



## **Powerline Ignited Fires in Oregon**

Williams Creek - 2015 (Public lands)  
Ramsey Canyon - 2018 (Jackson County)  
North Bank Lane - 2020 (Coos County)  
Pike Road - 2020 (Tillamook County)

## **McKinney Fire - July 29, 2022**

4 dead

118 homes (of 185 structures total), most in community of Klamath River

60,138 acres burned

Tens of thousands of fish killed.

Notable structures destroyed also included the Klamath River Community Hall and a building in Oak Knoll that housed archives for the Karuk tribe.



### **Holiday Farm Fire - Lane County - September 2020**

1 dead

173,393 acres

768 homes, outbuildings destroyed

Most of town of Blue River, Vida, Nimrod, Finn Rock

Burned numerous popular recreation sites

### **Archie Creek Fire - Douglas County- September 2020**

1 dead (firefighter)

109 homes lost

131,542 acres burned

North Umpqua Watershed including U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and private lands.

Burned numerous popular recreation sites



### **Santiam Canyon Fires - Santiam & Linn Counties - September. 2020**

5 dead

Over 1,500 homes and buildings destroyed

Total size of Beachie, Santiam Fires - 193,566 acres

Burned [Detroit](#) and [Gates](#), with [Idanha](#), [Mill City](#), and [Lyons](#) suffering varying amounts of damage.

Burned numerous popular recreation sites

### **Slater Fire - Josephine County - September 2020**

2 dead

197 homes of 440 structures lost

156,773 acres

Origin and cause - down power lines

**Echo Mountain Complex Fires - Lincoln County - September 2020**

288 homes and 339 structures lost

Half of Otis, Oregon

Acres - 2,500

**South Obenchain Fire - Jackson County - September 2020**

33 homes, 56 other structures

33,000 Acres

Butte Falls, Oregon

**Two Four Two Fire - Klamath County - September 2020**

17 homes, 39 structures

14,473 acres in and around Chiloquin Oregon





**Key Issues from Litigation Over Santiam Canyon, 242, South Obenchain, Echo Mountain**

After two months of trial, receiving hundreds of exhibits and hearing testimony from around 100 witnesses, a jury determined that PacifiCorp started the Santiam Canyon, 242, South Obenchain and Echo Mountain Complex fires.

PacifiCorp began a “confidential” investigation about the fires while they were still burning.

PacifiCorp then destroyed physical evidence all over Oregon, including PacifiCorp’s equipment that started fires and trees that fell on its power lines, disposing of everything at what its corporate representative described as the “dump”.

PacifiCorp then destroyed nearly all its Skype messages—its instant messaging platform—from the time of the fires, covering up likely more evidence of its misconduct.

PacifiCorp hid from discovery in the *James* lawsuit what it knew about a key issue in the case, the cause and origin of the fires.

PacifiCorp knowingly violated several court orders compelling it to produce discovery and allow deposition testimony about the cause and origin of the fires.

PacifiCorp hid what it knew about its call on Labor Day 2020 with the Oregon Department of Forestry's Chief of Fire Protection and Governor Brown's Chief of Staff.

PacifiCorp was sanctioned for violating the Court's orders. This almost never happens.

After the two-month trial, a jury found PacifiCorp liable for gross negligence and that PacifiCorp acted recklessly and willfully.

The same jury found that PacifiCorp's bad acts merited punishment and awarded punitive damages.

**To access slides of evidence and testimony given during the trial:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-EYTPkzBlmkwmx0gbgOQ9D86VjQ--g9r?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-EYTPkzBlmkwmx0gbgOQ9D86VjQ--g9r?usp=share_link)

## **References & Citations**

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**Oregon Man Describes Start of Holiday Farm Fire**

<https://youtu.be/xO20D2dgYFs?si=VnkqKEX88vQF8vKc>

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