



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

THE GATED WYE

JUNE 2024



FIREWORK SAFETY IN FOCUS FOR JUNE AND JULY

“Keep it Legal, Keep it Safe” is the message from the Oregon State Fire Marshal this June and into July as fireworks sales legally begin in Oregon on June 23.

The OSFM is tasked with issuing permits for fireworks sales and public displays. The OSFM also provides messaging to help ensure all Oregonians are safe when using fireworks this time of year.

[Read more on page 2.](#)

OSFM'S MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER

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OREGON READIES FOR FIREWORK SALES, OSFM URGES SAFETY

Whether it's the dazzle of different colors or the crackle of fireworks, the Oregon State Fire Marshal urges Oregonians and visitors to check local regulations and to be safe if they plan to use fireworks this July 4.

In Oregon, the 2024 fireworks retail sales season runs from June 23 to July 6. The OSFM reminds everyone to know which fireworks are legal to use, where to use them, and how to use fireworks safely. It is important to check local fireworks restrictions and follow them where you live or travel to celebrate the holiday.

Consumer-legal fireworks can only be purchased from permitted fireworks retailers and stands. State regulations limit where those fireworks may be used. People who visit public lands and parks are asked to leave all fireworks at home. The possession and use of fireworks are prohibited in national parks and forests, on Bureau of Land Management lands, on U.S. Fish and Wildlife properties, on state beaches, in state parks, and in state campgrounds. Fireworks are also prohibited on many private lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

For those who purchase legal fireworks, fire officials encourage everyone to practice the four Bs of safe fireworks use:

- **Be prepared** before lighting fireworks: keep water available by using a garden hose or bucket.
- **Be safe** when lighting fireworks: keep children and pets away from fireworks. Never use fireworks near or on dry grass or vegetation.
- **Be responsible** after lighting fireworks: never relight a dud. Please wait 15 to 20 minutes, then soak it in a bucket of water before disposal.
- **Be aware:** only use legal fireworks and in legal places.

To learn more about fireworks, visit a fire prevention website for your area. Learn more about [fireworks in Oregon here](#).



CODES CORNER

FIREWORK SAFETY IN FOCUS

Some Oregon communities have adopted local total bans on the sale and display of retail fireworks. For jurisdictions without a ban, the Oregon Fire Code (OFC) provides the minimum enforcement provisions for the safe arrangement of legal consumer fireworks sales outdoors and inside buildings.

Oregon law requires those selling retail fireworks to the public to first obtain a retail sales permit through the Oregon State Fire Marshal. Approved and issued permits are then sent to the appropriate fire jurisdiction so the local fire code official can visit the location to ensure compliance with the fire code and OAR Chapter 837, Division 12. The OSFM, through its Regulatory Services Division, may issue a single permit for indoor and outdoor sales at the same location. While it's the permit holder's responsibility to comply with all applicable local, state, or federal rules and regulations, the local fire agency should use the permit to ensure conformity.

Violations will be cited using the appropriate section of the OFC. Write the specific corrective action derived from the permit or the Oregon Administrative Rule. Most can be identified from the checklist below:

Cite **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS** for concerns at indoor and outdoor sales areas using OFC 5601.2.

- **Permit:** Review the OSFM-issued permit requirements. It should be visibly posted.
- **Diagram:** The sales area should comply with the "Map Information" section of the permit. Stands are unallowed on highways, sidewalks, public property, schools, or assembly occupancies.
- **Staff:** Must be at least 18 years old and constantly attend the retail sales area during business hours. The actual permit holder must be present at least half of the time.
- **Changes:** The approved sales site location may be moved only with written fire department approval. The stand, tent, or indoor outlet size may not be increased as it is on the OSFM permit.

CODES CORNER

FIREWORK SAFETY IN FOCUS

Cite **OUTDOOR SALES AREA** violations using OFC 5601.1.3.

