



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

March 31, 2021

Wildfire Recovery Update

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management, in coordination with state and federal partners, distributes this update of collated and verified information on Oregon's wildfire recovery efforts.

Actions we can take to keep recovery moving forward

Oregon's wildfire recovery efforts have been a team effort. Federal agencies, state agencies, counties and individual Oregonians have been working together since September to strengthen affected communities.

Debris removal is a great example of these partnerships providing real outcomes for impacted Oregonians. With Step One - removal of hazardous waste from properties - nearly completed, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is continuing this work on remaining properties.

How can you help? If you still need help removing hazardous waste from your property as a result of the September wildfires, all you need to do is fill out a [Right of Entry form](#) -- located on the [Oregon Wildfire Cleanup](#) page; just follow the link to your county to get started. This step must be completed before the state can allow crews onto your property to clean up ash and debris.

Lincoln County property owners have a deadline of April 15 to submit their Right of Entry forms to have the EPA remove hazardous material. Once Lincoln County is complete, EPA crews will move on to other wildfire impacted counties.

Once step one is complete for your property, be sure to fill out the Private Property Debris Removal Questionnaire to begin step two. Letters were mailed to property owners in December with an access number specific to your property. If you have the letter, fill out [the online questionnaire](#) to give crews additional information about your property. If you no longer have the letter, or never received one, call 503-934-1700 for help.

Wildfires not only leave ash and debris, they may also affect the drinking water wells on properties. If your property was affected, you may be eligible for free private well testing. There is a quick [damage assessment](#) to help if you determine if a well test is needed on your property. If you feel you qualify for a well test, [apply online](#). Vouchers expire June 7, 2021 - so apply soon. For more information, including information in Spanish, visit the [Oregon Health Authority page on well safety](#).

BY THE NUMBERS

Sheltered persons: **1,299**

Individuals in Direct Housing: **289**

Source: Oregon Department of Human Services

Hazardous trees removed: **20,482**

Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

Individual Assistance Registrants:

25,251

Source: FEMA Direct Temporary Housing Program

Amount Approved: \$35.9 million

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

*Total registration count may vary due to applications pending review.

wildfire.oregon.gov

Media inquiries
fire.info@state.or.us
503-378-7872

We can prepare for wildfires today

Recent high winds caused several fires around Deschutes County. Located south of Tumalo, the fire is estimated to have burned over 200 acres and prompted evacuations of more than 200 people. There were no fatalities, and no homes were destroyed.

This is a timely reminder that we need to act now to prevent and prepare for wildfires -- it's about the conditions, not the calendar. While we are still several months from the official start of wildfire season and the spring rains have not stopped, it takes only a strong wind to spread a brush fire or a spark from a downed powerline.

There are many ways we can make preparations to keep our families, homes and businesses safe from wildfires. The Oregon Department of Forestry has [important resources](#) to help homeowners and businesses create a more fire-resistant space. While we are recovering and rebuilding from last year's wildfires, we can create defensible space around our home's perimeter to prevent wildfires. To learn more about this, watch [the video](#) created by ODF and Keep Oregon Green.

Oregonians also need to be ready to evacuate with a few minutes' notice. Start your [emergency action plan](#) today and if you have any questions, reach out to your [local emergency management office](#).

The Oregon State University Extension Service Fire Program is currently offering free "Wildfire Wednesdays" webinars. These virtual presentations are every other week from 12 to 1 p.m. The next presentation is April 14 and will discuss how to build community preparedness. You can find the webinar, along with the schedule, on the [OSU Extension page](#). These free webinars continue through June and discuss different aspects of wildfires and wildfire preparedness.

NOTE: This publication is released every Wednesday.

Check wildfire.oregon.gov or visit our [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) pages for additional updates.

This publication is available in Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese on the [Oregon Wildfire Recovery Website: Oregon Wildfire Recovery - Media Resources](#). It is also available in large print, braille and additional formats. Contact David Cardona, OEM Language Access Coordinator, at 971-719-1183 or email david.cardona@state.or.us. All relay calls are accepted; dial 711 to access free telecommunications relay services anywhere in the U.S.

HELP WITH FOOD AND COUNSELING IS AVAILABLE

Times are tough and the recovery process can seem overwhelming, but you are not alone! There are many resources to help you in your time of need.



Oregon Food Bank and Oregon Dept. of Human Services (ODHS)

For Oregonians in need of emergency food, the Oregon Food Bank works with a cooperative, statewide network of partner agencies to distribute food to hungry people.

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) supports a variety of nutritional and educational programs operated through Oregon Food Bank's statewide network of 21 regional food banks. For more information, go to Oregon.gov/dhs/assistance/food-benefits/pages/food-resources.aspx.



Safe • Strong Helpline

The Safe+Strong Helpline is available for children and adults who are struggling with stress, anxiety or other disaster-related depression-like symptoms.

Visit safestrongoregon.org/mental-emotional-health.

Call **800-923-4357**.

This free service is provided by the Oregon Health Authority and Portland-based nonprofit agency Lines for Life.

Lines for Life

Lines for Life, a FEMA-funded outreach program, connects individuals with compassionate assistance and resources such as housing/shelter support, food assistance, legal assistance, transportation, small business relief and more. These services are free, confidential and have no eligibility criteria - anyone who needs support, gets support. To connect with a member of its team, call **971-420-1028** for English, **971-420-1018** for Spanish, or email FEMAhelp@linesforlife.org.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

[Active Recovery Dashboard](#)

[Oregon Wildfire News](#)

[Emergency Management Websites by County](#)

[Oregon Insurance Commission](#)

wildfire.oregon.gov

Media inquiries
fire.info@state.or.us
503-378-7872