

The

Summer 2021

COMMUNIQUÉ



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...plus more!

The
COMMUNIQUE
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MISSION

To serve and strengthen through the provision and coordination of timely information, education, and legislation. Published on a quarterly basis, *The Communique* is the official newsletter of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association.

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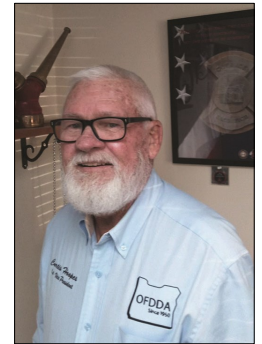
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Curtis Hoopes
OFDDA President

Summer is here! It appears the state is beginning to reopen, allowing a return to normal activity. COVID-19 restrictions are being lifted, county by county, allowing folks to socialize and conduct their lives without fear of contracting the virus. Each Fire District represented by OFDDA will face different challenges as warm weather brings people out to travel, camp, hike, boat, and enjoy the outdoors. Also, the warm weather and summer recreation creates the constant risk of wildfires. I commend the first responders who provide crucial public services to those in their districts.



OFDDA Board members and staff share valuable information with and facilitate ongoing training for members. For example, in partnership with SDIS/SDAO, OFDDA offers additional Board training opportunities during the year, and OFDDA's annual Fire Service Conference is scheduled for November in Ashland as the Board and Conference Committee moves forward in scheduling speakers and sessions that will allow attendees the opportunity to gain knowledge as well as network with colleagues and meet vendors. Mark your calendar. I hope to see you all in Ashland.

OFDDA also serves its members through legislative advocacy. With the legislature in full session, we continue to be a strong voice in Salem, representing member interests. We are excited that House Bill 2927, which would make the Office of the State Fire Marshall an independent, stand-alone agency, appears on track to passing. OFDDA, along with OFVA and others, have supported passage of this bill.

OFDDA's mission remains "to serve and strengthen by providing timely information, education, and legislation." As OFDDA President, my highest priority remains to provide the best service to our members.

2021 Oregon Fire Service Conference Presentations and Speakers

OFDDA is proud to offer a hybrid conference this year! Join in person or virtually.

Keynote speaker: Kris Paronto

Other courses include: *PERS Primer—An Overview of the PERS System* (by Kevin Olineck, PERS Dir.), *Hiring and Evaluating Chiefs*, and *Disaster Preparedness*.

Meet us November 4-6, 2021, in Ashland, OR. Reserve your room at the Ashland Hills Hotel & Suites!

By phone:

Call the hotel at 541-482-8310 or toll free 855-482-8310. When booking, be sure to indicate the group name (Oregon Fire District Directors Association, Group ID# 298704).

Online:

Visit our booking site at <https://www.reseze.net/servlet/WebresResDesk?hotelid=1512>

Enter the date of your stay and number of nights

Enter your **GROUP ID NUMBER: 298704** in the Group ID field

Legislative Update

By Genoa Ingram, OFDDA Executive Director

The 81st Legislative Assembly is poised to adjourn within the next two weeks with the target *sine die* (final adjournment) of June 17 and the Constitutional *sine die* set for June 27. With most policy committees closed, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means is busy finishing up the work of the 2021 Session. Here are a few items of interest:

COVID Update

Governor Brown held a press conference on June 4 during which she announced that Oregon could be fully open as early as June 23–June 30. The state has reached 66 percent of its 70 percent vaccination goal with only 127,000 more vaccinations to go. The Governor explained that "fully open" would mean no further occupancy caps or social distancing requirements. Certain businesses may wish to continue precautions while non-vaccinated individuals and those with immune deficiencies are strongly encouraged to do so.

