water tenders and type 6 engines will continue through the coming weeks.

"We are thrilled to see the first of these new water tenders delivered to our fire districts," Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple said. "This program represents a significant investment in the safety of our communities and the effectiveness of our firefighting efforts."

The OSFM Engine Program is funded through 2021's Senate Bill 762. The goal is to modernize equipment within the Oregon structural fire service, ensuring local fire agencies have the necessary tools to effectively combat wildfires and protect lives and property.

[Learn more about the OSFM Engine Program here.](#)

FIREFIGHTERS TRAIN AT MAWS NEAR MOLALLA IN JUNE

More than 160 firefighters from 28 fire agencies around the Willamette Valley and Portland metro area participated in the 13th annual Metro Advanced Wildland School (MAWS) on Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1. This training was designed to train structural firefighters on wildland firefighting techniques.

These firefighters not only learned wildland firefighting techniques but were able to use this training to complete some certification requirements needed for them to be able to respond throughout Oregon and neighboring states. Training included hand tools, radio communications with a helicopter doing water drops, triaging homes, and extinguishing controlled live fire.

MAWS is hosted by the Northwest Association of Fire Trainers and Molalla Fire District with support from the Oregon State Fire Marshal, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Department of Public Safety and Standards.



LOCAL FIRE AGENCIES REBUILDING AFTER 2020 FIRES

In a remarkable display of resilience and community spirit, two local fire agencies are making significant strides in rebuilding after the devastating 2020 Labor Day fires. The Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Protection District and the Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District are both progressing with new fire station projects that promise to enhance their capabilities and serve their communities for years to come.

The Idanha-Detroit Rural Fire Protection District recently held a groundbreaking ceremony on Blowout Road in Idanha. This event marked the beginning of construction on a long-awaited new fire station. The site has been cleared, and surveyor's stakes are now in place, indicating the imminent start of building. This project, more than a decade in the making, has garnered widespread community support, and the district is excited to share updates as the construction progresses.

The Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District has relocated its Blue River Station, lost in the 2020 fires, to a new site adjacent to the Orchid Health McKenzie River Clinic. This move not only allows for a more comprehensive facility but also provides room for future expansion. The community celebrated the grand opening of this new station on June 2, marking a significant milestone in the district's recovery efforts. The district is grateful for the continued support and is dedicated to serving as a beacon of hope for the community.

These projects highlight the unwavering determination of both fire districts to rebuild and enhance their services, ensuring better protection and support for their communities in the future.



GET COMFORTABLE WITH **DEFENSIBLE SPACE.**



FIVE SUMMER PROJECTS TO CREATE **DEFENSIBLE SPACE:**

- 1** **Remove** leaves, pine needles, and other debris from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck.
- 2** **Trim** tall plants and bushes growing directly under your eaves.
- 3** **Trim** trees and bushes to make sure they have adequate space from your home and other vegetation.
- 4** **Remove** dead and combustible plants and mulch, especially within the first several feet from the home. Replace with decorative rock or gravel.
- 5** **Cover** exterior attic vents, soffit vents, and areas below decks and patios with 1/8" metal wire mesh.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
GET A **FREE ASSESSMENT.**



July 1, 2024, marks a significant milestone for Oregon's public safety and fire prevention community: the one-year anniversary of the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) officially becoming a state agency. This transition on July 1, 2023, strengthened the state's ability to coordinate fire safety efforts, enhance emergency response, and support local fire departments across Oregon.

The move to establish the OSFM as an independent state agency came in response to the growing complexities and challenges of protecting people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.

Over the past year, the OSFM has made significant strides:

- **Opening our general headquarters and new Bend office:** This involved considerable effort from OSFM staff. Thank you to everyone who played a role in making this a reality.
- **Legislative committees:** The Rural Structural Fire Protection Review task force (House Bill 2522), Urban Search and Rescue Subcommittee (House Bill 2484), and the Oregon Wildfire Funding Group (House Bill 5701 budget note 5) are making significant strides.
- **Community engagement and education:** The OSFM launched new initiatives to educate the public about fire prevention and safety.
- **Support for local fire departments:** The agency has worked closely with local fire departments providing grants, training, and resources to enhance their capabilities. This support has been vital in helping local teams respond to emergencies and protect their communities.

As we celebrate this first anniversary, we reflect on the significant progress made by the Oregon State Fire Marshal and look forward to continued advancements in fire safety and prevention.

Here's to many more years of proactive fire prevention, swift emergency response, and community resilience. Happy anniversary to the Oregon State Fire Marshal!



