

Presentation to the House Interim Committee  
on Early Childhood and Human Services

# Office of Resilience and Emergency Management

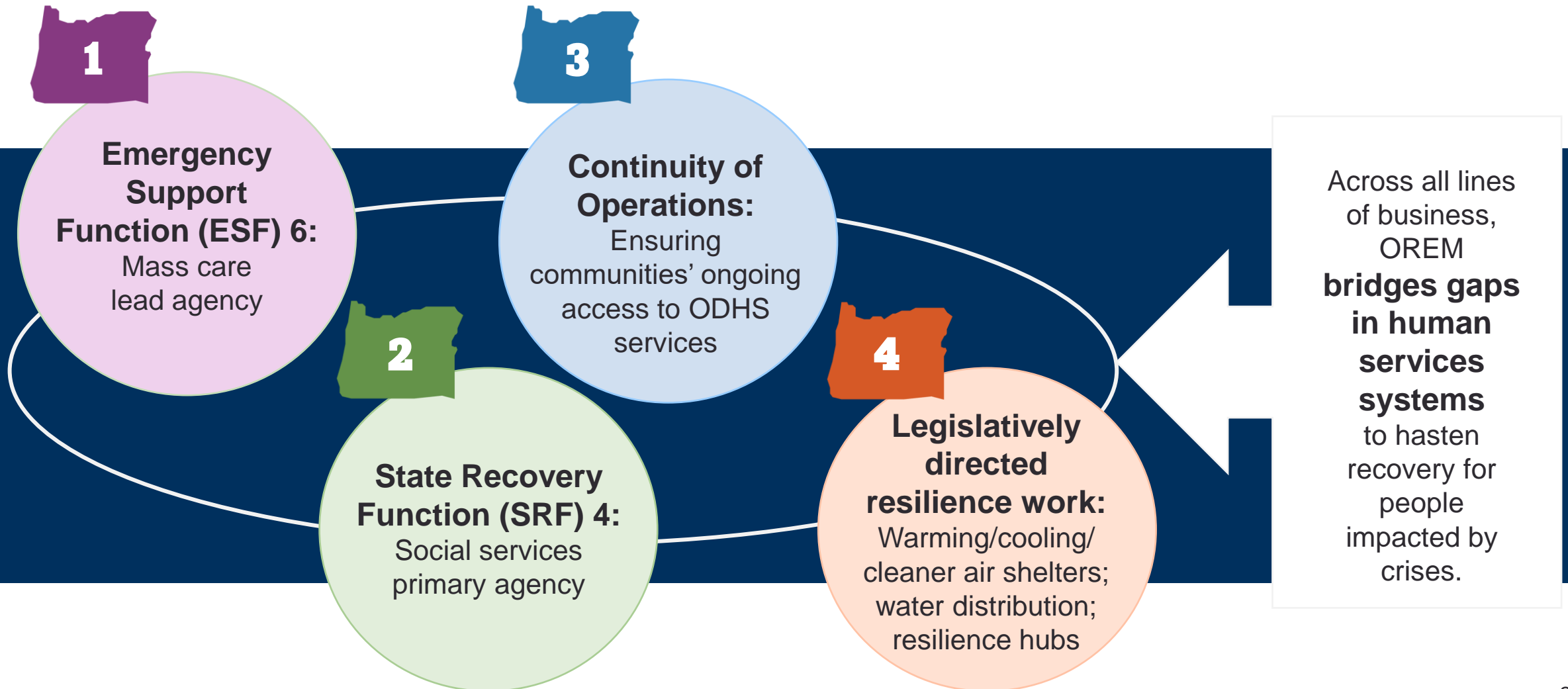
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# OREM's primary lines of business



# Bridging gaps

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- **Agency alignment**

OREM works across ODHS programs to serve people holistically – where they are and in the ways they need.

- **Systems alignment**

We work with coordinated care organizations, community action agencies, community-based organizations, ODHS programs, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Oregon Health Authority to ensure everyone can access the supports they need to prepare for and recover quickly from hazard incidents.