- **Exits:** must have at least one two-foot-wide outward swinging exit for every 1,000 square feet of covered space.
- **Parking:** shall not impede exiting or fire department access.
- **Fire Extinguisher:** shall have at least one 2A-rated water type or equivalent.
- **Electrical:** electrical permits may be required for lighting or wiring.
- **Flammable Liquids:** must be stored in approved containers.
- **Sales Area Minimum Distances:** 10 feet from combustible structures or exits. 15 feet from streets or sidewalks (public way). 20 feet from heat sources, including generators. 50 feet from any dispensary of flammable liquids or gases. 100 feet from open flames or smoking areas.
- **No Smoking:** red signs with a minimum of 2½" white letters must be visible to the public
- **Heaters:** exposed electrical elements or open flames are not allowed
- **Sleeping:** not allowed at the sales site
- **Tents:** tents or canopy fabric must be fire retardant treated. Tents with 3 or more sides must also meet the indoor requirements below

Cite **INDOOR SALES AREA** violations also using OFC 5601.1.3.

- **Location:** must be the approved designated area in the building as shown on the OSFM permit
- **Stored Fireworks:** additional products not at the sales site must be as specified in the "Storage Information" section on the OSFM permit. They must be separated from the sales area, exits, highly combustible materials, and areas accessible to the public. Stored fireworks shall also meet the requirements of NFPA 1124 and OFC 5609.1.
- **Responsibility:** the person responsible for the retail operation must regularly monitor the safety rules
- **Fire Extinguishers:** must be of a minimum 2A water type, or equivalent, and located following NFPA 10
- **Smoking:** is not allowed
- **Housekeeping:** trash, empty boxes, packaging, and other materials must be removed at least once a day

For questions about retail fireworks [click here](#).



BY THE NUMBERS

Oregon Fireworks-Related Fires

2018-2022

- **Total Fires:** 445
- **Structure Fires:** 53
- **Vehicle Fires:** 14
- **Outdoor/Other Fires:** 378
- **Estimated Loss:** \$2.36 million
- **Deaths:** 5 (including 1 firefighter)

National (2018)

- **Total Fires:** 19,500
- **Structure Fires:** 1,900
- **Vehicle Fires:** 500
- **Outdoor/Other Fires:** 17,100
- **Property Damage:** \$105 million
- **Deaths:** 5
- **Civilian Injuries:** 46

When we think of the Fourth of July, fireworks and fireworks safety are at the top of the fire service's list to raise awareness and protect the public from the disastrous consequences of fire incidents related to fireworks.

Below are some fireworks resources and information to help safeguard your communities:

- Legal fireworks in the State of Oregon include but are not limited to, novelty devices, wheels, flitter sparklers, fountains, smoke devices, and ground spinners.
- There is no regulation about when consumer-legal fireworks may be used. Please be courteous to your neighbors and friends.
- There are restrictions on where fireworks can be used, such as beaches and federal.
- To report the firing of illegal pyrotechnic devices, please contact your local law enforcement via their non-emergency number.
- For assistance with disposing of leftover or unwanted fireworks, call your local law enforcement via their non-emergency number or the Oregon State Police non-emergency number at 1-800-452-7888.

HELP SHARE THE MESSAGE OF FIREWORK SAFETY

To better share the messages of firework safety the OSFM has put together several elements for the Oregon fire service and partner agencies to use. A social media kit will be available in early June.

The OSFM also has a downloadable half-sheet infographic and coloring sheet for kids available in English and Spanish.

The messaging is in line with the "Four B's of fireworks safety, Be Responsible, Be Prepared, Be Aware, & Be Safe."

KEEP IT LEGAL, KEEP IT SAFE

LEGAL FIREWORKS IN OREGON

Includes:

- Novelty Device
- Fountains
- Wheel
- Smoke Device
- Flinger Sparkler
- Ground Spinner



KEEP IT LEGAL, KEEP IT SAFE

ILLEGAL FIREWORKS IN OREGON

Illegal: Any firework that flies into the air, explodes, or behaves in an uncontrollable and unpredictable manner.



Warning label may say:
"Shoots Flaming Balls."

Oregon Laws Violated:
ORS 480.120 Violation

Charged:
Class B Misdemeanor

LET'S TALK FIREWORKS

As the 2024 fireworks season approaches, the Oregon State Fire Marshal wants to update our partners on the responsibilities and roles our agency and local authorities have when it comes to fireworks.