Wildfire Response and Mitigation

What has been called one of the most significant pieces of legislation of the 81st Legislative Assembly quickly became one of the most controversial. SB 762 was voted out of subcommittee and referred to the full Ways and Means committee on June 21, but, as of this writing, its future remains uncertain. SB 762 modernizes Oregon's outdated and underfunded approach to wildfire risk assessment, planning, and prevention, and adopts best practices and programs that have been proven successful across the West. This proactive approach will enhance wildfire readiness and response, protect the public from health impacts of wildfire smoke, save money through prevention, and support community and landscape resilience. This includes:

- Investments in community-driven restoration of forests and rangelands to reduce wildfire risk, protect lives and property, and increase landscape resiliency;
- Providing resources to protect vulnerable communities from wildfire smoke;
- Adding firefighter capacity and air defense resources to provide improved wildfire response and ensure firefighter safety;
- Ensuring safe and reliable electric utility systems before and during wildfire events;
- Establishing defensible space standards, and providing financial resources to protect communities and critical infrastructure;
- Creating the Oregon Wildfire Workforce Corps Program to reduce wildfire risk to communities and provide workforce training to the next generation of land managers.

Supporters, including the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, the Oregon Fire District Directors Association, and a number of others have signed on to a Fact Sheet explaining the benefits of the bill. There is also a website for SB 762: www.wildfireactionnow.com/.



Firefighters battle 2020 Oregon wildfires. Photos provided by Clackamas Fire District.

The bill currently awaits final committee action in the Joint Ways and Means Committee as part of the 81st Session "end game."

Stand-Alone Office of State Fire Marshal

HB 2927 received a vote on June 10 before the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety and was unanimously referred to the full Ways and Means Committee with a "do pass" recommendation. The A-15 amendments, which were adopted, will rename the Office of State Fire Marshal Oregon the "Department of State Fire Marshal" and make it a stand-alone independent agency effective July 1, 2023.

It will also establish a Task Force on Implementation that will consist of members of the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council. That Task Force will make recommendations to Legislative Assembly by February 1, 2022, confirming whether the Office of State Fire Marshal should be made an independent state agency or, if not, which state agency should house its office. Once the bill clears the full Ways and Means committee, Sen. Bill Hansel (R-Athena) will carry the bill on the Floor of the Senate while Rep. Paul Evans (D-Monmouth) and Rep. Dacia Graber (D-Tigard) will co-carry the bill on the Floor of the House.

Public Utility Commission Holds Rulemaking Workshops on Wildfire Mitigation

The Public Utility Commission (PUC) is holding workshops open to all who wish to contribute to the PUC's rulemaking on wildfire mitigation. The first workshop was held Monday, June 14, for the purpose of addressing *only* the rules around how utilities assess their wildfire risk. This is only a small part of the overall rulemaking. The PUC also distributed a workgroup launch announcement which details all the workgroups that are being organized and who to contact to participate.

Tax Relief for Fire Victims

HB 2341 authorizes tax collectors in counties covered by a state of emergency declared by Governor due to fire or act of God, or authority of Governor under Emergency Conflagration Act, to prorate taxes imposed on the property. The bill passed on the House Floor yesterday by a near-unanimous vote with only Sen. Dallas Heard voting "no."

Fire Evacuation Routes

SB 863, introduced by Sen. Sara Gelser (D-Corvallis) on April 21, authorizes rural fire protection districts to acquire real property or easement for the purpose of establishing a fire evacuation route, to construct or maintain fire evacuation route, or to participate in an agreement related to fire evacuation route.

Since April, additional information has come to light. The bill stems from a situation in Corvallis where a neighborhood approached the fire district and requested that the district commit \$150,000 to develop an evacuation route. Statutes do not currently allow such expenditures by districts. The neighborhood contacted Sen. Gelser and asked her to draft a bill that would change the law to allow fire districts to fund evacuation routes. However, there is concern that fire districts may be pressured by constituents or otherwise required to expend funds for evacuation routes. Further, as originally written, the bill allowed property to be acquired through eminent domain.

An amendment adopted by the Senate Rules Committee on May 18 removed the eminent domain reference in purchase or other agreement. The bill cleared the Senate Floor on May 25 and awaits action by the House.

May Revenue Forecast

The Department of Administrative Services Office of Economic Analysis released its forecast in May, revealing some very positive news. Economic growth in 2021 is surging as the pandemic wanes.

The outlook for near-term economic growth is the strongest in decades, if not generations. Oregon's labor market is expected to return to full health during the upcoming 2021-23 biennium. With the strong near-term outlook for consumer spending, job growth is front-loaded such that the largest employment gains will occur this summer and fall. Total employment in Oregon will surpass pre-pandemic levels in late 2022 with the unemployment rate returning to nearly 4 percent in 2023.

