

2019 SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION



**EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS**



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MEASURES

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|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Disaster Preparedness | Enacted Not Enacted | SB 643, HB 2209, HB 3376 SB 430, SB 678, HB 2205, HB 2536, HB 2558 |
| Emergency Coordination | Enacted Not Enacted | SB 228 HB 2565, HB 2650 |
| Emergency Responders | Enacted Not Enacted | HB 2127, HB 2138, HB 2196, HB 2449 HB 2503, HB 3163 |
| Military | Enacted Not Enacted | HB 2196, HB 2817 -none- |
| Post-Disaster Response | Enacted Not Enacted | HB 2206 SB 651-A, SB 678, HB 2735 |
| Resilience / Education | Enacted Not Enacted | -none- SB 1037, HB 2207, HB 2208, HB 2229 |

Picture: Cape Blanco Lighthouse, Curry County – [Gary Halvorson, Oregon State Archives](#)

TASK FORCES AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

There were no task forces or reporting requirements involving emergency preparedness enacted through legislation during the 2019 session.

[Senate Bill 228](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Modifying Composition of Homeland Security Council

At the request of: Senate Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Committees: Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Background and Current Law: Oregon's Homeland Security Council, within the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), receives briefings on security matters at least annually, including those related to catastrophic disasters and other states of emergency declared by the Governor, and advises relevant state agencies on emergency management strategies. The Council currently consists of the Governor, the Adjutant General, four legislators, the Superintendent of State Police, and OEM's director.

The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) is responsible for operating the Oregon TITAN Fusion Center. The Fusion Center engages in information analysis and sharing around all hazards and crimes, in partnership with federal, state, and local law enforcement. Its primary mission is to aid in the identification, prevention, and disruption of terrorist and criminal threats, which could exploit vulnerabilities that might exist after a catastrophic event.

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 228 adds a DOJ representative to the Homeland Security Council.

Oregon Laws 2019: Chapter 282

[Senate Bill 430](#)

Not Enacted

Encouraging use of Shipping Containers as Emergency Caches

Chief Sponsors: Sen. Frederick

Committees: Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Senate Finance and Revenue, Joint Tax Expenditures

Background and Current Law: Shipping containers are designed to transport goods of all kinds but are increasingly used for a wide variety of nonstandard building and storage purposes, given that they are relatively abundant, inexpensive, transportable, weatherproof, and secure. Senate Bill 430 is inspired by the community effort of Lincoln County to acquire a number of shipping containers, stock them with emergency supplies, and place them within walking distance of one to three schools. Supplies are reserved for school use should disaster strike during school hours and may be used by first responders and the larger community if a disaster occurs at any other time.

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 430 would have created a refundable income tax credit for shipping containers donated to public entities to store emergency supplies within 1,000 feet of public buildings, equal to 10 percent of the container's retail value.

[Senate Bill 643](#)

Effective Date: June 27, 2019

Making Fuel Accessible for Disaster Response

Chief Sponsors: Sen. Boquist

Committees: Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: In 2016, Senate Bill 1523 was enacted as the result of work group activity that included private fuel companies, the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). It enabled OEM and ODOT to develop a grant program to target large-capacity fuel storage locations along critical transportation routes and distribute funds to install connectors that are compatible with generators used by specific personnel during an emergency. Individual grants were limited to \$4,000 each, and total grant funds were capped at \$100,000. By the fall of 2018, 72 applications for grant funds were received from qualifying facilities; fuel storage locations in 25 cities were made compatible; and 47 applications remained. An additional appropriation of \$188,000 was made by the Emergency Board in September of 2018 to satisfy the remaining applications, but OEM cannot execute until the \$100,000 statutory cap is lifted.

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 643 lifts the \$100,000 limit on funds for the Fuel Storage Facility Compatibility Grant program administered by OEM to allow the use of an additional appropriation to make remaining fuel storage locations compatible statewide and raises the limit on individual grant awards from \$4,000 to \$10,000.