# Gaps in our systems = barriers to recovery

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The state's **emergency functions** have not met **the needs of communities** most impacted by emergencies and disasters.

**Local jurisdictions** have **limited capacity** to keep these communities safe during emergencies.

And in many cases, local and community-based human services providers are **not equipped to help communities recover** after emergencies strike.

ODHS created the Office of Resilience and Emergency Management to help bridge these gaps.



# OREM's focus is on people and the systems that support them

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## Who are we serving?

People who have been **displaced or evacuated** due to wildfires



People who need a place to get **warm, cool, or out of the smoke**



People who depend on **long-term care** and other daily supports

People who have **fled their countries** due to violence



People whose **wells have run dry** or become polluted



People who need a **safe place to recover** from injury or illness





2020 wildfires

# Navigating complex, unaligned systems

- Accessing the full array of needed services required survivors to learn about, locate and use the **many separate providers and services involved** – all while facing the trauma of displacement and loss.
- **Survivors had to wait for shelter** due to delays in federal assistance.
- Lack of staff and an online-only communication system **prevented many survivors from connecting with ODHS or service partners.**



# How far we've come

## 2020 Wildfires

- It took **weeks to stand up disaster feeding**
- **No non-congregate shelters** in place for survivors
- **No impact assessment protocol** established to help direct resources to where people needed them
- Disaster case management and other **systems took months to set up**

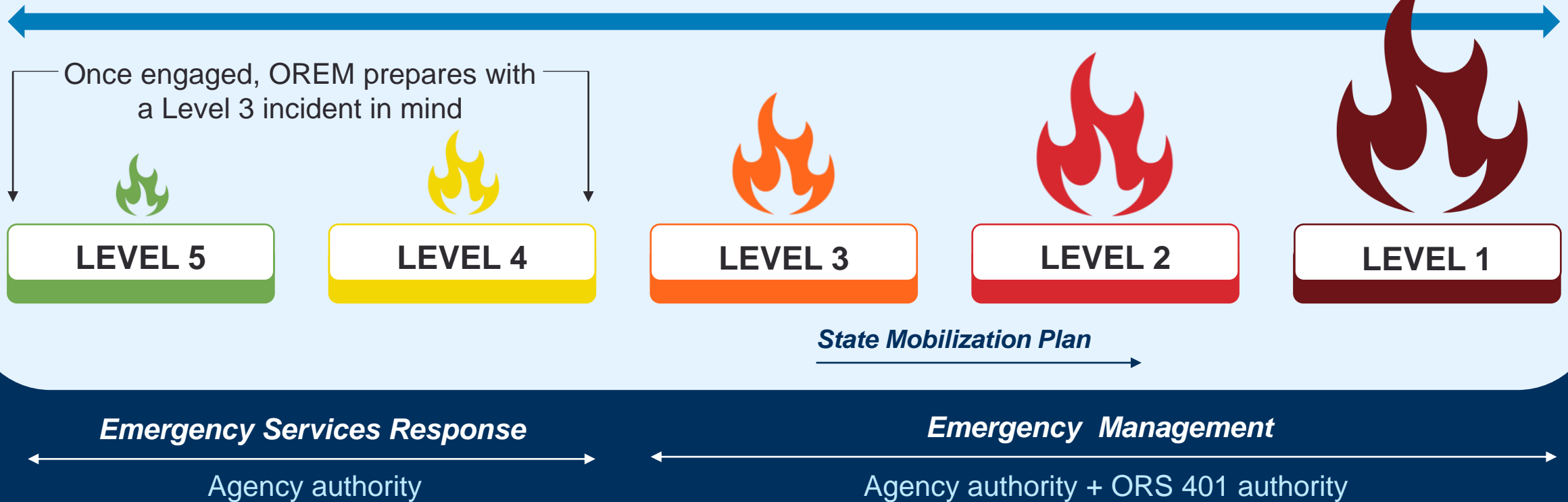


## Today

- Survivors can get **same-day basic needs** supports and **feeding and hydration within 24 hours.**
- With pre-incident contracts in place, we can **shelter people the same day**; we can also initiate new contracts on a 24- to 48-hour timeline thanks to the relationships now established with lodging and other partners.
- **Impact assessment tool** can be put to use immediately so we can promptly meet people's specific needs during and immediately after incidents.
- With D-LAN, VisionLink and other digital platforms in place, **disaster case management has "instant on" capability.**