While a jobs hole remains in the labor market, the same cannot be said for household incomes. Currently, incomes in Oregon are 20 percent higher than before COVID-19 hit, thanks in larger part due to the temporary federal measures put in place. Excluding the direct federal aid, incomes are back to pre-pandemic levels and expected to grow 6-7% this year and next.

However, with such a strong consensus near-term outlook, the risks do primarily lie to the downside. The risk is that supply cannot keep pace with demand. The path forward may be bumpier than expected, even if the trajectory is up. Already supply constraints have emerged in semiconductors, lumber, and rental cars, to name a few. More bottlenecks are likely on the horizon.



Furthermore, running through all of these issues is labor. Attracting and retaining workers is already much more challenging than expected given the economy went through a severe recession last year. While the temporary pandemic-related constraints will ease in the months ahead, the labor market is expected to remain tight for the foreseeable future in large part due to demographics and the large number of Baby Boomers retiring. With the prospect of strong growth and near-term supply constraints, the possibility of an overheating economy has quickly replaced fears of a long-lasting, demand-driven recession like the past few cycles have been.

Personal and corporate tax collections are booming despite the job losses and business woes brought on by the COVID pandemic. Tax collections based on consumer spending are also posting large gains. With the near-term economic outlook appearing very strong, healthy growth in tax collections is expected to continue into the 2021-23 budget period.

The anticipated personal income tax kicker is approximately \$1.4 billion, and the corporate tax kicker is expected to hit \$664 million. Looking forward into the 2021-23 biennium, the increasingly rosy economic outlook suggests robust tax collections will persist.

The outlook for General Fund tax collections has been revised up by around 5 percent over the next few years. This translates into significantly more resources for policymakers. With a healthy underlying economy, economic forecasters are calling for continued growth in stock prices, profits, and the like. Although valuations are unsustainably high right now, forecasters predict underlying economic activity will catch up over time. Unfortunately, this does not mesh well with past experience. Profits and capital gains often evaporate overnight, which always puts Oregon's budget in a hole.

To review the Economic and Revenue Forecasts in their entirety, click the following links:

[Economic forecast](#)

[Revenue forecast](#)

If you have questions regarding these or other proposals affecting public safety, please contact Genoa Ingram at 800-223-9708.

Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators Update

By Julie Spor, Sisters-Camp Sherman FD
OFSOA President



The Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators is excited to announce our 2021 virtual Fall Conference. While we would love to get together in person this fall, based on continued COVID restrictions and the uncertainty of future guidelines from the State over the next few months, the Board considered this the best option for our organization.

OFSOA held a two-hour virtual member check-in event and short educational session in late February. Jason Jantzi, Risk Manager for Special District's Association Oregon, was a guest speaker and reviewed hot topics including: COVID-19 Update, COVID Vaccinations, OSHA Rules, Stimulus Funding, and Legislative Updates. After the educational portion of the event, members were invited to attend breakout sessions by their region to allow Region Representatives to check in with members and gather input regarding educational topics they are interested in. Region reps also inquired about how COVID-19 is impacting member agencies and discuss opportunities for upcoming training through OFSOA. Approximately 45 members attended.

You can visit our website, www.ofsoa.com, for information about upcoming meetings and events. If we can assist your district with anything, please reach out to me at president@ofsoa.com.

If you have staff members who are not currently involved in OFSOA, please encourage them to reach out so they can see the benefits of our organization for themselves. You can reach our Membership Chair at membership@ofsoa.com.

The Legal Beagle

Financial Ethics for Public Officials

by Dan Lawler
Local Government Law Group P.C.

District employees, volunteers, and members of district boards of directors are subject to state laws that govern what they can and can't do as "public officials" while performing their official duties. Many of these laws prevent public officials from taking actions or participating in decisions that would provide them with personal financial benefits. Even though public officials may not be aware of potential violations, failure to comply with ethics laws can result in civil penalties for public officials and liability for their districts. This article outlines various financial ethics laws that apply to public officials and how public officials can comply with such laws.