OSFM Roles

ORS 480.111-480.165 governs fireworks and delegates authority to specific organizations for various activities. Under these statutes, the Oregon State Fire Marshal is tasked with issuing permits for agricultural (pest control), public fireworks displays, and the sale of both display and consumer fireworks in Oregon. The OSFM's Regulatory Services Division offers support by providing information on fireworks regulations, coordinating with the Oregon State Police when necessary, and advising local law enforcement on how to handle the seizure, storage, and retrieval of fireworks.

Local Agency Roles and Authorities

State regulations grant local authorities the power to oversee fireworks in their jurisdiction. According to ORS 480.140, supervision of fireworks displays is managed by local fire and police departments, or by county courts in areas without local coverage. ORS 480.160 (4) allows rural fire protection district governing bodies to regulate fireworks locally. OAR 837-012-0860 (9-11) states that local authorities must postpone or stop fireworks displays if adverse conditions, poor crowd control, or significant weather issues arise that could impact safety. ORS 480.120(2) mandates that state, county, or municipal law enforcement enforce these fireworks statutes.

Download a helpful [roles and authorities graphic here.](#)



PLEASE WELCOME LOIS THAWLEY TO THE OSFM TEAM

Lois Thawley joins the OSFM as a fiscal analyst. She has more than 39 years of public service with 33 years in state government and six years as a budget analyst with Salem Keizer-School District.

Lois enjoys spending time with her husband and two adult daughters, reading, gardening, and exploring new places, which she hopes will expand over the coming years as her oldest daughter will begin teaching overseas next fall.



OREGON PREPARES FOR WILDFIRE SEASON

Oregon State Fire Marshal Mariana Ruiz-Temple and partner agencies briefed the governor's staff on Wednesday, May 15, on the upcoming wildfire season and what the agency has been working on to be better prepared.

Since last fall, the Oregon State Fire Marshal has invested in projects and created new programs to reduce the risk of wildfire in communities across the state. The agency is doing this work through its Fire Adapted Oregon and Response Ready Oregon initiatives that work together to rise to the growing challenge wildfire poses to Oregon communities.

The OSFM, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Oregon fire service have conducted more than 1,549 defensible space assessments, giving homes and communities added protection against wildfire. The OSFM has funded wildfire risk reduction projects in communities across the state.

This summer, the Oregon fire service will have modernized equipment through the OSFM Engine Program which is providing 76 engines and water tenders. This new equipment began arriving in early 2024 and more is expected to arrive through the summer.

These new engines, paired with the 2024 Wildfire Season Staffing Grant to increase firefighters through October, position Oregon in a great spot to carry out our objective of keeping fires small and away from communities.

The OSFM is asking Oregonians and visitors to help firefighters this summer by doing everything they can to prevent wildfires. Learn more about how to be #WildfireAware this summer by logging on to the OSFM's website.



OSFM HOSTS TASK FORCE LEADER SYMPOSIUM

To get prepared for wildfire season, 150 people attended our task force leader symposium in Grand Ronde in mid-May. Those in attendance are the ones called on from the Oregon fire service when we respond to a wildfire or other incidents in our state.

Each year the group gets together to learn how to better protect homes and other buildings, work with air resources, build a solid team, and so much more.



HAZMAT TRUCK AND TRAILER GETS NEW LIFE AT DPSST

On May 21, the OSFM handed over the keys to an older hazmat truck and trailer that was at Salem Fire Department to Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

The agency is going to use it for skid-truck training and will be able to take their training to local fire agencies across the state.

HAZMAT CONFERENCE HELD IN CENTRAL OREGON

The OSFM held its biennial hazardous materials (hazmat) conference in Central Oregon in May, drawing significant attention and participation from various agencies and professionals.

The conference, used to enhance skills and knowledge in dealing with hazardous materials, featured classes with critical training. Alongside these educational sessions, many vendors showcased the latest technology and equipment.