# OREM activates before state mobilization

OREM will respond **at any level** where people may be at risk.



See FEMA's [National Incident Complexity Guide](#) for detailed discussion of each emergency level.



# Supporting survivors for the long journey

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After a wildfire destroys a family's home, **it can take years** before they finally get the keys to a new one. Recovery is an even longer road when families face **multiple, overlapping barriers** along the way.

Damaged or  
lost housing



Disrupted  
schooling

Financial  
hardship



Lack of  
transportation  
to work

Grief, trauma  
and stress



Unfamiliar and  
hard-to-navigate  
service systems

ODHS works with federal, state and community partners to reduce barriers and **support people throughout the journey.**

# Thank you





Questions?

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# Why we do our work

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Everyone in Oregon deserves the supports they need to prepare for and recover from emergencies.



# Inequitable access to resilience

Oregon's communities of color do not have the support they need during emergencies.\*

We need to do a better job conducting incident outreach to communities with the highest needs.\*\*



Oregon's culturally and linguistically appropriate emergency response systems are deeply lacking.\*

CBOs experience roadblocks to funding that could help them hasten communities' recovery.\*

Since 2000, Oregon has seen considerable growth in the number of **adults 65+ and people with disabilities** who were exposed to wildfire (6080% compared to 588% in California).\*\*\*

\*[Preparing Oregon's Communities of Color for Disasters](#), United Way: 2022

\*\*[State of Oregon After Action Review of the September 2020 Wildland Fires and Wind Event](#), 2021

\*\*\*[Social vulnerability of the people exposed to wildfire in U.S. West Coast states](#), Science Advances: September 2023

# Providing evacuation support

## Pre-evacuation:



- During public safety power shutoffs, we assist with **notification and planning for those with power-dependent medical equipment.**

## Level 1, 2 and 3 evacuations (ready/set/go now):



- **Geomapping** to identify clients in evacuation zones
- Working with ODHS program leaders to ensure **evacuation plans** are in place at local offices for specific clients
- Coordinating evacuation **facilities**

## County emergency operations centers:



- Help staff EOCs as needed
- Coordinate with county, Oregon Health Authority and American Red Cross to make sure **people with access and functional needs** have the right evacuation supports.

## Temporary Evacuation Points:



- OREM staff and Mass Care Response Team (MCRT) members **assist when counties cannot meet the staffing needs** and request our help.



# Evacuation support, cont'd.

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## Sheltering:

- Assisting American Red Cross (ARC) with sheltering where needed
- Connecting sheltered survivors with services
- Providing support to ARC shelters, including air scrubbers and other equipment



## Returning home after evacuation:

- Support impact assessment to identify needs and coordinate emergency assistance
- Assisting with social service needs even when there is no structural loss – for example, helping people get their SNAP benefits replaced after losing their EBT card in a fire

**From 2020 to today**

# Helping survivors move toward recovery

More than **4,457 wildfire survivors** sheltered

As of May 11, 2023

More than **2 million meals** delivered

As of May 11, 2023

**1,244 survivors** transitioned to long-term housing

As of May 11, 2023

Wraparound services through **13 community-based partners**

**124 hotels** have provided shelter under ODHS contracts

As of April 11, 2023

**3,928 families** served statewide through disaster case management

as of May 11, 2023



The Gomez Family, survivors of the 2020 Alameda Fire