Conflicts of Interest

Conflicts of interest can result in potential challenges to Board decisions and personal liability up to \$1,000 if public officials fail to handle conflicts appropriately. A *potential* conflict of interest exists if any action, decision, or recommendation of a public official might provide a financial benefit or detriment to the public official, the public official's relatives, or the public official or relative's business. For example, a potential conflict would exist if a public official voted to approve a grant program for small businesses and the official's spouse owns a small business that may apply for a grant.

An *actual* conflict of interest exists if such financial benefit or detriment would result from the public official's action, decision, or recommendation. While potential conflicts are speculative in nature, actual conflicts are certain to provide a financial benefit. An example of an

actual conflict of interest would be a public official's vote to award a public contract to a business owned by the official's spouse.

If a public official believes they have a *potential* conflict of interest, the public official should publicly announce the nature of the potential conflict. If a public official believes they have an *actual* conflict of interest, the public official should publicly announce the nature of the conflict and refrain from participating in any discussion, debate, or vote on the matter. In either case, disclosures of potential or actual conflicts should be announced:

- 1) Before discussing or voting on the matter;
- 2) On the record;
- 3) At every meeting where the matter is discussed.

Even if a public official has doubts about whether a conflict exists, they should disclose the conflict into the record to avoid potential liability. However, ORS Chapter 244 carves out the following exceptions to the conflict rules stated above:

- 1) Financial benefit or detriment is not a conflict if it arises due to a public official's action that affects people in the same industry, occupation, or other group as the public official, to the same degree. Only the Oregon Government Ethics Commission can identify particular industries, occupations, or groups and exempt them from conflict of interest rules as a class, but has been increasingly unwilling to do so in recent years.

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- 2) Financial benefit or detriment is not a conflict if it arises due to the public official's membership in or on the board of directors of a 501(c) non-profit organization. However, *employment* with a 501(c) non-profit, rather than membership, is not exempt from the state's conflict of interest laws.

Public officials should consult with staff and have staff contact our office to determine if a conflict exists or whether one of the exceptions applies. Our firm would be happy to advise on conflict of interest exceptions or to request an opinion from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, which will prevent liability if the public official acts in accordance with the opinion.

Prohibited Use of Office

Similar to conflicts of interest, ORS 244.040(1) prohibits public officials from using their official positions to obtain financial gain or avoid

financial detriment that would not be available but for the public official's official position. However, prohibited use of office applies to *any* financial benefit that results from a person's status as a public official, while conflicts of interest apply only to financial benefit associated with decisions or recommendations that a public official makes. As an example, using district websites to market goods that public officials produce or own would constitute prohibited use of office. However, state law excepts the following from prohibited use of office:

- Any part of an official compensation package;
- Honorariums that comply with ORS 244.042 (see next section for more detail);
- Reimbursement of expenses associated with official duties;
- Unsolicited awards of professional achievement;

- Gifts that comply with ORS 244.025 (see next section for more detail); and
- Contributions to a legal expense trust fund for the benefit of the public official.

Unlike conflicts of interest, public disclosure of financial gain does nothing to protect a public official from penalties resulting from prohibited use of office. Thus, public officials should have staff contact our office before any event that could cause personal financial gain or avoid personal financial loss.



Gifts and Honoraria

Public officials should also be aware that state law places strict limits on receiving gifts and honoraria. ORS 244.025 prohibits public officials from soliciting or receiving gifts worth \$50 or more per calendar year from any source with an economic interest in decisions that the public official makes. State law broadly defines “gift” as anything of economic value not offered to people who aren’t public officials. As an example, a public official could not accept a private meal worth over \$50 from a person who would benefit economically from a decision that the public official will participate in. In addition, the \$50 limit applies to the total value of all gifts received from a single source over the course of a year, rather than just individual gifts. If public officials accept any gifts from sources with economic interests in their decisions, we recommend closely tracking the value of such gifts to avoid exceeding the \$50 limit for each source.

