

Presentation to the House Interim Committee on
Veterans and Emergency Management

ODHS Office of Resilience & Emergency Management

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Office of Resilience and Emergency Management

- ODHS plays a crucial role as part of a larger system
 - Responsible under state laws and plans
- We invest in, and enable, local action through public and private partnerships
- We address inequity by working across Oregon to assist local partners
- We work before, during, and after disasters



4 key functions

- Mass care
- Emergency assistance
- Human services
- Stabilization

Guiding principles

- Natural disasters are policy failures that accelerate pre-existing trends and increase inequities
- Incidents disproportionately impact some communities. All efforts need to be equity focused
- Emphasis on communication with survivors in a linguistically and culturally appropriate way
- Partner with local jurisdictions and community-based organizations (CBOs) that are best suited to support the needs of survivors

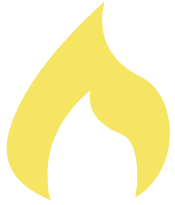


Warming shelters

- Newest mission
- In December, we fulfilled requests from local governments to help staff shelters in Clackamas, Jackson, Multnomah and Washington Counties
- Our field team filled 90 shifts, including 23 as the person in charge (Dec. 26 – Jan. 2)



Wildfire sheltering



Challenges

- 4040 homes destroyed in 2020
- COVID-19
- Disproportionate impact
- Dearth of interim and long-term affordable housing
- Hundreds remain in shelter as 2021 wildfires begin



What we've done

- As of Jan. 8, **4,386 families** sheltered from the 2020 wildfires
- **25 families** sheltered from the 2021 wildfires
- More than 1.4 million meals delivered
- Shelter liaisons
- Recovery planning



Partnerships

- Disaster case management and social service integration and support
- Multi-agency partnerships
- Support local communities
- Develop housing options

COVID

Hospital decompression

- **COVID impacts**
 - Overwhelmed hospitals
 - Outbreaks and staffing challenges in long-term care facilities
 - Patients are waiting for discharge
- **Shelter role**
 - Provide non-congregate shelter to ease hospital overcrowding when patients can't go home or have no home, but don't need long-term care
 - Reserve hotel rooms in high-census counties at request
 - Sheltering 2 in Coos County, 3 in Marion County

Isolation and quarantine

- **Houseless persons**
 - Need safe location
- **Shelter role**
 - Hotel shelter, other options sometimes needed

Afghan refugees

- ODHS role: Provide initial temporary shelter for those who need it
- The number of Afghan refugees continues to increase and rotate out as Resettlement Agencies find them temporary or permanent housing
- Current profile is 194 people
- Total to date: 93 families, 272 people

POLITICS

Oregon Legislature approves \$18 million in additional support for Afghan refugee resettlement

[Dianne Lugo](#) Salem Statesman Journal

Published 7:00 a.m. PT Dec. 15, 2021

- ODHS is adding more hotel contracts to ensure availability
- Recruiting shelter liaisons with Dari and Pashto language skills

Moving forward

- We must:
 - Continue to work before, during and after disasters – we can't wait for disasters to happen then react – we learned that lesson from the 2020 Labor Day fires
 - Plan mass care and sheltering response for the inevitable Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake
 - Invest in, and enable, local action through public and private partnerships
 - Address inequity by working across Oregon to assist local partners
 - Continue to work with local partners and others to transition people out of shelter to intermediate and permanent housing options