

Weekly Watch



May 24, 2021

WEEKLY VIDEO



Message from the Director

I'm coming to you via Zoom this week for a video dedicated to Wildfire Awareness Month and the importance of preparedness. As we continue to recover from last year's devastating wildfires, the 2021 fire season is already here – and with drought conditions across much of the state and a less than ideal forecast on the horizon, the outlook isn't great. Prevention is key, but for those fires we can't prevent, it's important to be prepared. This includes following current fire restrictions, knowing evacuation routes and understanding how to receive emergency alerts in your area. Evaluate how prepared you and your family are for whatever lies ahead; have an emergency plan that includes having emergency supplies you can grab quickly. As Oregon continues to rise to the challenges we've experienced over the last year, make sure you think about what you, your friends and your family can do to reduce your risk. Taking simple steps today can pay huge dividends when the next bad day arrives.

Take care of yourselves, and take care of each other.

Andrew Phelps, Director
Oregon Office of Emergency Management

FISCAL MATTERS

Federal share of disaster funds obligated to be spent in Oregon

\$ 837,803

Umatilla Floods

\$ 307,571,047

COVID-19

\$ 165,202,575

Wildfires

Free Earthquake Mitigation Web Training

On June 1 from 1-5 p.m., FEMA is offering a free web-based training on Earthquake Safety and Mitigation for Schools. This training teaches participants how to assess and analyze seismic risks typical to school buildings; develop actionable plans for reducing and managing these risks; secure nonstructural components in school facilities; and implement incremental seismic rehabilitation as an affordable approach for protecting existing school buildings and ensuring occupant safety. Register at [GoToWebinar.com](https://www.gotowebinar.com).

Oregon Wildfire Response and Recovery Overview

Working directly with each jurisdiction, agency and partner involved with Oregon's response and recovery efforts, OEM has created this dashboard. We continue to integrate data systems to provide consistent and verified information to inform efforts and tell the recovery story.



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- [Oregon's Current Training Calendar](#)
- [Washington State Training Calendar](#)
- [Idaho State Training Calendar](#)
- [FEMA Region X Training Calendar](#)

ECC STATUS: ACTIVE

All requests for assistance should be made by contacting OERS at 1-800-452-0311.

COVID UPDATE

Five Oregon counties -- Benton, Deschutes, Hood River, Lincoln and Washington -- are leading the state in vaccinating their residents to protect them against COVID-19, and have moved to the Lower Risk level in the state's risk level framework. All five counties have vaccinated over 65% of residents 16 or older with at least one dose and have also submitted documentation on how they will close equity gaps in their vaccination efforts. When Oregon achieves a first dose 70% statewide vaccination rate for residents 16 or older, the state will lift all risk level health and safety restrictions.

HOT TOPICS

Drought Causes Concern for 2021 Wildfire Season

As Oregon continues to recover from the historic and destructive 2020 wildfire season, the state is experiencing abnormally dry conditions, causing concern for this year's wildfire season. Parts of the state have experienced record dryness the past two months, and May continues to be dry with warmer temperatures. Drought creates hardships that impact the environment, animals, farms, ranches and communities; it also creates additional fuel for wildfires, which ignite very easily under dry conditions and can spread quickly. It's crucial that communities develop drought response plans that include trigger levels and water use reduction measures. Learn more about water conservation tips at [Ready.gov/drought](https://www.ready.gov/drought) and stay up-to-date with drought conditions in Oregon: the U.S. Drought Monitor is updated each Thursday at [Drought.gov/states/oregon](https://drought.gov/states/oregon).

Wildfire Safety Webinar: When Fire Hits

Oregon State University's Forest and Natural Resources Extension Fire Program is hosting a free webinar from 12-1 p.m. on June 2. "When Fire Hits" will discuss how fire operations and levels of response are assembled, what you can expect if you are in a potentially affected area, as well as some ideas for how you can make firefighters' jobs easier and safer if they need to protect your home. Register at OregonState.zoom.us.

American Red Cross Encourages Donations

As more people begin to gear up for a return to some of their favorite summer activities, the American Red Cross is concerned about the impact this may have on blood donor turnout and the blood supply this summer. The need for lifesaving blood transfusions never takes a break. It's critical to have blood ready to go when every second counts. With more and more individuals receiving a

COVID-19 vaccine, in most cases, vaccinated individuals can donate blood and platelets. However, knowing the name of the manufacturer of the vaccine they receive is important in determining blood donation eligibility. If a donor is eligible and feeling well, they can make an appointment today by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org), using the Red Cross Blood Donor App or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Earthquake Damage Assessment Classes Available

ATC-20, ATC-45 and Safety Assessment (SAP) Evaluation classes are currently available for public agencies, with two sessions remaining available at no cost thanks to an SHSP grant awarded to Washington and Yamhill County Emergency Management. Taking place June 1 and 2, these sessions present best practices for quickly evaluating and posting buildings after an earthquake or other disaster. Pre-register by May 25 at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.Eventbrite.com).

News Update May 19-24

President Biden announces [\\$1 billion](#) investment for pre-disaster mitigation resources. Governor Brown announces [lottery incentives for COVID vaccinations](#). Renters have until [2022 to pay back rent](#) and can [apply for rental assistance](#). Oregon taxpayers [may see a kicker refund](#) next year following [state economic and revenue forecasting](#). Alameda Fire [debris cleanup is 77% complete](#) and [drinking water is finally available](#) in Detroit. Scrutiny of [post-fire hazard tree removal](#) continues. Public Utility Commission approves [temporary rules for cutting off electricity](#) due to wildfire threats as [Wildfire Awareness Month](#) continues. State forestry board seeks [state forester replacement](#).

For questions, contact
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