Under state law, the following would *not* be considered gifts under state law (see ORS 244.020(7)(b) for the full list):

- Election contributions;
- Gifts from relatives or anyone that does not have an economic interest in the public official’s duties;
- Reasonable expenses incurred as part of the official’s duties;
- Food and beverages provided at an event that are available to other attendees;
- Unsolicited tokens or awards of appreciation (i.e. plaques or trophies);
- Entertainment that is incidental to the main purpose of an event or where the public official is acting in their official capacity.

Similar to limits on gifts, ORS 244.042 prohibits public officials from soliciting or receiving honoraria associated with official duties worth more than \$50. Honoraria are payments or items of economic value given in exchange for services without a set price, such as speeches or attendance at an event. However, public officials may accept honoraria that relate to their private professions, occupations, or expertise. Thus, to avoid violations of ORS 244.042, public officials should ensure that any honoraria offered to them are either: 1) worth \$50 or less or 2) not offered in relation to their position as a public official.

SDAO Best Practices Program and Upcoming Events

by Jennifer Quisenberry
Director of Membership Services

Administrators for SDIS, OPPA, and PACE
Direct: 503-798-9245
Toll-free: 800-285-5461 ext 125

The pandemic has shifted many of us to utilizing technology more than ever before and with this brings new exposures. Unfortunately, cyberattacks are on the rise and government entities are prime targets for cyber criminals. While at first glance it may seem like a lot of work to protect your district from becoming the latest victim of these crimes, it is even more exhausting to try to come back from one of these events.

This year's SDIS Best Practices Program has been set up to help you become knowledgeable on how to protect your district from cyberattacks and reward you with credits on your insurance contributions in the process. The following opportunities are available to earn up to 10% in insurance contribution credits and stay informed on cybersecurity issues:

- **Affiliate Organization Membership**—Your OFDDA membership counts!
- **Cybersecurity Risk Mitigation Training**—Visit www.sdao.com/cybersecurity-resources for more information.
- **Cybersecurity Policy**—See a sample at www.sdao.com/best-practices-program.
- **Checklist Questions**—These questions are built into the Best Practices Survey on the SDIS Insurance Site. Login at www.sdis.org.
- **SDAO/SDIS Training**—Complete an SDAO or SDIS training in 2021 (exclusive of the cybersecurity trainings) and receive a 2% credit.

(More information about the program is available at www.sdao.com/best-practices-program.)

With restrictions beginning to lift, we look forward to returning to normalcy! The SDAO Board of Directors and SDIS Board of Trustees held their first hybrid meetings in June with about half of the attendees meeting in person and the other half attending virtually. It is our goal to continue easing back into in-person trainings and events as is allowed from guidelines set forth by OHA and OSHA. Below is a list of events we have planned for this summer:

Cybersecurity Virtual Trainings

June 15 | Working with Technology Service Providers

July 20 | General Security Awareness Training

August 24 | Implementing Policies for Cybersecurity and Acceptable Use

September 21 | General Security Awareness Training

Visit www.sdao.com/cybersecurity-resources for more information and to register.

Risk Management Regional Trainings

August 10 | Redmond – Eagle Crest Resort

Information will be posted to www.sdao.com when registration is available.

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Board of Directors and Management Staff Regional Trainings

August 17 | Ontario – Four Rivers Cultural Center

August 18 | Boardman – Port of Morrow

August 31 | Astoria – Holiday Inn Astoria

September 2 | Salem – Chemeketa Eola

September 7 | Klamath Falls – Running Y Ranch Resort

September 9 | Brookings – Salmon Run Golf Course

Information will be posted to www.sdao.com when registration is available.

SDAO Member Scholarship Golf Tournament

September 17 | Newberg – Chehalem Glenn Golf Course

Registration opens July 12. Visit www.sdao.com for more information.

Please watch your email inbox and/or mailbox for more information about our summer trainings and events. We look forward to seeing you either in person or virtually!

Progress continues on the Memorial & Learning Center construction project. Drywall taping and texturing is complete, and we began painting throughout the interior. Next steps include polishing the concrete floor and interior finish carpentry of stairs, doors, and trim. Without the effort of our volunteers, construction would be far short of the current completion level.

