



The

Winter 2020

# COMMUNIQUE

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The  
**COMMUNIQUE**  
A Publication of the  
Oregon Fire District  
Directors Association

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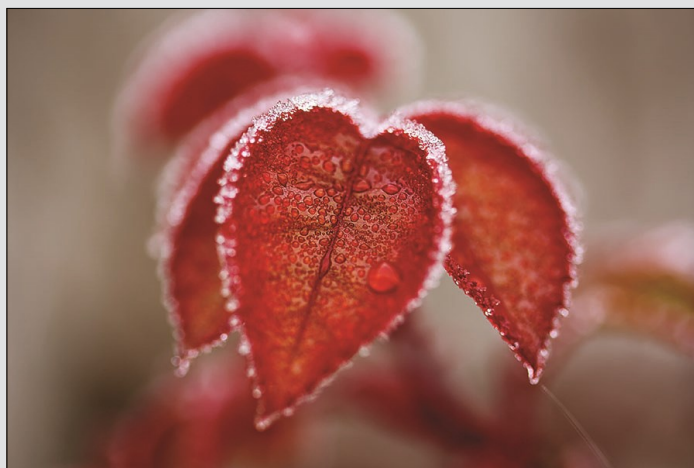
To serve and strengthen through the provision and coordination of timely information, education, and legislation.

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I am honored and privileged to serve as this year's president of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association. I take this responsibility seriously. Together, we will continue to build on the solid foundation built by our past presidents and boards. Special recognition to Past President John Dunn for his efforts to develop and implement the Fire District Director's Academy training program in conjunction with SDAO.

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

**by Curtis Hoopes  
OFDDA President**



This past year presented many challenges for fire districts and their governing boards: wildfires, COVID-19, shutdowns, and canceled conferences and in-person meetings. Yet we continue to meet and overcome these challenges, making possible the continued first responder services to the citizens in the districts we serve. Hopefully, 2021 will see a COVID-19 vaccine available and life returning to normal. We look forward to many things, including in-person training sessions, board meetings, staff interactions, and conferences.

Through our staff, OFDDA provides a strong voice in Salem for district directors. Next year a full session of the Oregon Legislature is scheduled. Hopefully, the Capitol will be open by then. Be assured that OFDDA will be involved fully in monitoring the legislative activity, providing input from and information to our members. As our mission states: "To serve and strengthen through the provision and coordination of timely information, education, and legislation." The knowledge and teamwork required for our local boards to function requires ongoing education and training. Along with our current Board and staff and in continued partnership with SDIS/SDAO, OFDDA offers additional board training opportunities.

With the holidays approaching, I wish you all a very merry Christmas celebrated with loved ones and a joyful, prosperous, and healthy new year. I look forward to serving you in the coming year, hopefully interacting and meeting with you in person in Ashland at our annual training conference. Continue to be safe out there, and please support our family of first responders as they serve our communities.





## 2020 OFDDA President's Award

This award recognizes individuals who exhibit outstanding contributions to the Fire Service in Oregon. This year, the award goes to Jason Jantzi, Senior Risk Management Consultant for the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO).

Jason is the key risk management contact for fire district members. He conducts risk management assessments and assists members with safety and liability training programs. Jason travels the state, providing regional training sessions that are highly rated, especially at our OFDDA Fire Service conferences. Jason's advice and expertise in risk management make a difference throughout the state, helping many departments manage their individual concerns. His enthusiasm, knowledge, and sense of humor help many provide better service to their districts and the Fire Service in Oregon.



*OFDDA President John  
Dunn presents  
President's Award to  
Jason Jantzi.*



## NEW SDAO BOARD EDUCATION PROGRAMS



## Join Us 2021 SDAO Annual Conference

by Jennifer Quisenberry  
Director of Membership Services  
S | D | A | O

On February 3-4, we are taking the 2021 SDAO Annual Conference virtual! Join us for exceptional conference programming that includes trainings tailored to special district representatives, networking opportunities, and vendor interaction. There will also be several opportunities for you to earn credits toward your SDAO/OFDDA Fire District Directors Academy certificate!

We are pleased to be offering this event at no cost to SDAO members. This year's **free virtual conference** will include:

- 20 Breakout Sessions
- Caucus Meetings & SDAO Board Member Nominations
- Virtual Exhibitor Trade Show
- Annual Business Meeting & SDAO Board Member Elections
- Awards Ceremony

Don't miss this opportunity to attend the training and networking event of the year for special districts. Visit our website for conference details and registration information:

[www.sdao.com/annual-conference](http://www.sdao.com/annual-conference).

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Follow us on our social media pages!

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[twitter.com/SDAO\\_Oregon](https://twitter.com/SDAO_Oregon)

[instagram.com/SpecialDistricts](https://instagram.com/SpecialDistricts)

# The Legal Beagle

## Understanding OR-OSHA COVID-19 Temporary Rules (Cover Your Face—But Keep Your Eyes and Ears Open)

by Carolyn H. Connelly  
Local Government Law Group PC

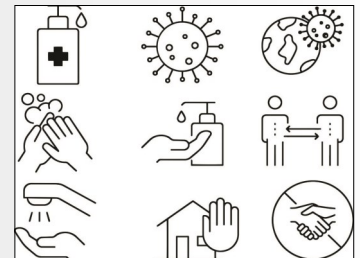


On Friday, November 6, 2020, Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA) adopted its final version of Temporary COVID-19 Rules (OAR 437-001-0744). These rules went into effect on November 16 and will remain in effect until May 4, 2021, unless revised or repealed.