An important kick-off event at the conference was a multi-agency tabletop exercise held on May 28 to prepare for the upcoming November 2024 election. This exercise focused on the increasing threat posed by hazardous materials sent through the mail, particularly targeting U.S. government offices and employees, including election offices. Participants discussed and practiced response strategies for handling suspicious letters, such as those containing white powder or other unknown hazardous materials.

The goal was to ensure that the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams and its partners are well-prepared to respond to these threats.

The conference had 180 participants engaged in educational activities and the "Hazmat Olympics." This event allowed team members to practice their skills in hazmat suits in a series of competitive and practical exercises.



OSFM HOLDS RULEMAKING HEARING ON SELF-SERVE GAS

On Wednesday, May 22, the OSFM held a public hearing on the proposed self-service gasoline rules that were drafted following the passing of House Bill 2426. The amended rules will take effect on June 1. They establish violations and classes. The rules can be [found here](#).

NEW GRANT LAUNCHED

The application period for the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant opened on May 20. This funding is designed to enhance wildfire defensible space across the state, supporting wildfire mitigation projects led by structural fire protection agencies, counties, and cities.

The \$3-million grant will significantly reduce wildfire risks by funding projects to create and maintain defensible space around buildings and critical infrastructure. Grant awards will range between \$50,000 and \$75,000.

The grant focuses on two project types:

- **Defensible Space Projects:** The goal is to protect the first 100 feet around buildings, constituting approximately 70% of grant funds.
- **Community Protection Projects:** These projects extend beyond 100 feet to create fire breaks or lessen wildfire risks community wide.

Applications will be prioritized based on fire risk, social vulnerability, and project clarity.

“By supporting local projects that lessen wildfire risks, we are working together to create a prepared and resilient Oregon,” Oregon State Fire Marshal, Mariana Ruiz-Temple said. “This grant works in concert with our other wildfire programs to move us closer to our goal of keeping fires small and away from communities.”

More information, including the application and a grant manual, can be found on the [OSFM's grants webpage](#).

GET COMFORTABLE WITH **DEFENSIBLE SPACE.**



FIVE SPRING PROJECTS TO CREATE **DEFENSIBLE SPACE:**

- 1** **Remove** leaves, pine needles, and other debris from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck.
- 2** **Trim** tall plants and bushes growing directly under your eaves.
- 3** **Trim** trees and bushes to make sure they have adequate space from your home and other vegetation.
- 4** **Remove** dead and combustible plants and mulch, especially within the first several feet from the home. Replace with decorative rock or gravel.
- 5** **Cover** exterior attic vents, soffit vents, and areas below decks and patios with 1/8" metal wire mesh.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
GET A **FREE ASSESSMENT.**



NEW FOOD TRUCK FIRE NFIRS CODE ISSUED IN OREGON

Recently, there has been much discussion about the best way to consistently and easily capture fire incidents that occur in food trucks, trailers, and carts – both fixed and not.

While there are a few options to choose from in terms of incident type coding, depending on style, mobility, and elements of a fire, the OSFM NFIRS Program coordination team worked with our Oregon Incident Reporting Advisory Commission and FEMA NFIRS to determine a single code recommendation for food truck fire reporting consistency.



It is recommended that NFIRS Incident Type Code 130-Mobile Property (Vehicle) Fire, Other combined with a Mobile Property Type Plus-One Code 211 – Food Cart or Trailer is the best fit for Oregon Fire Service. Beginning July 1, 2024, these codes will provide a straightforward, standardized method for reporting fires involving food trucks, while providing more granularity.

Please remember that variable elements of the fire event can deeply impact the most appropriate incident coding. When in doubt, reach out! The Analytics & Intelligence Unit and NFIRS Program coordination team are here to help.

If you have incident coding questions, contact the NFIRS Program Coordinator Michelle Vold at michelle.vold@osfm.oregon.gov or 503-586-6568.

MOBILE FOOD UNIT SAFETY

The OSFM is working to remind all mobile food unit owners of the January 1, 2025 date to meet the 2022 Oregon Fire Code requirements. These code requirements were adopted after more than three years of partner meetings and public input and will significantly increase the safety of food carts across Oregon.

