



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Wildfire Recovery Update

August 4, 2021

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.

Rogue Valley Rebuilds

The 2020 Almeda Fire left more than 2,400 homes destroyed, placing a massive burden on displaced families throughout the Rogue Valley as they worked to find safe, stable housing. The cities of Talent and Phoenix were hit particularly hard by the fire, and crews work tirelessly to clean up debris and pave the way for rebuilding. The Debris Management Task Force, FEMA, Jackson County and the Cities of Talent and Phoenix collaborated to identify sites for housing, clean them up and rebuild them with fully furnished dwellings to house survivors.

Totem Pole Mobile Home Park in Talent, Coleman Creek Mobile Home Park in Phoenix and Rogue Valley Mobile Village in Medford are all being utilized as sites for the direct housing mission and will provide space to house more than 100 families. [Watch this inspiring video](#) featuring Pam Zawada, FEMA's Deputy Logistics Section Chief, to learn more about how the FEMA Direct Housing Mission has helped address the shortage of available housing in the area, providing stability and hope for survivors while continuing to develop a long-term housing strategy.

Mental Health Resources for Wildfire Survivors

The one-year mark of the 2020 wildfires is approaching, even as new wildfires rage across the state. These current fires have brought smoke and potential evacuations that may trigger anxiety and PTSD for last year's wildfire survivors. Feelings such as overwhelming anxiety, constant worrying, trouble sleeping, and other depression-like symptoms are common responses before, during and after wildfires - especially for those who endured these events. If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these symptoms, you are not alone. Here are some 24/7 resources for support and counseling:

Visit [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) or call/text 800-985-5990 for immediate crisis counseling related to a disaster.
Visit [Safe Strong Oregon](#) or call 800-923-HELP (4357), which can connect you with help in your immediate area.
Visit the [National Center for PTSD](#) to help locate Veterans Affairs and mental health services in your area.
Visit the [American Red Cross](#) for resources on recovering emotionally from a disaster.

BY THE NUMBERS

Sheltered Persons: **927**

Source: Oregon Department of Human Services

Individuals in Direct Housing: **452**

Source: FEMA Direct Temporary Housing Program

Hazardous Trees Removed: **58,360**

Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

Home Sites Cleared: **2,535**

(83.8% of total home sites)

Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

Individual Assistance Registrants:

25,251

Source: FEMA Direct Temporary Housing Program

IA Amount Approved: **\$37.4 million**

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

wildfire.oregon.gov

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

FEMA Reengagement Offers Help for Wildfire Survivors

Over the past few months, FEMA has held seven in-person re-engagement meetings with registered wildfire survivors to assist them through the claims process. These meetings -- held in Jackson, Marion/ Linn, Douglas, Lincoln, Clackamas and Lane counties -- offered applicants an opportunity to discuss their concerns, learn why benefits were denied and provide guidance for the claims process. To date, FEMA has met with an additional 513 survivors, resulting in \$454,929 in found benefits. FEMA has two more re-engagement sessions coming up:

- Lincoln Co: Aug. 21-24 at North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District 1 Station 1300, 381 N. Old Scenic Hwy 101 in Otis
- Douglas Co: Aug. 27-30 at the Glide Revitalization Building, 301 Glide Loop Dr. in Glide.

Hours for both events are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. FEMA is working with additional counties to provide this outreach to their communities.

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.

Communities Celebrate Investments in Wildfire Recovery

On August 5, media and local and state officials will take a community tour highlighting two important steps in wildfire recovery: Significant state investments in rebuilding community resources and the opening of a FEMA direct housing site for wildfire survivors. During the 2021 legislative session, Oregon lawmakers dedicated funding to help the Blue River community rebuild, including:

- McKenzie Valley Wellness Clinic replacement (\$1.8 million)
- Blue River Community Library replacement (\$1.4 million)
- Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District station replacement (\$2.1 million)
- Lane County water and wastewater infrastructure (\$15.5 million)
- McKenzie Fire & Rescue disaster relief logistics center (\$903,000)

Additionally, 17 housing units have been delivered to the U.S. Basketball Academy in Blue River as part of FEMA's direct housing mission; fire survivors will begin moving in within a few days. Similar recovery tours are happening in other counties, including one with Commissioner Kaety Jacobson in Lincoln County on August 6.



NOTE: This publication is released bi-weekly on Wednesdays. Follow 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. For assistance, call 971-719-1183 or email language@state.or.us. We accept all relay calls, or you can dial 711.

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Media Inquiries
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