Oregon Laws 2019: Chapter 516

[Senate Bill 651-A](#)

Not Enacted

Disseminating Information to the Public Post Disaster

Chief Sponsors: Sen. Boquist; Rep. Evans

Committees: Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The Emergency Alert System allows county and state emergency managers to disseminate information about emergencies to the public. Broadcasters throughout the state operate equipment to transmit emergency alerts. Before 9/11 the system was based on a series of encoders and decoders at the local level that were capable of transmitting and receiving information without electricity or the Internet. The events of 9/11 overwhelmed the system, leading to the development of a nationwide Common Alerting Protocol. The current system is digital, Internet-dependent, and requires electricity. In the aftermath of a catastrophic event like a Cascadia earthquake, when electricity and Internet are compromised, or unavailable, state and local authorities will rely on the previous analog system to communicate critical information.

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 651-A would have appropriated General Fund dollars to the Oregon Military Department (OMD) for counties to obtain analog encoders and maintain emergency alert distribution infrastructure.

[Senate Bill 678](#)

Not Enacted

Maintaining Salvage Chief for Disaster Response

Chief Sponsors: Sens. Boquist, Johnson

Committees: Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The *Salvage Chief* was originally commissioned the USS *LSM-380*, one of 558 LSMs (landing crafts, medium) built for the U.S. Navy between 1944 and 1945, sized to carry five medium or three heavy tanks, or up to nine "Duck boats" (amphibious vehicles or DUKWs). She was manned by six officers and 54 crew and assigned to the Asia-Pacific theater. Six months after assignment, on August 15, 1945, Japan surrendered and the USS *LSM-380* carried Marines to China to manage the repatriation of thousands to Japan. She then sailed to Guam, Pearl Harbor, and back across the Pacific to join the mothball fleet at Suisan Bay near San Francisco, destined for scrap. In 1948, she was decommissioned and purchased by Fred Devine, an entrepreneur and salvage expert based out of Portland, who transformed and repurposed the ship for shallow water salvage and recovery work, by installing 60-ton pull anchor winches both fore and aft, and building an aft helicopter pad, among other unique modifications. The ship then operated out of Astoria starting in 1949 and became renowned for its rescue and recovery work over the next 50 years, particularly with large ships in dire situations, including refloating the grounded 10,000-ton Liberty ship *Yorkmar*, the Greek freighter *Capyannis*, the 810-foot Liberian oil tanker *Sansinena*, the crippled *Exxon Valdez*, as well as barges, dredges, cruise ships, a Japanese troop ship, a U.S. Coast Guard cutter, and more. *Salvage Chief* is now owned by *Salvage Chief*, LLC, whose partners are attempting to transform it once more into a local asset for disaster training and response purposes. ("Salute to M/V *Salvage Chief* (ex-*LSM 380*)" by Jim Mockford, *Sea History* 162, Spring 2018, at <<https://seahistory.org/wp-content/uploads/SH162-SalvChief.pdf>, accessed March 2019>.)

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 678 would have appropriated \$1.9 million General Fund dollars to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) for distribution to the *Salvage Chief* Foundation to outfit the vessel *Salvage Chief* for disaster training, response, and recovery purposes, in particular, to clear fallen bridge and other hazardous debris from coastlines and waterways post disaster.

Strengthening Emotional and Psychological Resilience

Committees: Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: Traumatic events can cause more than just physical injury, particularly when the trauma is severe or sustained. In the wake of natural and human-caused disasters, youth and adults may experience a variety of types and levels of stress, such as anxiety, depression, despair, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicidality, as well as increased drug and alcohol use and interpersonal difficulties that may affect whole families. On a catastrophic scale such as Hurricane Katrina, the Camp Fire, or the New Zealand mosque shootings, disaster-generated maladies not only harm individuals and their families, but can increase the cost of care, burden health care systems, inhibit recovery, and negatively affect the health and wellbeing of emergency personnel, other responders, and whole communities, for years.

Bill Summary: Senate Bill 1037 would have sanctioned the creation of an 18-member Transformational Resilience Task Force supported by Portland State University, to study how psychological, emotional, and psychosocial resilience education and skills training might impact individuals', communities' and the state's capacity to respond to and recover from disaster.

