



OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

July Wildfires 2021 Talking points: Draft July 13, 2021

Unseasonal hot and dry conditions have created an early fire season amidst severe drought in Oregon. Currently, several active wildfires are burning across the state; the Bootleg Fire is the largest fire in the nation right now, covering more than 200,000 acres and is 0% contained. On July 12, 2021, the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) activated the state Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) to monitor wildfire activity and facilitate information sharing and resource coordination.

- Several state agencies and emergency management partners are actively engaged in providing support for firefighting and response needs.
- Level 1, 2 and 3 evacuation orders are in place in multiple counties.
- Known critical infrastructure impacts include power lines that serve Oregon and California.
- Resources providing support through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) have been requested from Washington state.

KEY MESSAGES

Emergency alerts

Know what alert systems are used in your area; opt in to any and all that can provide you with important safety information. Make the best choice to keep you and your family safe. If you feel unsafe, evacuate!

Have an emergency plan and kit

Include items (food, water and personal items) that will sustain you for at least two weeks; keep in an easy-to-access location.

- Have a family plan with meeting places and multiple communication plans.
- Designate an out-of-state contact. Local phone lines may be bogged down, but a long-distance call may go through.

Know the Oregon evacuation levels and heed the advice of emergency management officials

- **Level 1: Be Ready.** There is an incident in the area; be aware of the danger. Monitor media outlets for information and gather items in case an evacuation is issued.
- **Level 2: Be Set.** There is significant danger in the area; leave voluntarily or be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. If conditions deteriorate rapidly, emergency services cannot guarantee they will be able to provide notification.

- **Level 3: Go!** Danger is current or imminent and residents should evacuate immediately.
- **If at any time you feel unsafe, evacuate; do not wait for an alert or notification.**

Be aware of smoke levels

When smoke levels are high, keep windows closed and use air circulation features on home and vehicle heating/cooling units. Do not burn anything that decreases air quality such as candles, fireplaces or gas stoves.

- Wildfire smoke can have negative health impacts on eyes, throat and lungs; worsening respiratory symptoms can occur in people with underlying lung disease like asthma and pulmonary inflammation.
- Check [Oregon DEQ Air Quality](#) for information.

Fire prevention

Everyone has a role to play in mitigating wildfire. Think before you strike a match, flick your cigarette, or use equipment that can cast sparks, and always have tools on hand to put a fire out. End the trend and help [Keep Oregon Green](#).

- Know before you go. During fire season, campfires may be prohibited outside of maintained campgrounds with established fire pits. Always contact the forest district/agency or landowner first to learn if there are any current campfire restrictions where you plan to recreate.
- Only drive on paved roads; maintain clean exhaust systems and spark arrestors.
- Create defensible space (30 ft. perimeter) around your home, free of combustible material.
- Call your local fire agency or air authority before you burn.
- Keep fire extinguishers or water-charged hose close by.

After a wildfire

Return home only after officials have deemed it safe. Check your home (including the attic) for embers as winds may have blown them inside.

RESOURCES

- [Oregon Dept of Forestry](#) fire information and statistics
- [OSFM social media](#)
- [OEM Facebook](#); [OEM Twitter](#)
- [OEM Hazard Overview Dashboard](#) (click on Wildfire layer)
- [Bootleg Fire Facebook page](#)
- [Oregon State Fire Marshal Facebook](#)
- [Keep Oregon Green](#)