

**From:** [Rebecca Williams](#)  
**To:** [HWREC Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Wildfire Testimony- Southern Oregon  
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Hi!

This has been really hard to discuss. And as I think about the story I want to convey rather than telling the whole thing. I wish to convey the following.

Southern Oregon does not have a comprehensive emergency plan where community members are trained to help guide others and where to seek help. The fairgrounds were quickly overrun and at capacity and were not prepared to serve people.

It took way too long for assistance to get to the area. People are still needing assistance.

There need to be backup systems on backup systems for notifications.

It sounds like with the weather patterns at that time, that everyone from weather people to environmental experts to the fire and rescue knew this was going to be a problem 10 days before it happened.

An appropriate leadership response would have been to start prepping and getting the National Guard in immediately to prepare rescue locations, water, food, and cut down brush.

Brush preparation needs to be mandatory annually across the state. Train volunteers, local communities, bring in fire and brush teams to analyze what needs to be done and project manage what needs to be done before the season begins. This can begin after summers all FALL and WINTER AND SPRING to prep for the 3-4 months of fire season. We need a more cohesive plan to prepare.

And to back up what other people are saying, I HAD NO WARNING. The only warning I got was I was not allowed back to my house. Absolutely ridiculous to have to lose everything. knowing what to do 10 days beforehand, I would have packed and prepped moved important things.

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