Oregon Fire Service Museum Memorial & Learning Center By Jim Tormey

Grading and concrete work for the memorial courtyard and the building entry walk has been completed. Next, we will send out the historic cast iron columns and bases to be sandblasted and painted in readiness for their installation in the courtyard. Later this summer, the engraved bricks will be installed in both the courtyard and entry walk, so time is running short to order a brick at the current price. Commercial advertising bricks will be installed in the entry walk. Others will be installed in the courtyard. The fire line for future fire sprinklers was also installed.



Fundraising continues for interior doors, cabinets, woodwork, light fixtures, shelving, and exhibit construction, so donations are still needed and appreciated. We continue soliciting donated surplus apparatus and equipment for resale, which continues to be a major funding source for the construction. A huge thanks to all of our donors—every donation helps. Thanks to a steady stream of grants, apparatus donations, and individual cash donations, construction has never been delayed by a lack of funds.

Membership dues fund the ongoing operating 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 oregonfiremuseum.org for membership information.

Onboarding is an effective way to help both "Quick Start" new board members and refocus seasoned ones to the important work at hand. The process of

Onboarding became popular with Public Entities in the 1970s as a method of familiarizing

the newly elected official with their role, the rules, the history of the organization, the strategic direction, and the expectations of the Public Entity. Over time, onboarding became less frequently offered by Public Entities, but its importance was acknowledged and reaffirmed by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and, in July 2015, the IAFC reintroduced the process to their board of directors. Today it is recognized by a key practice by many organization leaders, including the Military, SHRM, ASAE, and 360learning.

The Importance of Onboarding

By Jeff Griffin
WHA Insurance

Items that should be made available and reviewed during the onboarding process:

- ◆ The rules (Roberts Rules of Order, in most cases) the district has adopted
- ◆ A tour of the department
- ◆ The budget
- ◆ A copy of all board policies, guidelines, and practices
- ◆ A copy of recent past board meeting minutes
- ◆ A copy of the districts Mission, Vision, and Values
- ◆ A copy of the strategic plan
- ◆ A copy of the standards of cover
- ◆ A review of the districts long term financial plan
- ◆ A review of Board member Duties and Responsibilities

OFDDA, in partnership with SDAO, can assist your department in training or developing an Onboarding program. If your District would like help in developing an Onboarding process or would like to attend or host a class in Onboarding that will help you meet SDAO's Best Practice credits, please call 541-954-5707 or email jaagriffin@aol.com.

OSFM: New Response and Adaption Initiatives

By Mariana Ruiz-Temple, Oregon State Fire Marshal

Over the past few months, the Office of State Fire Marshal has added new capacity as a result of the investment made by the Oregon Legislature during the January 2021 Emergency Board. This investment was the beginning of a conversation and with the end of session nearing, Senate Bill 762 & House Bill 3160 continue to take form. These bills, should they pass, would be the first of a kind wildfire policy bills that will begin to change the dial on codes, response & agency capacity, community risk reduction and mitigation efforts.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/SB762>

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Measures/Overview/HB3160>

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As the OSFM begins to prepare for the possibility of new legislation, I am announcing two new initiatives that will focus on better preparing Oregon for the impacts of wildfires. Last fire season illustrated the need for our office to make investments in our communities, fire service, and preparedness. The way we do business needs to change to improve how we meet the expectations of our public and keep pace with the reality of "fire years" as opposed to seasons. These investments will give the OSFM capacity to support the creation of fire adapted communities, modernize our response systems and technology, and build on our Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS) structure and processes.

Response Ready Oregon:

Response Ready Oregon will improve the Oregon Fire Service Mutual Aid System (OFMAS) by modernizing technology, systems, and increasing capacity. OSFM will utilize Regional Mobilization Coordinators to collaborate with fire defense board chiefs (FDBC's) and fire chiefs to develop, administer, and maintain strategies and plans to improve the OFMAS locally, regionally, and statewide. In addition, our office has added a Training and Safety Officer and an Emergency Planner within our operations to better support the OFMAS.

What does **Response Ready Oregon** mean for your fire district or department?

