

## **HB 2780. Fire Department Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems – Tools to Expand Emergency Response Effectiveness**

In Oregon, fire departments use multiple tools to safely and effectively respond to emergency incidents for the purposes of protecting life and property. One such tool is an unmanned aircraft system (UAS), more commonly referred to as a drone.

Depending on the emergency, an incident commander may not be able to determine the full size and scope of the area of engagement from their location. This is often the case during wildfires where topography limits the visual field. An UAS can provide commanders valuable aerial imagery for incident size up and ongoing situational status assessment throughout the course of an emergency event.

UAS are used during search and rescue, hazardous materials response, significant commercial fires, and wildland fires. An UAS also assist with preventing or reducing the effects of emergency incidents in the first place by providing valuable aerial imaging for pre-planning, wildfire mitigation, and fire investigation.

HB 2780 strengthens the fire department response system by clearly identifying the intended use of an UAS and the benefits of such use for the protection of life and property.

*For more information, please contact:*

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