



Senate Interim Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

December 8, 2022

Doug Grafe, Wildfire Programs Director

Mark Bennett, Wildfire Programs Advisory Council Chair

Cal Mukumoto, State Forester

Mariana Ruiz-Temple, State Fire Marshal

Andrew Stolfi, Insurance Commissioner





Wildfire Programs Advisory Council

Governor of Oregon : Wildfire Programs Advisory Council : Policies : State of Oregon

Council Established: September 2021

- 19 members appointed by legislature
- Broad perspective state-wide with regional diversity
- Election Chair & Vice Chair annually
- Staff support from Director Grafe, ODF, DLCD and DCBS
- 2021-2022: Seven Meetings: Nov, Jan, April, July, Aug, September, December
- 2023 Quarterly Meetings set: Jan, April, July, Oct

Council Annual Report: November 2022

- Report supported by OSU Extension
- Three working groups established
- Interviewed 11 Implementation Agencies
- Recommendation by Agency & by Themes
 - Outreach Education Engagement
 - Interagency & Partner Collaboration
 - Sustainable Funding / Investment
 - Prioritization
- DLCD report addendum completed Dec 2



Presentation to the Senate Interim Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

December 8, 2022

2022 fire statistics

2022 Year To Date		
	Fires	Acres
Lightning	219	32,187
Human (and UI)	625	1,918
Total	844	34,105

10-Year Average (2012-2021 Year To Date)		
	Fires	Acres
Lightning	256	49,416
Human	740	68,416
Total	996	117,895

As of Oct. 24, 2022

96% fires kept to 10 acres or less in 2022



2022 vs 10-year average



- 17% less fires
- 3.5x less acres burned



Successes

- Prevention
- Early detection
- Aviation
- Aggressive initial attack





Landscape Resiliency Program

- \$20 million General Fund
- 9 landscape-scale projects
- Projects planned to treat 209,229 acres





Small Forestland Grant Program

\$5 million General Fund to:

- 23 projects supporting over 600 landowners to treat nearly 4,000 acres
- 20 Firewise communities to treat 2,000 acres



20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy

Used to prioritize restoration actions and geographies for wildfire risk reduction and to direct federal, state, and private investments.

Developed through a shared stewardship governance structure and engagement with tribes, state level stakeholders, and regional (local) stakeholders.

Implemented and refined over the next 20 years through shared stewardship.

Senate Interim Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Oregon Community Risk Reduction Program Update

Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal
December 8th, 2022

Mariana Ruiz-Temple
State Fire Marshal, OSFM



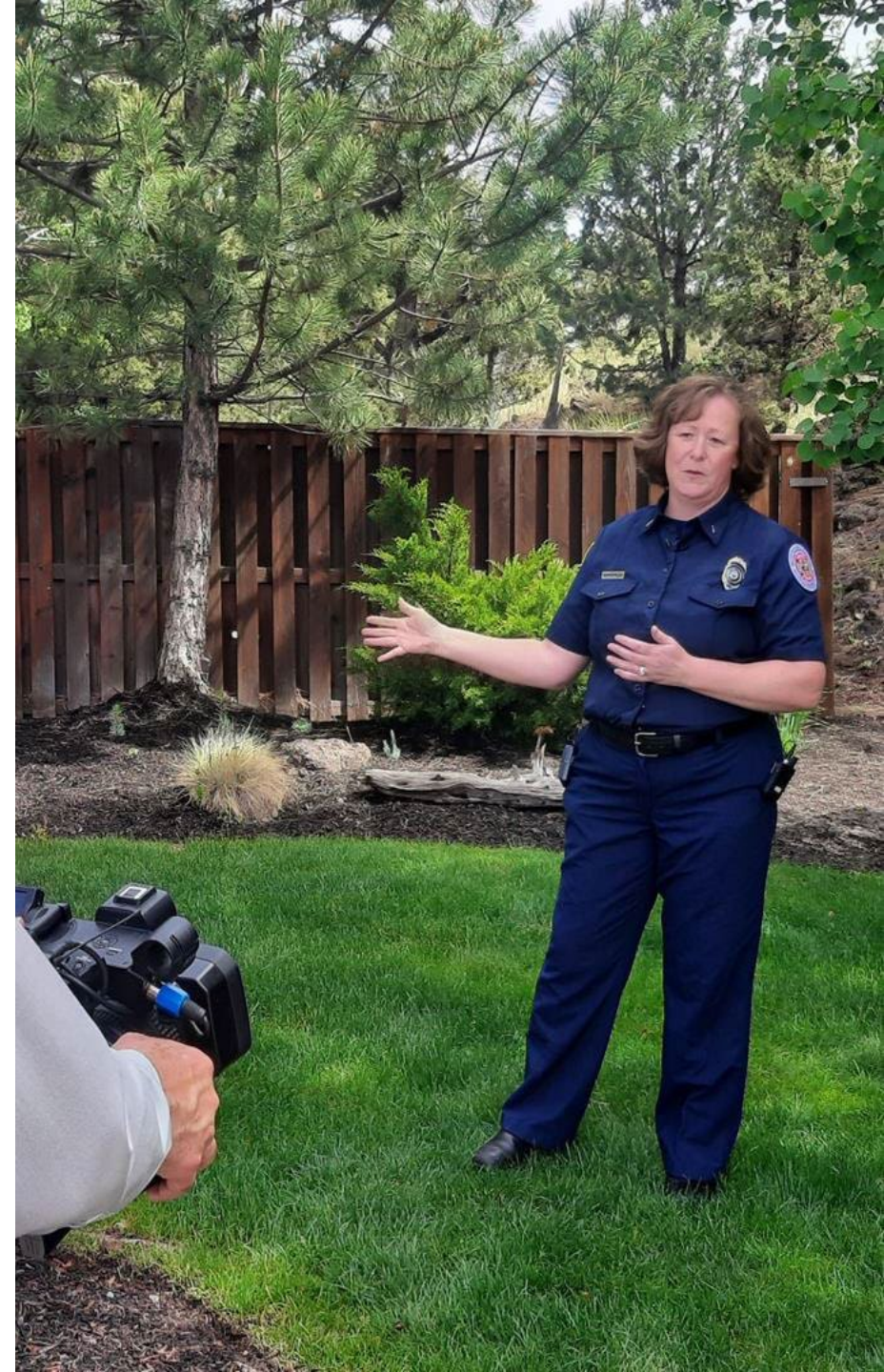
A photograph of a park with several trees and a grassy area. The trees are in the foreground and middle ground, with a grassy field extending into the background. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

Oregon Community Risk Reduction Program

- OSFM mandated to create a statewide Community Risk Reduction Program
- Build a comprehensive program to align agency work
- Will continue to bolster strong partnerships with SB 762 implementing agencies

Oregon Community Risk Reduction Program Accomplishments to Date

- Created Fire Adapted Oregon Initiative and a website.
- Established a regional approach
 - 7 Community Risk Reduction regions to work with local partners to create and promote fire-adapted communities
 - 23 Deputy State Fire Marshal regions to amplify the Oregon Defensible Space Program





Oregon Community Risk Reduction Program Accomplishments to Date

- Hosted national defensible space trainings in 11 communities, plus 145 educational events.
- National Fire Adapted Communities Network membership
- Created a grant program
- Community wildfire protection plan (CWPP) pilot project
- Finalizing a property assessment tool



OSFM Community Risk Reduction Program

Grant Opportunities

Wildland-Urban Interface Readiness Grant	Closed - \$4.3 million awarded
Defensible Space Incentive Grant	Closed - \$271,000 awarded
Wildfire Season Staffing Grant	Closed - \$6 million awarded
Wildfire Training Program	Closed - \$250,000 awarded
Engine Program	Closed - \$25 million
Oregon Fire Service Capacity Program	Closed - \$12 million
Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant	Winter 2022/2023
Tribal Investments	Winter 2022/2023
Wildland-Urban Interface 2.0 Grant	Spring 2023
Defensible Space - Public Assistance Grant	Spring 2023

Defensible Space Guideline Development

- Stakeholder and public engagement began February 2022.
- Created Best Management Practices workgroup with 15 subject matter experts in June 2022.
- Hosted 20 townhalls, 17 in person and 3 virtual attended by over 2100 Oregonians.
- The guidelines are in the final draft stage.
- OSFM will finalize through rulemaking and public input before the guidelines are codified.



