



## **Funding Wildfire Suppression, Prevention and Preparation – January 2021 Emergency Board Action**

*Oregon's Emergency Board must take action in January to prepare Oregon for the 2021 wildfire season.*

Investments for the Special Purpose Appropriation designated during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of 2020 for wildfire are critical for the Oregon Department of Forestry and Office of the State Fire Marshal to protect Oregon's communities, citizens, businesses and wildland including forest land. Oregon's Fire Service, including the 305 fire departments statewide, are a part of Oregon's coordinated response to wildfire as well as prevention and suppression.

Through work with the Governor's Wildfire Council, key stakeholders and state agencies, \$40 million has been recommended to meet the needs of the Office of the State Fire Marshall and Oregon Department of Forestry for wildfire preparedness, wildfire air attack/response, boots on the ground, fire adapted communities, resilient landscapes, suppression and response. However, as we are six months from the end of the 2019-21 biennium, **the request for the January Emergency Board is \$17 Million from the Wildfire Special Purpose Appropriation for:**

- **\$4m to the Office of the State Fire Marshal**
  - **\$2m for OSFM capacity.** This capacity will increase boots on ground for fire response, community preparedness, communications and safety response capacity, fire leadership, support for the incident management teams and fire prevention strategies for local communities.
  - **\$2m for Fire Service wildfire response.** Increase mobilization readiness, personal protective equipment, and preventative measures. Funds will also be used to support fire departments impacted by the wildfires of 2020, with fire suppression equipment, training, personal protective equipment and costs incurred by fire departments to stabilize after the wildfires.
- **\$13m for Oregon Department of Forestry for wildfire related investments**

It is important to fund these requests in January **AND** support the complete request for wildfire funding in the 2021-23 base agency budget to ensure Oregon's coordinated response to wildfire is prepared for the upcoming season. As we saw in 2020, we cannot wait. **Investments are needed now and in the 2021-23 Biennium to be ready to protect our state.**

Oregon's Fire Service, rural and urban, responds to over 12,000 fire incidents a year and provides other critical lifesaving services including wildfire response, EMS response, emergency response including earthquakes and floods and now – COVID response and vaccine administration in some areas. Our job is to protect Oregon. We need your help to continue that mission as we prepare for the 2021 Wildfire Season.

**The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association asks for your support for the January 2021 Emergency Board allocation for wildfire response.**

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