OSFM MARKS **ONE YEAR** ANNIVERSARY AS STATE AGENCY

OSFM HOSTS **CONVENING** OF THE FIRE SERVICE

To better address the most pressing issues within the Oregon fire service, the Oregon State Fire Marshal hosted a convening of the fire service meeting at the OSFM headquarters on June 20 and 21.

Representatives from agencies across the state attended the two-day meeting where they discussed important issues like funding, emergency medical services response, and more.

To capture the important discussions, the OSFM is creating a report that will be sent to the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council later this month. It will be released in the coming months.



Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Oregon Fire District Directors Association
Oregon Fire Marshals Association
Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association
Grand Ronde Emergency Services
Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
Special Districts Association of Oregon

APPLY FOR **HAZMAT** GRANTS

As the number of hazmat incidents occurring annually continues to increase, more volunteer fire departments are finding it difficult to afford the training and equipment needed to prepare for and respond to these incidents. To help departments access these much-needed resources, CHEMTREC® has partnered with the National Volunteer Fire Council for the sixth year to offer the CHEMTREC HELP (Hazmat Emergencies Local Preparedness) Award.

The HELP Award provides grants to assist volunteer departments in securing the resources needed to enhance their hazardous materials response capabilities and improve responder safety. In 2024, six volunteer departments will be selected to receive \$10,000 each.

The application period is open until September 1, 2024. To be eligible, departments must be more than 50% volunteer, serve a population of 25,000 or less, have an annual revenue not exceeding \$250,000, and be located in the U.S. The person applying or the department chief must be a member of the [NVFC](#). ***Learn more here.***



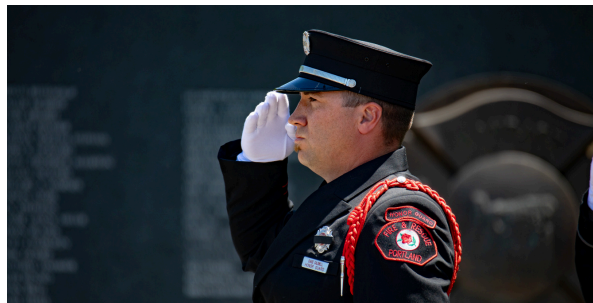
HONORING THE FALLEN

On June 21, Oregon paused to honor the sacrifices of three firefighters lost in the line of duty in 2023.

Firefighters, law enforcement, and others from across the state paid tribute at the Oregon Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial Ceremony at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem.

Mo Stadelli of the Salem Fire Department, and Brandon Norbury and Brian Flowers of Gresham Fire were remembered. Their names were added to the memorial wall. There are now 179 names on the memorial wall. May these brave men and women never be forgotten.

Thank you to DPSST and the Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard for hosting this year's ceremony.



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SERVICES DIVISION UPDATE

Prevention is the cornerstone of our agency. Our largest division, fire and life safety, works hard to prevent fires and other incidents. After a fire, our deputy state fire marshals investigate the cause of fires to help prevent future fires.

Here is a snapshot of the work this division accomplished in May. From healthcare facilities to your home's defensible space, our team is here to keep Oregon safe.



- 22** TECHNICAL SERVICE REQUESTS
- 25** PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS
- 7** ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANK PLAN REVIEWS

TRAINING & EDUCATION



- 42** NEW WORKDAY LEARNERS
- 30** DEPUTIES ATTENDED WILDLAND INVESTIGATION COURSE

HEALTHCARE



- 17** CMS HEALTHCARE SURVEYS
- 6** HEALTHCARE FACILITY PLAN REVIEWS

INVESTIGATIONS & INSPECTIONS



- 33** FIRE INVESTIGATIONS
- 287** FIRE/LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS
- 73** FACILITY LICENSE INSPECTIONS

DEFENSIBLE SPACE



- 71** ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED
- 748** ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED TOTAL

PRESENTATIONS



- OREGON FIRE CODE UPDATE CLASS
- LONGTERM CARE OMBUDSMAN
- HOTEL & MOTEL FIRE SAFETY

BY THE NUMBERS

GOLDEN SPARKY AWARDED

We are excited to share that Portland Fire & Rescue's Kim Kosmas was awarded the 2024 Golden Sparky Award. Kim was recognized for her incredible work helping people living in wildfire hazard zones prevent and prepare for wildfires.

She's also been instrumental with Multnomah County Emergency Management's severe weather sheltering to provide safe emergency sheltering during extreme weather events.

State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple presented the award at Portland Fire & Rescue this morning.

The Golden Sparky recognizes a fire service member for exceptional dedication to fire prevention and public safety education.



DAVID CALL TAKING ON NEW ROLE AT OSFM



OSFM Regional Mobilization Coordinator David Call was selected as the eastern regional deputy state fire marshal entry-level position.