Defensible Space Assessment

- Create a standard for Oregon
- Used for an education rather than regulation
- Will be used in conjunction with local programs
- Can be completed by landowner or used to guide a site visit with a fire professional
- Available in both hardcopy and virtually

OREGON DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSESSMENT



- 1 Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from powerlines.
- 2 Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from buildings and chimneys.
- 3 For trees and vegetation more than 18 feet tall, limb branches six feet from the ground.
For trees and vegetation less than 18 feet tall, remove branches up to 1/3 the height of the tree.
- 4 Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from other trees.

LIMBING TREES



POWER LINES



Removing or trimming trees near powerlines is dangerous. Only use an experienced, licensed contractor to perform this work.

CHECKLIST DEFENSIBLE SPACE

DATE _____

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

DEFINITIONS

DEFENSIBLE SPACE: Any area where combustible materials are treated, cleared, or modified to slow and reduce intensity of wildfire and allow space for fire suppression operations to occur.

FIRE RESISTIVE-PLANTS: Plants that can be used to reduce the likelihood of fire spread. See OSU's guide on page 1 for characteristics of fire-resistive plants.

LADDER FUEL: Low-hanging branches, leaves, needles, and other combustible plant matter that may allow wildfire to spread from low-growing plants to high-growing plants.

MEETS REC PROVIDED DEFENSIBLE SPACE (100 ft out from the structure OR to property line, whichever is closer)

- Flammable vegetation is removed from growing directly under the eaves. A minimum of five feet from the structure is recommended.
- Leaves, conifer needles, deadwood, bark mulch, and other debris removed from the surface of, around, and below decks and fences.
- Trees spaced and pruned following the example on page 2.
- Leaves, conifer needles, deadwood, bark mulch, and other debris removed from within 100 feet of the structure or to the property line.
- Fire-resistive plants are spaced within the designated defensible space area. Grass mowed to under four inches.
- Firewood piles and lumber at least 30 feet from any structure.
- Combustible vegetation 10 feet away from permanent propane tanks.
- Small BBQ tanks, not in use, are stored at least 30 feet away or in an outbuilding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CHECKLIST DEFENSIBLE SPACE

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Roofs and gutters are clean from leaves, conifer needles, and other debris.
- Exterior attic vents, soffit vents, and areas below combustible decks are covered with 1/8" metal wire mesh.
- Siding and skirting are in good condition.
- Fence attachments have a non-combustible alternative such as a metal gate or fence, five feet away from the home.
- Debris taken to a recycling center or chipped/composted. Local regulations are followed if burning yard debris.
- The driveway is accessible to first responders (e.g., clear of debris and obstructions; meets local height and width requirements; clearly marked road signs, bridges, & culverts).
- The home has an address sign at the entrance to the property.

IF MAKING HOME CHANGES OR UPGRADES, CONSIDER:

- Roof:** Install a fire-resistant or noncombustible roof made of materials such as asphalt, metal, clay tile, slate, or concrete products.
- Siding:** Install noncombustible or ignition-resistant siding such as brick, stone, fiber cement, plaster, or metal.
- Fencing:** Install a 5-foot fire-resistant buffer such as metal fencing or other non-flammable material when replacing fencing within five feet of a home or structure.

ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY:

NAME OF ASSESSOR _____

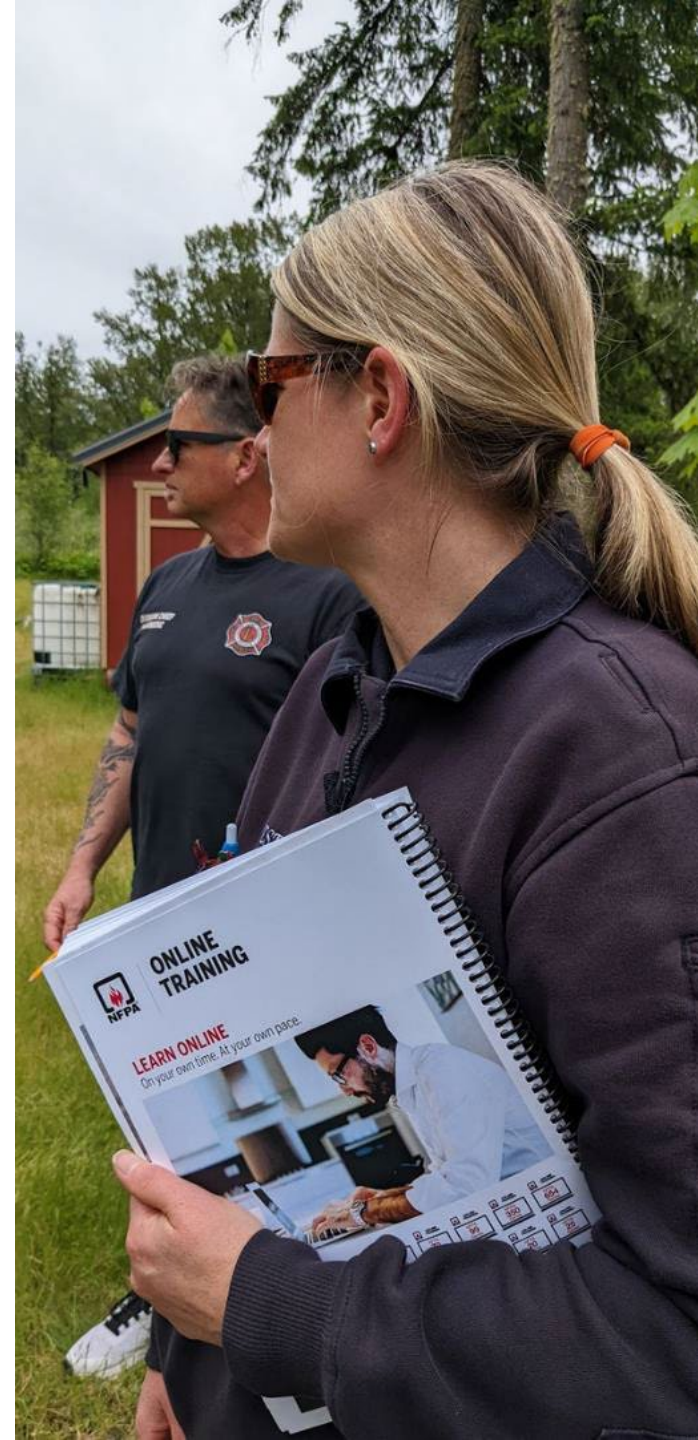
AGENCY _____

CONTACT INFORMATION



Oregon Community Risk Reduction Program in the future

- Plan and host an executive summit
- Recognize and implement a statewide educational campaign for Community Risk Reduction Week in January 2023
- Roll out assessment tool during first quarter 2023 for and within communities and identify opportunities for technology
- Continue Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) pilot investment projects
- Launch public assistance grant
- Provide public education campaign focused on defensible space



