

# House Bill 2555

Sponsored by Representative LIM

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires Office of Emergency Management to coordinate multicounty search and rescue activities.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to multicounty search and rescue activities; creating new provisions; and amending ORS  
3 401.025, 401.550 and 401.560.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 401.025 is amended to read:

6 401.025. As used in ORS 401.015 to 401.105, 401.260 to 401.325 and 401.355 to 401.580, unless the  
7 context requires otherwise:

8 (1) "Beneficiary" has the meaning given that term in ORS 656.005.

9 (2) "Commission" means the Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission established under ORS  
10 401.337.

11 (3) "Emergency" includes any human caused or natural event or circumstance causing or  
12 threatening loss of life, injury to person or property, human suffering or financial loss, and includes,  
13 but is not limited to, fire, explosion, flood, severe weather, drought, earthquake, volcanic activity,  
14 spills or releases of oil or hazardous material as defined in ORS 466.605, contamination, utility or  
15 transportation emergencies, disease, blight, infestation, crisis influx of migrants unmanageable by  
16 the county, civil disturbance, riot, sabotage and war.

17 (4) "Emergency management agency" means an organization created and authorized under ORS  
18 401.015 to 401.105, 401.260 to 401.325 and 401.355 to 401.580 by the state, county or city to provide  
19 for and [*assure*] **ensure** the conduct and coordination of functions for comprehensive emergency  
20 program management.

21 (5) "Emergency program management" includes all the tasks and activities necessary to provide,  
22 support and maintain the ability of the emergency services system to prevent or reduce the impact  
23 of emergency or disaster conditions which includes, but is not limited to, coordinating development  
24 of plans, procedures, policies, fiscal management, coordination with nongovernmental agencies and  
25 organizations, providing for a coordinated communications and alert and notification network and  
26 a public information system, personnel training and development and implementation of exercises to  
27 routinely test the emergency services system.

28 (6) "Emergency program manager" means the person administering the emergency management  
29 agency of a county or city.

30 (7) "Emergency service agency" means an organization within a local government which per-  
31 forms essential services for the public's benefit prior to, during or following an emergency. This in-

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 cludes, but is not limited to, organizational units within local governments, such as law enforcement,  
 2 fire control, health, medical and sanitation services, public works and engineering, public informa-  
 3 tion and communications.

4 (8) “Emergency service worker” means an individual who, under the direction of an emergency  
 5 service agency or emergency management agency, performs emergency services and:

6 (a) Is a registered volunteer or independently volunteers to serve without compensation and is  
 7 accepted by the Office of Emergency Management or the emergency management agency of a county  
 8 or city; or

9 (b) Is a member of the Oregon State Defense Force acting in support of the emergency services  
 10 system.

11 (9) “Emergency services” includes those activities provided by state and local government  
 12 agencies with emergency operational responsibilities to prepare for and carry out any activity to  
 13 prevent, minimize, respond to or recover from an emergency. These activities include, without limi-  
 14 tation, coordination, preparedness planning, training, interagency liaison, fire fighting, oil or haz-  
 15 ardous material spill or release cleanup as defined in ORS 466.605, law enforcement, medical, health  
 16 and sanitation services, engineering and public works, search and rescue activities, warning and  
 17 public information, damage assessment, administration and fiscal management, and those measures  
 18 defined as “civil defense” in section 3 of the Act of January 12, 1951, P.L. 81-920 (50 U.S.C. 2252).

19 (10) “Emergency services system” means that system composed of all agencies and organizations  
 20 involved in the coordinated delivery of emergency services.

21 (11) “Injury” means any personal injury sustained by an emergency service worker by accident,  
 22 disease or infection arising out of and in the course of emergency services or death resulting  
 23 proximately from the performance of emergency services.

24 (12) “Local government” means any governmental entity authorized by the laws of this state.

25 (13) “Major disaster” means any event defined as a “major disaster” under 42 U.S.C. 5122(2).

26 (14) **“Multicounty search and rescue activities” means search and rescue activities that:**

27 **(a) Occur in a search area that includes territory located within the jurisdictional**  
 28 **boundaries of three or more contiguous counties; or**

29 **(b) Involve the search and rescue agencies of three or more counties.**

30 [(14)] (15) “Oregon emergency management plan” means the state emergency preparedness op-  
 31 erations and management plan. The Office of Emergency Management is responsible for coordinating  
 32 emergency planning with government agencies and private organizations, preparing the plan for the  
 33 Governor’s signature, and maintaining and updating the plan as necessary.

34 [(15)] (16) “Search and rescue” means the acts of searching for, rescuing or recovering, by  
 35 means of ground or marine activity, any person who is lost, injured or killed while out of doors.  
 36 However, “search and rescue” does not include air activity in conflict with the activities carried  
 37 out by the Oregon Department of Aviation.

38 [(16)] (17) “Sheriff” means the chief law enforcement officer of a county.

39 **SECTION 2.** ORS 401.550 is amended to read:

40 401.550. The Director of the Office of Emergency Management shall appoint a Search and Res-  
 41 cue Coordinator to:

42 (1) Coordinate the search and rescue function of the Office of Emergency Management;

43 (2) Coordinate the activities of:

44 (a) State and federal agencies involved in search and rescue; **and**

45 (b) **Emergency management agencies involved in multicounty search and rescue activ-**

1 **ities;**

2 (3) Establish liaison with the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association and other public and private  
3 organizations and agencies involved in **single county and multicounty** search and rescue **activ-**  
4 **ities;**

5 (4) **Maintain a current list of the officials responsible for search and rescue activities**  
6 **within each county and make the list available to county sheriffs and to emergency program**  
7 **managers;**

8 [(4)] (5) Provide on-scene search and rescue [coordination when requested by an authorized per-  
9 son;

10 [(5)] (6) Coordinate and process requests for the use of emergency service workers and equip-  
11 ment;

12 [(6)] (7) Assist in developing training and outdoor education programs;

13 [(7)] (8) Gather statistics in search and rescue operations; and

14 [(8)] (9) Gather and disseminate resource information of personnel, equipment and materials  
15 available for search and rescue.

16 **SECTION 3.** ORS 401.560 is amended to read:

17 401.560. (1) The sheriff of each county has the responsibility for search and rescue activities  
18 within the county, **subject to coordination by the Search and Rescue Coordinator under ORS**  
19 **401.550** (2). The duty of a sheriff under this subsection may be delegated to a qualified deputy or  
20 emergency service worker.

21 (2) If the sheriff does not accept the responsibility for search and rescue activities, the chief  
22 executive of the county shall designate the county emergency program manager to perform the du-  
23 ties and responsibilities required under ORS 401.015 to 401.105, 401.260 to 401.325 and 401.355 to  
24 401.580.

25 (3) The sheriff or authorized person of each county shall notify the Office of Emergency Man-  
26 agement of each search and rescue in the county and shall request the assignment of incident  
27 numbers therefor.

28 (4) The sheriff or authorized person of each county shall work with the county emergency pro-  
29 gram manager in coordinating search and rescue activities in the county of the sheriff and in reg-  
30 istering emergency service workers.

31 **SECTION 4.** **The Office of Emergency Management shall establish guidelines or create**  
32 **model policies relating to multicounty search and rescue activities as defined in ORS 401.025.**  
33 **At a minimum, the guidelines or policies must include the information required by ORS**  
34 **401.573** (1).

35 **SECTION 5.** **Not later than one year after the effective date of this 2007 Act, the Office**  
36 **of Emergency Management shall adopt policies that provide direction for and identify and**  
37 **define issues involved in multicounty search and rescue activities as defined in ORS 401.025.**  
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