

Weekly Watch

August 23, 2021



Message from the Director



The Oregon Office of Emergency Management is committed to ensuring our programs and services are culturally and linguistically appropriate. To that end, I'm pleased to share our agency has been working on an overarching Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program to consult, advise, train and provide policy development in the areas of equity, inclusion, diversity, equal opportunity and affirmative action for emergency preparedness agencies across the state of Oregon. This program will continue to collaborate with communities, businesses and emergency preparedness partners to ensure meaningful access to services to people with limited English proficiency, disabilities and persons with functional needs. In conjunction with this program, we have finalized our agency's first comprehensive Language Access and Alternate Formats policy; at 10:30 a.m. on August 26, all who were involved in the policy's development will gather for a signing ceremony, celebrating this achievement and reflecting our agency's commitment to ensuring its programs and services are equitable and accessible to all.

Take care of yourselves, and take care of each other.

Andrew Phelps, Director, Oregon Office of Emergency Management

FISCAL MATTERS

Federal share of disaster funds obligated to be spent in Oregon

\$ 1,943,653

Umatilla Floods

\$ 330,109,382

COVID-19

\$ 208,568,344

2020 Wildfires

\$ 419,646

2021 Ice Storm

Notice of Funding Opportunities

FEMA has announced the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program Fiscal Year 2021 and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program Fiscal Year 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunities. The mitigation team will be drafting and sending out Oregon-specific statewide guidance in the coming days reflecting state timelines, upcoming state-led trainings, next steps, etc. If you have any specific inquiries while awaiting the statewide guidance, please send them to shmo@mil.state.or.us.



Readiness Checklist

Touch Base With Your Neighbors.

- ✓ Exchange contact information.
- ✓ Who has skills and supplies?
- ✓ Who may need assistance?



Oregon: Stronger and Safer Together

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- [Oregon's Current Training Calendar](#)
- [Washington State Training Calendar](#)
- [Idaho State Training Calendar](#)
- [FEMA Region X Training Calendar](#)

ECC STATUS: ACTIVE

All requests for assistance should be made by contacting OERS at 1-800-452-0311.

COVID-19

In response to the surge in delta variant COVID-19 cases, Governor Brown has activated 1,500 Oregon National Guard members to assist with much needed logistical support for more than 20 hospitals across the state. Guard members are expected to support hospitals with critical non-clinical roles, including material handlers, equipment runners, COVID testing support and laundry and custodial services. Current locations identified include Bend, Redmond, Prineville, Madras, Roseburg, Medford, Ashland and Grants Pass.

HOT TOPICS

Dept. of Environmental Quality Launches New Podcast

Oregon's Dept. of Environmental Quality has launched a new podcast: GreenState shares stories about how DEQ is working every day to protect Oregon's air, land and water. DEQ kicked off its podcast on August 17 with a three-part series including the history of air quality in Oregon, the September 2020 wildfires, the forecast for smoke in coming years, and how to stay healthy during poor air quality. Hosts Lauren Wirtis and Dylan Darling talk with experts from DEQ, the U.S. Forest Service, Lane Regional Air Protection Agency and Oregon Health Authority. Search for [GreenState DEQ](#) wherever you get your podcasts.

Hazard Mitigation Spotlight

Hazard mitigation plans help communities reduce future disasters' effects on lives, property and the economy. The [National Risk Index](#) for natural hazards is an online mapping tool from FEMA that illustrates which hazards pose a risk, determines a community's current level of resilience, and projects expected annual losses from natural hazards. Using the National Risk Index to identify hazards, communities can plan with local needs in mind and create

projects to make their towns safer. One example is the city of Newport, which increased its community's access to a safe assembly area with the *Tsunami Safe Haven Hill* mitigation project. This collaborative effort improved an existing evacuation area and provided interpretive signs estimating travel time to the assembly area. Watch this [YouTube](#) video to learn more about the project.

Animals and Disasters Webinar

In an emergency, animals are even more dependent on their owners for their safety and well-being. FEMA is presenting a free two-part webinar series focused on animal safety and preparedness. Presenters will cover evacuation and sheltering considerations, with an emphasis on heat and wildfire impacts. Speakers include American Humane, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Spokane County Emergency Management. Registration is not required, just click the link at the time of each webinar.

- [Aug. 27 from 10-11 a.m.](#): Pets & Small Animals
- [Sept. 17 from 10-11 a.m.](#): Livestock & Large Animals

If you are interested but unable to attend, both webinars will be recorded and available on [YouTube](#).



News Media Summary August 16-23, 2021

[Oregon hospitals](#) struggle with [emergency room backups](#), [ICU bed shortages](#), and [staff shortages](#) amid the [COVID surge](#). [Patients who don't have COVID](#) struggle to get needed care as [healthcare workers make triage decisions](#). Officials have [requested out of state assistance](#) and the [Oregon National Guard](#) has been [activated to assist hospitals](#). [Governor Brown announced vaccination requirements](#) for [healthcare and K-12 education workers](#) as the Pfizer vaccine is now FDA approved. [Multnomah County releases heat emergency plans](#) as [possible heat deaths are investigated](#). [Significant progress](#) was made on [several wildfires burning](#) across the state as [firefighter fatigue](#) sets in. [Reservoirs are receding](#) and [running out of water](#) amid the [long Western drought](#).



For questions, contact
OEM Public Affairs at
public.info@state.or.us

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