In 2021, he was hired as the Central Oregon regional mobilization coordinator. He decided to challenge himself and began working towards becoming a deputy state fire marshal by taking inspector and fire investigation courses.

He looks forward to learning and working in his new position and knows he has a full plate of training.

He will still carry some mobilization coordinator responsibilities until a new person is hired.



OVFA CONFERENCE AND TRAINING HELD IN BROOKS

On June 20-23, volunteer firefighters from around the state attended the 2024 Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference at the Brooks Training Center in Brooks, Oregon.

Firefighters were trained on live fire, rope rescue, swift water rescue, pump operator, active shooter, forcible entry, dementia, electrical safety, vehicle rescue technician, and fire officer 1 and 2.

The [Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association](#) represents emergency medical technicians (EMT) and firefighters across Oregon and is comprised of both volunteer and combination (paid firefighters working with volunteer responders) fire agencies.





CODES CORNER

OXY-ACETYLENE WELDING

When performing annual fire inspections, the inspection elements can be broken down into four areas:

- Maintaining the Fire Protection System
- Suitable Egress
- Special Hazards
- Evacuation Planning

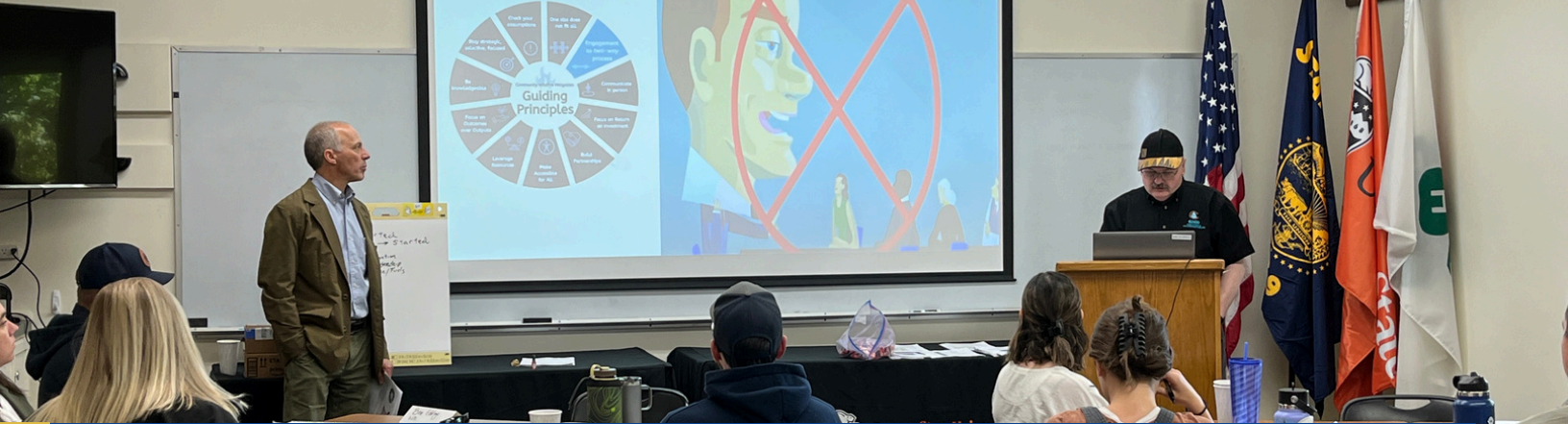
Within many manufacturing and industrial occupancies, welding and other hot work operations are frequent ignition sources. The materials used for gas cutting and welding are generally materials like acetylene and oxygen. Acetylene is a flammable gas and oxygen is an oxidizer. Together, these gases produce an intense high-temperature flame. Acetylene is preferred because it burns at high temperatures, but other flammable gases, like methylacetylene-propadiene and propylene (MAPP), are sometimes used.

Within the 2022 Oregon Fire Code (OFC), Section 3505, gas welding and cutting operations are outlined. The storage, handling, and use of compressed gases is specifically regulated by Chapter 53, which addresses issues such as security, valve protection, separation from hazardous materials and container and cylinder marking.

It's common to use "welding carts" to secure cylinders of oxygen and fuel-gas used in cutting and welding operations. The carts safely secure cylinders, hold flexible hose, torches, and, in some cases, safety equipment such as goggles, eye shields, and welding rods.

In buildings housing more than one cart containing oxygen and fuel gas used for cutting and welding, OFC Section 3505.2.1.1 entitled Individual Cart Separation, requires that individual carts be separated from one another following OFC Section 5003.9.8. For cutting and welding carts, this requires a minimum 20-foot separation between each cart or the construction of noncombustible line-of-sight barriers that extend a minimum of 18 inches above and to the sides of each cart.

