



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

April 07, 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.

Hazardous tree removal: a safety issue

The thousands of hazardous trees left behind after the September 2020 wildfires pose a serious threat to the safety and well being of Oregonians. These dangerous trees can fall unpredictably, threatening human safety and damaging property and infrastructure.

With certified arborists identifying dangerous trees, crews are able to focus efforts to reduce risk and ensure long-term safety for Oregonians. Removing these safety risks also allows the public safe access back into fire-impacted areas and creates room for restoration projects like reseeded and replanting.

Hazardous tree removal efforts are underway on many fronts in Oregon – from local jurisdictions and utility companies clearing county roads and powerlines, state contract crews clearing state highways and properties, to land management agencies removing dangerous trees from popular recreation sites and private forestlands. Watch this video to learn more.

For more information on Debris Management efforts, call their hotline at 503-934-1700 or email at odot.wildfire@odot.state.or.us

Practice safety - and patience!

Oregonians traveling in fire-impacted areas are urged to use extra caution - and patience - as crews continue removing debris and hazardous trees. For example, Highway 224 remains closed and Highways 22 and 126 have long delays for motorists as crews prioritize these high-traffic areas. To ensure personnel safety, please follow all posted signs allow extra time for delays. Use TripCheck to find the latest traffic updates as you plan your trip.

Recovery progress is gaining speed. The Echo Mountain fire area cleanup is close to completion. To ensure efficiency and help crews quickly move into other wildfire-affected areas, the deadline for Right of Entry forms submission in Lincoln County is **April 15**. This form is available on the Wildfire Cleanup page.

BY THE NUMBERS

Sheltered persons: **1,264**

Individuals in Direct Housing: **288**

Source: Oregon Department of Human Services

Hazardous trees removed: **23,009**

Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

Individual Assistance Registrants:

25,251

Source: FEMA Direct Temporary Housing Program

Amount Approved: \$36.1 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

Debris cleanup means stronger communities

With more than 120 clean up crews currently on the ground, it may seem overwhelming or even a little inconvenient to get around some of the wildfire-affected areas. But all this work is creating stronger communities, more housing, and even safer schools.

Along with the rest of the state, the McKenzie School District had to close last year to help combat the spread of COVID-19. Fortunately, firefighters were able to save the school during the wildfires. Yet even after the efforts of teachers and school staff to create a safe building for students to return to, the grounds remained unsafe with nearly 800 hazard trees on the campus.

The Debris Management Task Force prioritized the school in their cleanup efforts to help provide a safe space for students to return to on March 15.

Crews can be seen in fire-impacted neighborhoods as well. Across the state, all home sites have been tested for asbestos and more than 40% have been cleared of ash and debris. Not only does this allow FEMA to bring in direct housing units for eligible survivors who need them, it also allows homeowners to begin rebuilding on their property. For more information on debris management updates, visit their blog at <https://www.debriscleanupnews.com/>

State and federal agencies are working diligently to keep communities together. When families can continue to live, work and attend school in their community, Oregon will see a strong rise to recovery.



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](https://www.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](#)

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.

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