



We ask for your support of HB 2484 – Urban Search and Rescue

Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) is all hazards technical rescue. USAR teams are highly trained, technical specialists that are ready to deploy at a moment's notice to critical emergencies. USAR teams coordinates and conducts search and rescue for all hazards including extricating from damaged structures and is deployed to environments without infrastructure – including compromised access to roadways, utilities, and Urban Search and Rescue units are equipped to provide rescue after a catastrophic all-hazard triggering incident/emergency. The work of a USAR team includes:

- Wide area search
- Structural collapse assessment, search, rescue and rigging
- Associated technical rope rescue
- Confined space search and rescue
- Trench and evacuation rescue beyond local capabilities
- Mass transportation vehicle rescue (subway, rail, bus)

Oregon's USAR program has been challenged by both the lack of funds and lack of authority to develop and maintain the capacity to meet the needs of disaster and emergency in Oregon.

HB 2484 formalizes the USAR program within the Department of the Oregon State Fire Marshal and gives authority for planning, strategy development, needs assessment and structural development for the program. The -1 amendment also asks OSFM to look at sustainable funding for USAR. This important bill with the -1 amendment is necessary to continue to meet the needs of our State when disaster hits.

We ask for your support of HB 2484 with the -1 amendment, which gives USAR the needed structure to move ahead and be prepared in times of urgent crisis – we stand ready, with your help, to respond in a moment of crisis to protect our state.

Contact: Nicole Palmateer Hazelbaker, lobbyist - OFCA

Signed,

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Sara Boone (Feb 22, 2023 19:12 PST)

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Fire Chief
City of Portland

Nick J. Brown

Nick Brown
Fire Chief
Clackamas Fire District

Deric Weiss
Deric Weiss (Feb 28, 2023 08:41 PST)

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Fire Chief
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue

Mike Niblock
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Mike Caven
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