[House Bill 2127](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Disaster and Emergency Service Provider Tax Exemptions

At the request of: House Interim Committee on Revenue

Committees: House Human Services and Housing, House Revenue, Senate Finance and Revenue

Background and Current Law: In 2015, an Oregon tax exemption was created for out-of-state emergency service providers to perform disaster or emergency work on critical infrastructure in Oregon. The exemption is for individuals and businesses from Oregon corporate or personal income tax liability in specified circumstances. The concept originated from discussions and model legislation prepared in 2011 by the National Conference of State Legislatures. Oregon's exemption has rarely been used but is expected to be important if the state were to suffer a catastrophic disaster. Tax expenditures enacted by the Legislative Assembly must be scheduled for sunset review every six years unless a sunset date is provided.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2127 eliminates the sunset for the out-of-state emergency service provider tax exemption, which is available to providers who perform disaster or emergency work on critical infrastructure in Oregon.

Oregon Laws 2019: Chapter 203

[House Bill 2138](#)

Not Enacted

Emergency Medical Services Provider Tax Credit Extension

At the request of: House Interim Committee on Revenue

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, House Revenue, Joint Tax Expenditures

Background and Current Law: Oregon allows a personal income tax credit equal to \$250 for individuals licensed as emergency medical services (EMS) providers. To qualify for the credit, the licensed EMS provider must be certified by the Office of Rural Health as an individual who provided volunteer emergency medical services in a rural area. The volunteered rural services must comprise at least 20 percent of the total emergency medical services provided by the individual in the tax year. For purposes of the credit, rural area is defined as a geographic area that is located at least 25 miles from any city with a population of 30,000 or more. The credit is nonrefundable, meaning that tax liability cannot be reduced below zero.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2138 would have extended to January 1, 2026, the sunset for the \$250 personal income tax credit allowed to licensed EMS providers who provide volunteer emergency medical services in rural areas. Certain provisions of this measure were enacted in House Bill 2164.

[House Bill 2196](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Oregon Military Department Firefighters PERS Participation

At the request of: House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Senate Workforce

Background and Current Law: Under current law, public employees of local governments, fire marshals, and the Oregon Department of Forestry whose primary duty is fighting fires are classified as firefighters for purposes of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). The definition of "firefighter" in the PERS statutes does not include Oregon Military Department (OMD) employees. However, the OMD mistakenly believed its firefighting employees were classified in PERS as firefighters since at least 1979.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2196 clarifies that former, current, and future OMD employees whose primary duty is fighting structural, aircraft, wildland, or other fires are eligible for participation as a firefighter in PERS. The measure also grants PERS firefighting status to those employees whose service was misclassified if OMD made the required PERS contributions and any firefighting employees OMD reported as general service are converted to firefighters for PERS purposes.

Oregon Laws 2019: Chapter 135

[House Bill 2205-A](#)

Not Enacted

Preparedness Equipment Funding

At the request of: House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The coast of the Pacific Northwest has, for thousands of years, experienced periodic, catastrophic seismic events related to the Cascadia subduction zone, which extends from northern California to British Columbia. The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee defines the goal of seismic resilience as follows: Oregon citizens will not only be protected from life-threatening physical harm, but because of the risk reduction measures and pre-disaster planning, communities will be able to recover more quickly and with less continuing vulnerability following a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2205-A would have provided \$15 million in Article XI-Q bond proceeds to develop a list of preparedness equipment needed throughout the state to respond to local and regional emergencies and also develop and administer an aviation resiliency grant program to distribute preparedness equipment or funds to purchase equipment.

[House Bill 2206](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Emergency Preparedness Building Condition Evaluation

At the request of: House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The coast of the Pacific Northwest has, for thousands of years, experienced periodic, catastrophic seismic events related to the Cascadia subduction zone, which extends from northern California to British Columbia. The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee defines the goal of seismic resilience as follows: Oregon citizens will not only be protected from life-threatening physical harm, but because of the risk reduction measures and pre-disaster planning, communities will be able to recover more quickly and with less continuing vulnerability following a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2206 directs the Office of State Fire Marshal to administer a statewide program to evaluate the condition of buildings after an emergency and determine which buildings may be safely occupied, and to work with local governments to designate local program coordinators to implement the program. The measure also authorizes the Office to enter into mutual-aid agreements with other states.