OSFM deputy state fire marshals have been working with mobile food unit owners and operators to educate them on the requirements and answer questions.

The OSFM created a checklist to help people identify what they need to do. That checklist is available in five languages and can be [downloaded here](#).

JACKSON COUNTY FIRE DIST. #3 TAKES TO THE SKY

Check it out: Jackson County Fire District 3's Battalion Chief's truck (BC3) is now equipped with a rooftop mounted box which houses a tethered drone. The agency says this will enhance its ability to assess and monitor emergencies and conduct search and rescue operations. The manufacturer, Fotokite, is a Swiss and US-based company. The drone can easily be launched, flown, and landed with the push of a single button by the incident commander, eliminating the need for manual piloting or additional personnel to operate.

Fire District 3 says the aerial view provides incident commanders and command staff with a comprehensive view of situations as they unfold to aid in decision making and planning. Live video feed from the drone's dual low-light and infrared cameras is wirelessly transmitted to handheld devices. The tether provides unlimited power and flight time for the kite while freeing up personnel for other assignments. The tethered drone enables real-time monitoring of heat spots, like fire hotspots or body heat during rescue missions, day or night, from directly above the incident command station. The new technology has already been used on several incidents with positive results and feedback. [Check out their video here.](#)



OFCA ANNOUNCES MERITORIOUS AWARDS AT SPRING CONFERENCE

We are ecstatic that two OSFM initiatives received recognition during the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association Conference in early May.

Award of Excellence

The Governor's Fire Service Policy Subcommittee on Behavioral Health and Safety received the Award of Excellence. This group was instrumental in determining firefighters' needs and suggested ways to build a collaborative that helps all fire service members in Oregon. The group focused on important areas like mental health, physical health, cancer prevention, and incident safety. The goal is to create a strong and healthy firefighting community. Chief Brian Stewart led this project, which included members from the Oregon State Fire Marshal, the Oregon fire service, and related industries.

The following members were present to receive the 2024 OFCA Award of Excellence:

Brian Stewart

Clackamas Fire

Julie Olsen

Dept. of Public Safety Standards and Training

Jason Jantzi

Special Districts Association of Oregon

Lance Lighty

Oregon State Fire Marshal

Sam Lashley

Oregon State Fire Marshal

Shawn Olson

Clackamas Fire

Jeff Campbell

Oregon State Fire Fighters Council

Sara Jahnke

National Development and Research Institutes-USA

Jason Servatius

Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association, Evans Valley Fire Department #6

Heather Goodrich

Clackamas Fire

Katy Johnson

Lane Fire

Jeff Williams

Citycounty Insurance Services (CIS)

Mike Vermace

Chaplain

Sara Zavala

Oregon State Fire Marshal

Matt Laas

Oregon State Fire Marshal

Tim Dietz

Responder Be Well

Golden Bugle

The OSFM received the Golden Bugle Award for its work to create wildfire programs funded through Senate Bill 762. These programs involved every part of the agency, including finance, procurement, grants, business services, policy, public affairs, defensible space program, deputy state fire marshals, the Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Unit, Fire & Life Safety Education Division, information technology, the Emergency Response Unit, and the Engine Program. The success of these programs would not have been possible without the dedication of every OSFM team member who worked to keep this agency stable as we transitioned to an independent agency and launched these programs. A huge thanks to Regulatory Services, Human Resources, Business Services, Information Technology, etc. for your steady hand as we grew by the day and continued to build our new agency.

This award shows the dedication of OSFM team members who took a vision and turned that into programs that benefit the Oregon fire service and every Oregonian. The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association President Chris Heppel selected this award and it was presented to the OSFM by the incoming President Chief Oeder.