The quantity controls imposed by the code maximum allowable quantity (MAQ) per control area would trigger the use of a Group H occupancy when the MAQ of 1,000 cubic feet of flammable gas was exceeded, hence, (three or four carts, depending on the fuel gas) would be enough to possibly make a facility a Group H occupancy. However, using MAQ as a quantity control is not the intent of OFC Section 3505.2.1.



OSFM HOSTS CWRR TRAINING

The Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and Coalitions and Collaboratives, Inc. (COCO) hosted a Community Wildfire Mitigation Best Practices course to prepare fire service members and partners for wildfire risk reduction. Held just before Wildfire Awareness Month, this free training was part of the Fire Adapted Oregon initiative. The goal is to develop collaborative approaches to enhance wildfire resilience.

The OSFM's Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Unit, along with the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University Fire Extension, provided the course. COCO brought national experts to train more than 70 practitioners statewide, significantly boosting local wildfire resilience.

Chief Larry Magill of Wamic Rural Fire Protection District praised the training, emphasizing the value of shared ideas and strategies to lower the risk of catastrophic fires. The training is part of the OSFM's broader wildfire strategy, which includes funding 128 projects, the statewide defensible space program, and investing in local prevention and firefighting capacities.

Chris Sutton, manager of the OSFM Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Unit, highlighted the ongoing need for local capacity-building and proactive approaches. The course, focusing on national best practices, was offered in Pendleton and Salem in late April.

If you're interested in future training, email OSFM.CWRR@osfm.oregon.gov with the subject line "training interest."



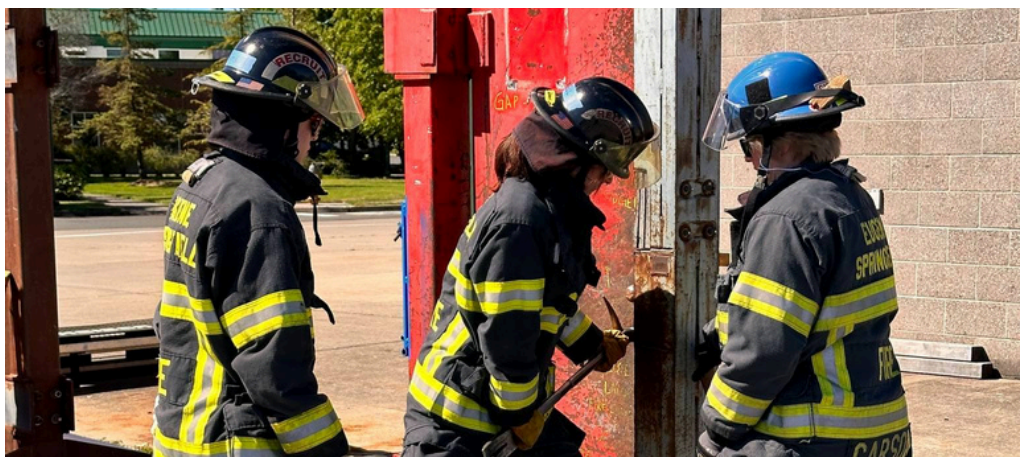


FROM THE INTERNET

Hayden Jones from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training brought in a prop for the Burns Fire Department and Hines Fire Department to train on putting out live car fires. This is valuable training to have. See [more pictures here](#).

WOMEN'S FIRE CAMP

Eugene Fire hosted its Young Women's Fire Camp. From EMS advanced skills like intubation and airway management, to cutting apart cars, running up and down the drill tower, breaching doors, active violent incident drill, backboarding patients, hitting the Keizer sleds with every ounce of strength that could be mustered, trying not to melt in the warm sunshine while wearing turnouts, dragging hose, and so much more, these young women really showed what they were made. They jumped into every task, building each other up and cheering each other on. [Check out the post here](#).



JOIN THE OSFM **SMOKE ALARM** INSTALLATION PROGRAM



Is your agency interested in joining the OSFM's Smoke Alarm Installation Program? The program provides smoke alarms to Oregon fire agencies to install in homes that do not have them.

There are several opportunities to learn more about the program during free webinars. Participants will learn about program eligibility and requirements, smoke alarms and installation information, project planning and ideas, and safety materials available to order. The one-hour live webinar training is required for fire agencies to participate in the program.

Click the dates below to register.

[July 25, 2024](#)

[August 22, 2024](#)

[September 26, 2024](#)



CONTACT US

Have a story idea or something you would like to know more about?

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