Response Ready Oregon will provide extra capacity to local jurisdictions and FDBC's. Components of Response Ready Oregon are:

- Modernize systems and technology at the appropriate scale to support the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System
- Assist the Oregon Fire Service by creating and enhancing the local and regional mutual aid plans
- Assist the Fire Defense Board Chiefs during initial attack, assessing of fire, and requesting conflagration, if necessary
- Regional inventory of apparatus
- Fire season readiness reviews

- Assist in determining fire service gaps and needs
- Liaise with the emergency management community, ODF, and other state, tribal, and federal wildland fire partners.

What to expect?

Response Ready Oregon Mobilization Coordinators will work with you to become a resource embedded in your communities through 5 defined regions. They assist in the development of mutual-aid agreements within assigned regions and statewide, communicate with partners to establish a baseline level of protection for all Oregon lands, and coordinate agreements with the local, state, federal, and tribal wildfire response partners. Our Regional Coordinators will work in lockstep with the Deputy State Fire Marshals throughout this summer to build relationships and capacity for the Oregon Fire Service Mutual Aid System. The recruitment and hiring is underway and official announcements will be forthcoming. Please expect that your new mobilization coordinators will be reaching out to introduce themselves within the month.

Fire Adapted Oregon:

Fire Adapted Oregon will prepare communities and our public for fire by utilizing an integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce fires and its impact to the public. This program will be grounded in statewide data, science, new defensible space codes, and trends. OSFM will be using Community Risk Reduction Specialists to work with local partners to create and promote fire adapted communities in Oregon. In addition, should Senate Bill 762 pass, the Fire & Life Safety Division will adopt, implement, and enforce a statewide Defensible Space Code in High and Extreme classification levels within Oregon.

What does Fire Adapted Oregon mean for your fire district or department?

Fire Adapted Oregon will provide extra capacity to fire agencies and programs, develop risk reduction plans, provide technical assistance in community risk reduction strategies, provide local education,

Continues on page 15.



and coordinate fire safety information and training needed. Components of Fire Adapted Oregon are:

- Improve community resiliency to wildfire
- Enhance defensible space for homes and surrounding structures
- Investments locally to assist communities and fire service with prevention, adaption, and mitigation efforts
- Improve structural fire prevention through community risk reduction efforts
- Improve public awareness of wildland fire and its impact to communities
- Improve public readiness for wildland fire

As our Deputy State Fire Marshals work to adopt, implement and enforce a new defensible space code, the Community Risk Reduction Specialists will serve as a resource for community planning for wildfire, community educational events, financial opportunities, and provide technical assistance to communities as they pursue actions to become more adapted to living with fire. The new Community Risk Reduction Program will implement this initiative by placing 5 regional fire specialists throughout the state, should SB 762 pass, these regions may increase from 5 to 10.

What to expect?

Fire Adapted Oregon's Fire Risk Specialists will assist locals with plans, programs, and actions that

will increase the local community's ability to prevent, prepare, and mitigate before the fire, live safely during the fire event, and help the community recover from impacts. The recruitment and hiring is underway and official announcements will be forthcoming. Please expect that your new Fire Risk Specialists will be reaching out to introduce themselves within the Month.

Where can you provide feedback?

We will be designing a Feedback Council for our fire service partners. This Council will provide a feedback loop for the Oregon Fire Service as we implement these new initiatives. Over the coming months we will be sending additional information on the council.

Many exciting changes are coming to our office and the OFMAS. Added capacity in the face of increased demands of our office and the Oregon Fire Service will better serve our public. Each of our organizations has been tested over the past year with COVID and a "first of kind" fire season and as we look towards the possibility of another challenging fire season these initiatives and added capacity will continue to increase response, preparedness, and resiliency. Thank you and take good care.



1284 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
800-223-9708
www.ofdda.com

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Equipment Needed....

The Carlton Police Department is in need of a surplus, functional gas-engine ambulance. If you can help, please contact Police Chief Kevin Martinez at (971) 241-9152 or via email at kmartinez@ci.carlton.or.us.



Save the Date!

November 3, 2021

Oregon Fire Chiefs Foundation Golf Tournament

The Annual Fundraiser will be held the day before OFDDA Conference. Watch for more information as we get closer to the Conference.

We are in need of Sponsors and Players.