



# OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

October 12, 2020

## Wildfire Recovery Update

The Oregon Office of Emergency Management, in coordination with state and federal partners, distributes this update of collated and verified information on Oregon's wildfire recovery efforts.

### SITUATION SUMMARY

On Oct. 2, Oregon submitted a request for Direct Housing Assistance from FEMA to meet the needs of disaster survivors. Based on the number of destroyed homes and displaced residents, along with an extreme housing shortage within highly vulnerable communities, the request was made for six of the affected counties (Douglas, Jackson, Land, Lincoln, Linn and Marion). On Oct. 7, the request was granted for residents in Jackson, Linn and Marion counties. The state and FEMA are developing a plan to implement this temporary direct housing mission. FEMA will continue to evaluate the need for temporary housing assistance in additional affected counties.

### HUMAN IMPACTS

Confirmed fatalities: **9**

Source: Oregon State Medical Examiner

Missing persons: **1**

Source: Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS)

Sheltered persons: **2,031**

**Congregate: 97 | Non-Congregate: 1,934**

Source: American Red Cross

Individual Assistance Registrants:

**10,849**

**Assistance Approved: \$17.4 million**

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency

### DAILY STATS

Acres burned (approx.): **1.2 million**

Source: Oregon Department of Forestry

Residences destroyed: **3,992**

Source: OEM Planning Section

Other structures destroyed: **>1,400\***

Source: Integrated Reporting of Wildland-Fire Information (IRWIN)

- Approximate

### NEED TO KNOW

It's important for those whose property was impacted by wildfire to submit their Right of Entry (ROE) form to allow cleanup teams to come on your property to remove hazardous household waste.

Going through this assisted cleanup process with the state and county is the safest and most cost-effective way to rid your property of hazardous waste prior to removal of ash and debris. Removal of household hazardous waste is required before ash and debris can be removed.

### NOTE:

*There have been misconceptions about homeowner insurance going to FEMA or the state. Neither FEMA nor the state will recoup money from your insurance that could have otherwise gone toward rebuilding your home.*



Gates, Ore. Sept. 27, 2020 photo by Patsy Lynch/FEMA

wildfire.oregon.gov

Media inquiries  
fire.info@state.or.us  
503-378-7872

# SIGN UP FOR ASSISTANCE!



[www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov)



1-800-621-3362

1-800-462-7585 TTY

Individual Assistance is available to people impacted by fires in Clackamas, Douglas, Jackson, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, and Marion counties.

Public Assistance is available in Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Coos, Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Jefferson, Josephine, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Tillamook, Wasco, Washington and Yamhill counties for publicly owned infrastructure impacted by the wildfires.

## MAINTAINING YOUR WELL AFTER WILDFIRE

- **Electrical Hazards:** Exposed electrical wiring to the well poses a significant safety hazard. Fix damaged or exposed wires prior to restarting the site, restarting power to the site, attempting well repair or touching the well or wiring. Contact a licensed contractor authorized to work on water pumps or electrical to inspect and repair the wires.
- **Falling and Drowning Hazards in Dug Wells:** Well covers may have been damaged by the fire and could pose danger to people and animals. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) can provide technical assistance to help prevent safety hazards and groundwater contamination. If you find a well or sinkhole on your property, barricade it; do not push debris into the hole as this can lead to groundwater contamination.
- **Drilled Wells and Water System Damage:** PVC liners and/or pipes may have been damaged. Contact an Oregon licensed constructor authorized to work on water pumps to assess the damage.
- **Water Treatment Damage:** Filters, tanks and treatment systems may have been damaged during the wildfires. Chemicals can seep into the well if piping or water systems are damaged. Chemicals may also be a problem when a system is depressurized. Dug wells that are uncovered may also be contaminated with debris and/or ash. Visit the Oregon Health Authority's website for more information on possible contaminants. Have your water tested before using and work with a licensed contractor on treatment options.
- **Abandoning Wells:** If the well is no longer in use, have a licensed contractor take the steps to properly abandon the well to avoid groundwater contamination.
- **Post-Fire Well Damage:** Even if your well was not damaged, it may become damaged following debris cleanup and construction. Clearly identify the well's location during cleanup and construction. Inform any contractors of its location.
- **Drilling a New Well:** New wells must follow OWRD well construction standards. A licensed contractor should do the work.



Lincoln City, Ore. Sept., 21, 2020 photo by Jeff Markham/FEMA

## INFORMATION RESOURCES

[Active fire dashboard](#)

[Oregon Wildfire News](#)

[Sign up for Individual Assistance](#)

[Emergency management websites by county](#)

[Oregon Insurance Commissioner](#)

Go to [Oregon.gov/owrd](http://Oregon.gov/owrd) or call 503-986-0900 for more information.

NOTE: This publication is released Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Check [wildfire.oregon.gov](http://wildfire.oregon.gov) or visit our [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#) pages for additional updates.

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