At the conference, State Fire Marshal Ruiz-Temple swore in the new association board. Board members include:

President

Jim Oeder
Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District

2nd Vice President

Amy Hanifan
McMinnville Fire District

Vice President to the WFOA

Deric Weiss
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Director, Seat 2

Brandon Hamilton
Dundee Fire Department

Director, Seat 4

Patrick Fale
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Director Seat 6

Jeff Blake
Fire Chief Jefferson County Fire & EMS

1st Vice President

Devon Brown
Medford Fire Department

Past President

Chris Heppel
Eugene Springfield Fire

Director, Seat 1

Brian Stewart
Clackamas Fire District

Director, Seat 3

Michael Hussey
Jackson County Fire District 3

Director, Seat 5

Lance Lighty
Junction City Rural Fire Protection District



OFCA ANNOUNCES MERITORIOUS AWARDS AT SPRING CONFERENCE



OFMA HOLDS ANNUAL CONFERENCE, SWEARS IN NEW BOARD

The week of May 20, the Oregon Fire Marshals Association hosted their annual conference at Eagle Crest in Central Oregon.

The OSFM offered several presentations to the group, from our education efforts to the Oregon fire code.

The work fire marshals do in communities around the state is invaluable, from fire investigations to fire safety. We can't say thank you enough. We were honored to swear in their new board and congratulate Craig Andresen, the new association president.

Together we're working to make Oregon a safer place for all.

STEVE TAKIS JOINS OSFM AS DEPUTY STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Steve Takis joins the OSFM as a deputy state fire marshal for Coos County. After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Marine Corps, Steve began his nearly 23-year fire service career as a reserve firefighter with Rural Metro Fire Department in Josephine County. He was then hired by the Coos Bay Fire Department where he promoted to the rank of battalion chief. Steve has a bachelor's degree from Waldorf University with majors in business administration and fire administration and associate degrees in fire science and paramedicine. Steve has been married to his wife Kelle for 11 years and they have three children. Steve and his family enjoy camping throughout Oregon year-round with their extended family and friends.





FROM THE INTERNET

In May, Monitor Fire District had a burn to learn. These burn-to-learn trainings help firefighters practice in a more controlled setting so they are prepared for a real fire. Check out more of [their pictures here](#).

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

The Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District, Black Butte Ranch Fire, Cloverdale Fire, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Sisters Ranger District participated in a joint training focused on hose pack deployment, hand line construction, engine/apparatus familiarization, wildland-urban interface (triage, structure preparation, and “bump and roll” tactics) in May.

An afternoon session was focused on air ambulance operations and capabilities.

The goal of the joint training was to familiarize the five agencies with distinctions in how each operates, build rapport and relationships, and share knowledge and experience in their differing areas of expertise.

Check out the [post here](#).



REGISTER TODAY FOR UPCOMING FIRE CODE CLASS

Do you or your staff conduct fire inspections? We have a great 8-hour free training opportunity next Thursday, June 6 at our headquarters in Salem!

This class is a high-level overview of the changes in the 2022 Oregon Fire Code and introduces fire chiefs, fire marshals, fire inspectors, and building officials to the fire code official's responsibilities within an engaging format.

Help us spread the word to fill a few more seats.

[Read more and register here.](#)



AMOS SELECTED TO SERVE ON STRUCTURAL SPECIALTY CODE SUBCOMMITTEE



Deputy State Fire Marshal Matt Amos was recently selected as an Oregon Structural Specialty Code subcommittee member, which reports to the Oregon Structures Board. He will fill and represent the fire service position on the committee. This committee is part of the Building Codes Division, responsible for the Oregon Structural Specialty Code.

The Oregon Structural Specialty Code establishes the minimum requirements for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, and repair of buildings and other structures, as well as the installation of mechanical devices and equipment.

Amos was selected by the board through an application process.

JOIN THE OSFM **SMOKE ALARM** INSTALLATION PROGRAM



Is your agency interested in joining the OSFM's Smoke Alarm Installation Program? The program provides smoke alarms to Oregon fire agencies to install in homes that do not have them.

There are several opportunities to learn more about the program during free webinars. Participants will learn about program eligibility and requirements, smoke alarms and installation information, project planning and ideas, and safety materials available to order. The one-hour live webinar training is required for fire agencies to participate in the program.

Click the dates below to register.

June 27, 2024



CONTACT US

Have a story idea or something you would like to know more about?

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