Oregon Laws 2019: Chapter 649

[House Bill 2207-A](#)

Not Enacted

Oregon Campus Resilience

At the request of: House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: On October 1, 2015, a student at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg fatally shot an assistant professor and eight students in a classroom and injured eight others. In 2016, Governor Brown convened the Oregon Campus Safety Work Group in response to the incident, tasking the work group to identify resource needs and potential state policies to create a coordinated strategy across the state's system of higher education, and to analyze practices and protocols in higher education institutions to maintain public safety and to prevent, prepare for, and effectively manage future response and recovery efforts for campus-wide crises or emergencies. The Oregon Campus Resilience Consortium is a multi-institution group that was created as part of the work group process.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2207-A would have appropriated \$1,526,167 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to the Oregon Campus Resilience Consortium.

[House Bill 2208-A](#)

Not Enacted

Unreinforced Masonry Seismic Safety Program

At the request of: House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The coast of the Pacific Northwest has, for thousands of years, experienced periodic, catastrophic seismic events related to the Cascadia subduction zone, which extends from northern California to British Columbia. The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee defines the goal of seismic resilience as follows: Oregon citizens will not only be protected from life-threatening physical harm, but because of the risk reduction measures and pre-disaster planning, communities will be able to recover more quickly and with less continuing vulnerability following a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2208-A would have directed the Business Development Department to administer an Unreinforced Masonry Seismic Safety Program to award competitive annual grants for seismic safety, stability, and resilience of these structures. The measure would have authorized the issuance of lottery bonds for up to \$20 million in net proceeds to fund the program.

[House Bill 2209](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

High Hazard Oil Train Routes

At the request of: House Interim Committee on Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: In June 2016, a 96-car train carrying crude oil derailed in Mosier, Oregon, in the Columbia River Gorge. Sixteen of the cars derailed, resulting in a fire that burned for 14 hours and required the evacuation of approximately 100 nearby residents. Roughly 47,000 gallons of crude oil were released during the derailment; however, even though it occurred 600 feet from the Columbia River, only trace amounts of crude oil were discharged into the river. Most of the oil burned off, was absorbed into the soil, or was released into the town's wastewater treatment facility. The cause was determined by the railroad to be worn or damaged track infrastructure.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2209 requires railroads that own or operate high hazard train routes to: institute oil spill contingency plans and to have those plans reviewed and approved by the Department of Environmental Quality, and annually submit financial responsibility statements to the Department. The measure also outlines a triennial schedule for training for response to high hazard oil train spills. House Bill 2209 authorizes a gross revenue fee of up to 0.05 percent on railroads required to submit contingency plans, and a per-car fee of up to \$20 on oil tank rail cars entering into or originating in the state; both fees are scheduled to sunset January 2, 2027.

Oregon Laws 2019: Chapter 581

[House Bill 2229-A](#)

Not Enacted

School Emergency Preparedness Curriculum Pilot Program

Chief Sponsors: Rep. Gomberg; Sen. Roblan

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The coast of the Pacific Northwest has, for thousands of years, experienced periodic, catastrophic seismic events related to the Cascadia subduction zone, which extends from northern California to British Columbia. The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee defines the goal of seismic resilience as follows: Oregon citizens will not only be protected from life-threatening physical harm, but because of the risk reduction measures and pre-disaster planning, communities will be able to recover more quickly and with less continuing vulnerability following a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2229-A would have directed the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to establish and administer a pilot program to assist school districts in age-appropriate instruction on natural disasters and would have appropriated moneys from the General Fund to ODE for curriculum development.