Workplaces that provide emergency first responder services are deemed at “exceptional risk,” therefore more and different requirements apply than in other workplaces. The rules and appendices are lengthy, thus beyond the scope of this article. Instead, the following describes changes Board members may be seeing around their fire stations and highlights compliance deadlines. Your chief can best explain the various ways these rules affect your District’s stations and practices.

The following requirements apply within all workplaces:

- 1) Distance of six feet, whether indoors or outdoors. Emergency medical service first responders, firefighters, and non-emergency medical transports are subject to more specific guidance that overrides this general rule in the event of conflict. See OAR 437-001-0744, Appendix A-17. For example, spacing requirements need not be followed on District apparatus.
- 2) Wear face coverings or personal protective equipment (PPE). This measure applies on all calls and in station break rooms, shared toilet facilities, or other common areas, but the measure may be relaxed in living areas (if any) among residents. Emergency response vehicle drivers may also adjust or remove a mask that impedes vision or distracts from safe vehicle operation.
- 3) Clean and sanitize spaces occupied for less than 12 hours a day every 24 hours. Spaces occupied for more than 12 hours a day require cleaning every 8 hours. Districts must also: (A) develop procedures for routine cleaning and disinfection, as appropriate for healthcare settings; and (B) adhere to CDC guidelines for disinfection and sterilization in healthcare facilities.



Continued on page 6.

- 4) Permanently post OR-OSHA's "COVID-19 Hazards Poster" in a conspicuous location.
- 5) Conduct a COVID-19 Risk Assessment **no later than December 7, 2020**. Districts must record summary responses to thirteen COVID-19 exposure risk assessment questions, in writing.
- 6) Ventilate facilities with outside air circulated through existing heating ventilation and air conditioning systems **no later than January 6, 2021**. Staff must regularly clean and maintain station air filters.
- 7) Establish and implement an Infection Control Plan **by December 7, 2020**. Plan controls include, but are not limited to, ventilation, staggered shifts, redesigned workplaces for physical distancing, reduced shared services and tools, limits on the number of employees (or other individuals) in workplaces, and provision of PPE. Station Plans must identify a knowledgeable person to administer the Plan and be reevaluated frequently to reflect needed changes, based on employee feedback and control assessments.
- 8) Inform and train employees on identified topics **no later than December 21, 2020**. Trainings should invite feedback and must cover physical distancing, face coverings/PPE, sanitation, signs and symptoms of COVID-19, the District's infection notification process, medical removal procedures, basic risk factors, and modes of transmitting COVID-19. Training materials should be posted soon on OR-OSHA's website.
- 9) Notify affected employees (within 24 hours) that had work-related contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19.
- 10) Cooperate with mandated COVID-19 testing.
- 11) Remove workers due to COVID-19 if recommended as a result of contact tracing identification.

As Board members, acknowledge what your chiefs, staff, and volunteers are facing. Support their determination of which requirements apply to your District's operations and how stations will comply within the above timelines. Encourage staff to seek assistance when questions arise. Be prepared as a Board to provide requested resources, and coordinate with your legal team as necessary.



## Oregon Fire Service Museum Construction Continues!



Construction continues on the 6800-square-foot Oregon Fire Service Museum, Memorial & Learning Center building, at Powerland Heritage Park near Salem. Volunteers completed the installation of drywall, and taping is in progress. The next tasks include interior painting and concrete floor polishing. Donated paint has been committed and the painting will be done by volunteers. Volunteers with loaned equipment also completed trenching and installation of the water service and power conduit to the building.

Initial construction of the memorial courtyard area will begin soon with the installation of concrete foundations to support two cast iron columns salvaged from the Oregon State Capitol building that burned in 1935. This project is partially funded by a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation. Additional grant applications for the courtyard project are in process. The engraved bricks that have been purchased will be installed in this courtyard. There is still time to purchase bricks! Order forms are available at [oregonfiremuseum.org](http://oregonfiremuseum.org).

Fundraising continues for interior doors, cabinets, woodwork, light fixtures, shelving, exhibit construction, and the entry walk, among other items, so donations are still needed and much appreciated. We are so grateful to have raised nearly \$500,000 in cash donations, apparatus donations, grants, and in-kind donations for the museum building project. A huge thanks to all of our donors. Every donation helps!

We are still soliciting donated surplus apparatus and equipment for resale, which continues to be a major funding source for the construction.

Membership dues fund the ongoing expenses of the museum, such as insurance, utilities, and office expenses. If your district or department is not currently a museum member, please consider joining and helping to preserve Oregon's fire service heritage. Visit our website at [oregonfiremuseum.org](http://oregonfiremuseum.org) for information.



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## *OFDDA Board of Directors Vacancy* Soliciting Applications for Director - Position #3

Are you interested in serving  
Oregon Fire Service members?

We are looking to fill the vacancy of  
Director - Position #3.

Find the application at:  
[ofdda.com/documents-resources/forms/](http://ofdda.com/documents-resources/forms/)

### *Our Mission:*

*To serve and strengthen  
through the provision and  
coordination of timely  
information, education,  
and legislation.*