Wildfire and Insurance Updates

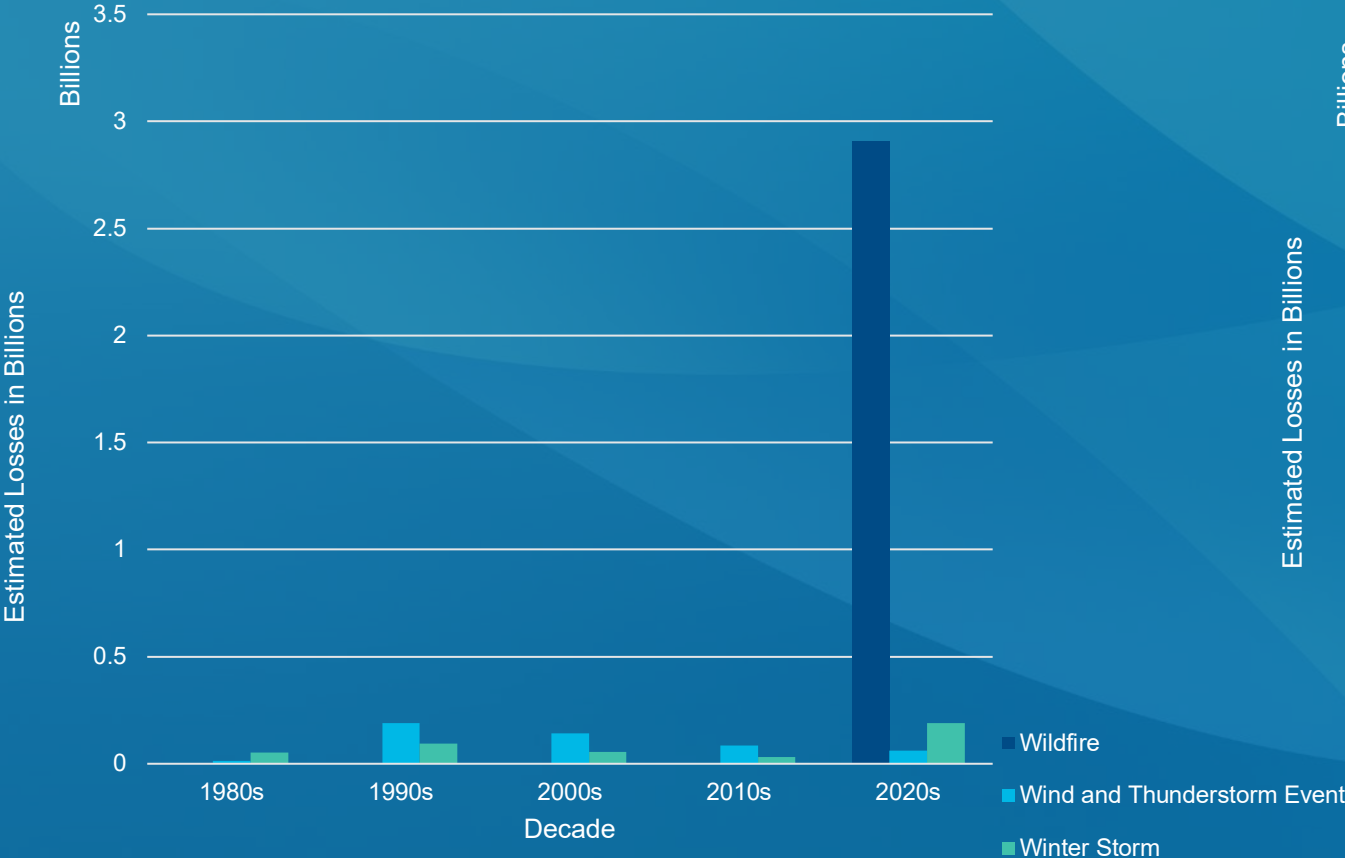
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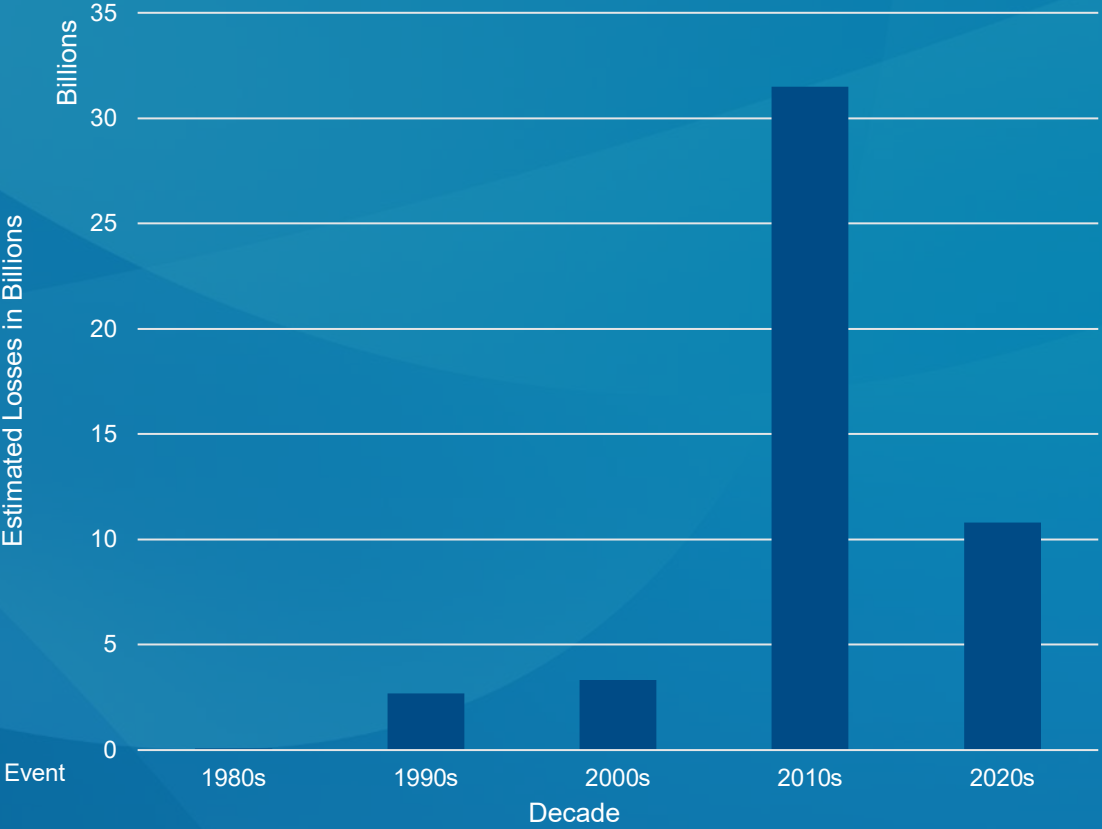
Department of Consumer
and Business Services

