



**HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE  
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## **WILDFIRE RESOURCES FOR OREGONIANS: Prevention, Preparation, Response and Recovery**

**SALEM, Ore.** - With many communities facing threats from wildfires and weeks of high risk still ahead, Oregonians can take concrete steps to prevent, prepare, and take action if they need to respond to or recover after a wildfire. Below are tips and resources on how to stay safe and recover during and after wildfire season.

“As a frontline firefighter, I know the risks and dangers that our first responders face, especially during wildfire season,” **said Representative Dacia Grayber (D - SW Portland & E Beaverton)**, chair of the House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans. “For Oregonians looking to do their part and prevent wildfires, or for those pulling the pieces together after losing their home or business, there are resources and help available.”

“Wildfires are unavoidable for too many Oregonians these days, but there is a lot we can do to prevent, prepare, respond, and recover. Oregonians have more tools than ever to get through wildfire season, and I hope every family will educate themselves and their communities about the available resources,” **said Senator Jeff Golden (D - Ashland)**, chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

Improving Oregon’s response to and recovery from wildfires is a top priority for Oregon Democrats. This session, as part of Democrats’ [Safer Communities](#) and [Climate](#)

[Resilience](#) packages, the Legislature stood up the Oregon Department of State Fire Marshal Office (OSFM) and invested in the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) at the highest level it's ever received.

“I’m grateful that we were able to provide OSFM and partners with new tools and a robust initial department budget. This is how we show up for Oregon when disaster strikes,” **said Representative Paul Evans (D - Monmouth, Independence, West Salem and South Salem)**.

Democrats also invested in climate resilient communities, buildings, and lands; youth conservation programming; early smoke detectors; firefighter apprenticeship training; pre-planning; financial support for landowners utilizing prescribed burns; and other wildfire response-specific resources.

“As the saying goes: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The work we’re doing to empower the stewards of our lands – farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and more – to prevent wildfires is going to save Oregonians’ lives and livelihoods, while boosting the rural economy,” **said Senator Michael Dembrow (D - Portland)**.

“My district in Southern Oregon was devastated by the Alameda wildfires. As our communities continue to recover and prepare for what’s next, it’s good to know there’s help and that we’re taking action to make sure we’re more prepared,” **said Representative Pam Marsh (D - Southern Jackson County)**.

## WILDFIRE RESOURCES

### PREVENTION

[According to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management](#), more than 70% of wildfires are human-caused. Here are some ways you can do your part to prevent that from happening:

**Keep Oregon Green:** Keep Oregon Green has prevention tips for when Oregonians are out and about, at work or home. Visit [this link](#) for fire safety and prevention tips.

**Campfires and Burn Pits:** Depending on where you are in Oregon and that area’s fire environment, restrictions or bans may be in effect, limiting certain activities that

commonly start wildfires. Check out [this link](#) and the [Oregon State Fire Marshal's webpage](#) for more information on public fire restrictions and education materials.

**Restrictions and Closures:** The Oregon Department of Forestry and their partners implement restrictions pertaining to public and work related activities. Find out about restrictions and closures [by visiting their webpage](#).

**Defensible Spaces for Your Home:** Creating a defensible space between your home and the wildland area around it can give your home an increased chance of surviving a wildfire. Learn more about how defensible space works [at this link](#).

## PREPARATION

**Make a Plan:** Make sure you and your family are prepared in case of an emergency. Visit [this link](#) to learn more about developing an emergency plan and creating a go-kit ready with supplies for health, safety and identification.

**Sign Up for Emergency Alerts:** Get lifesaving alerts and instructions during emergencies by signing up for alerts [here](#).

**Track Fires and Air Quality:** [Visit the Oregon Department of Forestry's site](#) to track fires and air quality throughout the state. If there's smoke in the air, you can protect your home from wildfire smoke [by following these tips](#). [Read more](#) about what to do when there's smoke in the air.

## RESPONSE

**Understanding Evacuation Levels:** According to the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, Oregon follows a 3 Level evacuation notification system, each structured around the readiness need and threat level. To learn about these levels, what they mean and make the best decision to stay safe, [visit this website](#).

**Cross off the Checklist:** Be prepared to evacuate by reviewing a [prepared checklist](#) that will help you feel supported and ready. [Here is an evacuation checklist](#) for homes.

**Shelters:** During an evacuation, you'll need to find shelter to stay. Here are some resources to help you get started:

- **Call 211 or 833-669-0554** to connect with a disaster case manager or local housing navigator
- **Text SHELTER and your zip code to 43362** to search for shelters nearby.

- **Text DRC and your zip code to 43362 to locate a Disaster Recovery Center.**  
*A DCR may help someone apply for FEMA assistance, find housing, and answer any questions someone has after a disaster.*
- **Livestock shelters:** Visit [this link](#) and click on the “Animal Sheltering Dashboard” for more information.

## RECOVERY

After a wildfire or disaster happens, it can feel hard to know where to start – but there are resources and help available to help you get back on your feet.

**Housing and Assistance Resources:** Call 833-669-0554 to connect with a disaster case manager or local housing navigator for disaster recovery resources. [Visit this link](#) to see what other assistance is available for you, including housing and food.

**Returning to Property:** Returning home after a wildfire can be overwhelming. Here are some resources home and business owners can use to clean up, assess damage, and restore surrounding land.

- [OSU Extension Service | After a Wildfire \(Returning to Property Checklists\)](#)
- [DEQ | Advice for Returning to a Home that Survived a Wildfire](#)
- [DEQ | How to Safely Clean Up Ash and Debris From Burned Buildings](#)
- [ODF | Help Restoring the Land After a Wildfire](#)

**Renter Wildfire Recovery:** Help is also available for renters and tenants. [Click here](#) for resources to find housing, programs, and answers to frequently asked questions.

**Mental Health Resources:** When disaster strikes, it can feel overwhelming and sometimes our mental health can be impacted. Oregonians in need don't have to go through this alone -- there's help available:

- **SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline:** 1-800-985-5990 (call or text 24/7/365) | [www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline](http://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline)  
*SAMHSA's Disaster Distress Helpline provides 24/7, 365-day-a-year crisis counseling and support to people experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters.*
- **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline:** Call 988 or visit [988lifeline.org/](http://988lifeline.org/) (24/7/365)  
*This line provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.*
- **Behavioral Health Support Line:** 800-923-4357 (HELP) (24/7/365)  
*The Oregon Behavioral Health Support Line is a free and confidential resource*

*for all Oregonians who are looking for emotional support. You do not need to be in a mental health crisis to call this line.*

- **Crisis Text Line:** Text OREGON to 741741

*A free crisis text line is available to Oregonians who need immediate assistance for behavioral health support. If someone is in crisis, they can text OREGON to 741741, and they will receive a text response from a live, trained crisis counselor who can provide them with help. The line is available 24/7.*

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