



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

April 14, 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.

Burning debris - safety first

As we continue to recover from last year's wildfires, Oregon has already declared drought emergencies in multiple counties and dry conditions have tripled the number of wildfires we've seen this spring. Many of these pre-wildfire season fires are started by unsafe debris burning practices.

To help keep you and your property safe, follow these guidelines:

- Contact your local Oregon Department of Forestry or rural fire protection district before burning.
- Do not burn if it is too dry or windy - check the conditions.
- Keep 10 ft area clear around the debris burn area to keep fire from spreading.
- Have water and tools on hand to contain the fire as it burns.
- Keep debris piles small and stay with the fire until it is completely out.

Get more burning safety tips from the [Oregon Department of Forestry](#) and [Keep Oregon Green](#). Updates are regularly made on the [Oregon Department of Forestry Fire Prevention page](#) as well as the [Keep Oregon Green Association page](#).

FEMA housing in progress

As Oregon families continue to recover from 2020's devastating wildfires, FEMA is providing temporary housing to qualified survivors. Housing units, including RVs and manufactured homes, are being held at staging areas throughout the region, where they undergo cleaning, routine inspection and repairs if needed. These units will then be delivered to established sites within the community following the installation of infrastructure like water and sewer.

Fencing and security around one of the staging areas in Southern Oregon has led to a number of rumors that FEMA has addressed, stating it has a responsibility to safeguard the mobile homes that are needed by survivors to recover from the devastation. The property is also a working area with heavy equipment being used at the site, and spectators have to be kept out to ensure safety. FEMA's temporary housing units provide wildfire survivors a safe and stable home while they get back on their feet.

BY THE NUMBERS

Sheltered persons: **1,225**

Source: Oregon Department of Human Services

Individuals in Direct Housing: **293**

Source: FEMA Direct Temporary Housing Program

Hazardous trees removed: **24,761**

Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

Home Sites Cleared: **1,259** (46.1% of total home sites)

Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

Individual Assistance Registrants: **25,251**

Source: FEMA Direct Temporary Housing Program

Amount Approved: \$36.3 million

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

wildfire.oregon.gov

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

Avoid contractor scams

Rebuilding has begun in earnest in the wildfire affected communities. As Oregonians are hiring contractors to perform work around their property, be aware of fraud and scams.

These scam attempts may come in the form of phone calls, emails, or letters. But there are actions you can take to ensure your work is done by a reputable contractor.

First, do your research. Check the [Better Business Bureau](#) website for any reviews. Search the name of the contractor along with terms such as "review," "scam" or "complaint" to see if anyone has had issues with the company before. Get estimates from multiple contractors.

All agreements should be in writing and detail all the work being done. The cost and estimated completion date should be in the contract. There should not be any blank spaces that can be filled in after you sign.

Be sure the contractor is fully insured and bonded. Without this coverage, you may be liable for any injuries on your property. They should also obtain all necessary permits and be able to post them on site.

Until the job is complete, do not sign off on the work and do not make the final payment.

If you are a victim of disaster related fraud, call the FEMA Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-223-0814 or call the Oregon Attorney General's consumer Hotline at 877-877-9392.



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](#)

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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