



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Wildfire Recovery Update

September 1, 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.

Reflecting on a year of cleanup and recovery

As the state navigates another wildfire season while continuing clean-up efforts from the devastating 2020 wildfires, the Debris Management Task Force wants to thank Oregonians and wildfire survivors for their collaboration, grit and resilient spirit.

This work has cleared the way for rebuilding new lives and new housing options. Its reopened local businesses, summer camps, fish hatcheries and recreation areas. And it has kept highways open and free of falling trees and other debris while providing wood for habitat, conservation projects, and energy programs.

Cleanup efforts have strived to equitably provide Oregon jobs while ultimately ensuring no more lives are lost to the 2020 wildfires. As work continues throughout the state, with most home sites now cleared and many rebuilding, the Debris Management Task Force was honored to help provide this critical first step in the recovery process. While the team sincerely hopes Oregon never experiences the trauma of the September 2020 wildfires again, ODOT and the Task Force stand ready to assist if called upon. Track the latest news and progress at www.debriscleanupnews.com.

Final enrollment deadline for 2020 wildfire cleanup

As the cleanup of the 2020 wildfires nears completion statewide, the Debris Management Task Force has announced Sept. 15, 2021, as the final enrollment deadline for opting into the state-led, no-cost cleanup program for properties damaged in the 2020 September wildfires: **Enrollments will not be accepted past this date.** This is the final opportunity for those who have not opted in during the past year to revisit the decision of participating in the program. Visit debriscleanupnews.com to learn more and opt-in by calling the hotline at 503-934-1700.

BY THE NUMBERS

Sheltered Persons: **862**

Source: Oregon Department of Human Services

Individuals in Direct Housing: **318**

Source: FEMA Direct Temporary Housing Program

Hazardous Trees Removed: **60,612**

Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

Home Sites Cleared: **2,572**

(85.1% 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

There is no standard timeline for recovering from a wildfire. If you are struggling from the challenges of the past year, connect with organizations like the [Disaster Distress Helpline](#) or [Safe + Strong Oregon](#) to learn ways to adapt to ongoing events and situations.

wildfire.oregon.gov

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Partners join together to assist wildfire survivors

Since the September 2020 wildfires, the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and FEMA have worked closely with dozens of local organizations and nonprofits to find solutions to shelter the more than 4,200 survivors. Project Turnkey properties funded through the Oregon Community Foundation and FEMA RV pad rentals have provided alternatives to hotel rooms. An innovative public-private partnership is purchasing hotels to convert them to efficient apartments survivors can then rent, moving them toward more permanent housing.

ODHS and Oregon Housing and Community Services are working on additional alternatives: Survivors can receive disaster case management services to help them identify barriers to recovery and develop plans to overcome them. OHCS has developed a new role of Disaster Recovery & Resilience Assistant Director to lead the [Oregon Disaster Housing Task Force](#) and the implementation of a [Disaster Housing Recovery Action Plan](#) to ensure a solid foundation is in place for future disaster survivors.

WAYS TO HONOR WITH ACTION

- Be informed by signing up with [OR-Alert](#) for area emergency alerts
- Consider a donation to or volunteering with a disaster-relief organization like the [American Red Cross](#)
- Help start or join an existing [Community Emergency Response Team](#) or [Neighborhood Emergency Team](#)
- Check in on neighbors and loved ones during severe weather, utility outages or other emergencies
- Learn evacuation routes from a home and neighborhood
- Make and practice an [emergency plan](#)

Oregonians urged to honor with action

September is National Preparedness Month -- as proclaimed by Governor Brown -- a timely opportunity to emphasize the importance of being prepared. The depth of loss from the 2020 wildfires was extraordinarily profound for so many. In acknowledgment of these impacts that continue to be felt throughout our state, for this year's National Preparedness Month, the state is calling on Oregonians to "[honor with action](#)," empowering citizens to take actions to help keep themselves, their families and their communities safe.

Over the past year, Oregonians have faced historic ice storms, tragic heat events and yet another severe wildfire season. The seemingly endless cycle of emergencies and disasters is not only an indicator of what's to come -- but also of the collective lack of readiness to face it. One of the most difficult hazards to mitigate against is the hazard of apathy and the notion that so many people think emergencies won't happen to them or that they can prepare later.

The good news is many Oregonians may be more prepared than they think. Taking small steps during National Preparedness Month to think about [what they need](#), [how to evacuate](#) and [how to be self-sufficient](#) without outside help for at least two weeks can make the difference between being a disaster survivor or a disaster victim.



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 other languages, large print, braille, or a format you prefer. For assistance, call 971-719-1183 or email language@oem.state.or.us. We accept all relay calls, or you can dial 711.

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