Increased wildfire risk

Oregon Catastrophe Activity



California Wildfire Losses



Bulletin No. DFR 2022-3

- Directed insurers to extend rebuild/replace timelines to at least 9/30/23 or provide an adequate explanation to the division for any policyholder not being granted an extension
- Timelines extended for policyholders who have (1) acted with good faith and reasonable diligence and (2) encountered a delay or delays in the reconstruction process that are a result of circumstances beyond their control
- Insurers not extending timelines must provide ongoing reports to the division on active claims

Ensuring compliance – exams and analysis

- The division conducts both market conduct exams and market analysis inquiries, which operate differently
- HB 3272 (2021) market conduct exam schedule:
 - One report finalized in November
 - Three exams completed in November; reports being finalized
 - One exam in process
 - Two exams scheduled February 2023

Ensuring compliance – consumer advocacy and outreach

- 216 total 2020 wildfire related complaints received
 - 192 complaints have been resolved
 - 24 complaints are still open
-
- Robust, competitive market
 - Contact DFR with any questions

2023 wildfire concept

- FAIR Plan coverage limit increases; plan changes
- Legislative concept
 - Improved consumer disclosure requirements
 - Incorporating defensible space and home hardening efforts into both rating and underwriting criteria
 - Flexibility to extend rebuild timelines
- Ongoing, robust stakeholder engagement on both components



Thank you

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