



Powerline Ignited Fires in Oregon - Compiled as of Feb 12, 2024

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, out buildings destroyed

Burned 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 in the 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 James v. PacifiCorp - Litigation by Fire Survivors Over Santiam Canyon, 242, South Obenchain, Echo Mountain Fires

After two months of trial, in which the Court received hundreds of exhibits and heard testimony from around 100 witnesses, a jury determined that PacifiCorp's equipment ignited the Santiam Canyon, 242, South Obenchain and Echo Mountain Complex fires. In the trial, testimony, evidence and arguments revealed that:

- 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.
- 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

References & Citations

Residents of Gates Aim Their Ire at Pacificorp (Link includes 10 min. documentary film with 911 audio and footage)

<https://opb.org/article/2021/07/12/residents-of-gates-oregon-aim-their-ire-at-pacific-power-nearly-a-year-after-their-town-burned/>

Oregon Man Describes Start of Holiday Farm Fire

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

Jury Finds Pacificorp Liable

<https://wildfiretoday.com/2023/06/12/jury-finds-pacificorp-liable/>

Pacificorp Liability for Labor Day Fire Revealed in Texts

<https://opb.org/article/2023/03/01/pacificorp-liability-labor-day-fires-revealed-texts-plaintiffs-attorneys-allege/>

These Oregon Fire Victims Lost Everything Is Pacificorp Responsible

<https://www.oregonlive.com/wildfires/2023/03/these-oregon-fire-victims-lost-everything-is-pacificorp-responsible.html>

Attorneys Battling Over Phase II of Pacificorp Trial

<https://www.canyonweekly.com/2023/08/18/attorneys-battling-over-phase-ii-of-pacificorp-trial/>

Pacificorp Accused of Hiding, Destroying Evidence in Lawsuit Over Oregon Fires

https://www.newsdata.com/clearing_up/courts_and_commissions/pacificorp-accused-of-hiding-destroying-evidence-in-lawsuit-over-oregon-fires/article_c843ef4e-b9df-11ed-b2b3-07c4ea7dc816.html

Jury Finds Pacificorp at Fault Over Labor Day Fires in Santiam Canyon, Echo Mountain Complex

<https://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/local/oregon/2023/06/12/jury-finds-pacificorp-at-fault-labor-day-fires-santiam-canyon-echo-mountain-242/70313925007/>