[House Bill 2449](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

9-1-1 Tax Modification

Chief Sponsors: Reps. Findley, Lively, Marsh, Noble, and Smith G

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, House Revenue, Senate Finance and Revenue

Background and Current Law: The three-digit telephone number 9-1-1 has been designated as the universal emergency number for citizens throughout the United States to request emergency assistance. Currently the Emergency Communications Tax, commonly referred to as the 9-1-1 Tax in Oregon, is assessed at 75-cents per phone line or per device capable of reaching 9-1-1. The tax is collected quarterly by the Oregon Department of Revenue.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2449 increases taxes for emergency communications to \$1.25 per month or per transaction as appropriate, phased in over two years: \$1.00 in first year and \$1.25 in second year. The measure also adjusts the administrative and collection cost caps for the Department of Revenue and the Office of Emergency Management and extends the sunset from 2022 to 2030.

Oregon Laws 2019: Chapter 653

[House Bill 2503](#)

Not Enacted

Search and Rescue Funding Study

Chief Sponsors: Reps. Marsh, Helm, Bonham, Helt, Lewis, Williams; Sens. Thomsen, Dembrow, Roblan

At the request of: Oregon Outdoors, Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, Mt. Hood Meadows, Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM), housed within the Oregon Military Department, is the state's lead entity for coordination of statewide efforts to ensure that Oregonians can get help in an emergency, and to protect, mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural or man-made emergencies and disasters. OEM is organized around a set of 18 emergency support functions: transportation; communications; public works; firefighting; information and planning; mass care; resource support; health and medical; search and rescue; hazardous materials; food and water; energy; military support; public information; volunteers and donations; law enforcement; agriculture and animal protection; and business and industry.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2503 would have directed the Office of Emergency Management to study and make recommendations regarding funding of search and rescue operations.

[House Bill 2536](#)

Not Enacted

Oregon Public Places Are Safe Places Investment Fund

Chief Sponsors: Rep. Evans

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is a division within the Oregon Military Department responsible for coordinating and maintaining the system of statewide emergency services for responding to natural or man-made disasters. It is the lead agency in developing and enhancing the state's preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities to protect lives, property, and the environment.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2536 would have established the Oregon Public Places Are Safe Places Investment Fund and appropriated Fund moneys to the Office of Emergency Management for identifying and developing staging areas for emergency response. The measure would have also created an advisory committee within the OEM to advise and make recommendations regarding Fund expenditures.

[House Bill 2558-A](#)

Not Enacted

Task Force on Seismic Event Preparation

Chief Sponsors: Rep. Evans

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The coast of the Pacific Northwest has, for thousands of years, experienced periodic, catastrophic seismic events related to the Cascadia subduction zone, which extends from northern California to British Columbia. The Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Committee defines the goal of seismic resilience as follows: Oregon citizens will not only be protected from life-threatening physical harm, but because of the risk reduction measures and pre-disaster planning, communities will be able to recover more quickly and with less continuing vulnerability following a Cascadia subduction zone earthquake and tsunami.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2558-A would have created the Task Force on Seismic Event Preparation to study impacts of major seismic events on children.

[House Bill 2565](#)

Not Enacted

County Emergency Management Personnel Funding

Chief Sponsors: Rep. Witt

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The Oregon Military Department's (OMD) primary mission is to administer, house, equip, and train the Oregon National Guard, whose purpose, in turn, is to support the Governor during civil unrest or natural disaster and to provide a reserve force for the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army. The Oregon Military Department also houses the Office of Emergency Management, the state's lead entity for coordinating statewide efforts to ensure that Oregonians can get help in an emergency.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2565 would have appropriated \$3.6 million from the General Fund to OMD to issue grants to counties to hire personnel for county emergency management agencies.

[House Bill 2650](#)

Not Enacted

2-1-1 Funding

Chief Sponsors: Rep. Gorsek

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The phone number "2-1-1" is the three-digit dialing code assigned by the Federal Communications Commission for consumer access to community information and referral services. Individuals can call this number to receive information regarding, and assistance with, supplemental food and nutrition programs; shelter and housing options; utilities assistance; emergency information and disaster relief; employment and education opportunities; services for veterans; health care, vaccination, and health epidemic information; addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs; reentry help for ex-offenders; support groups for individuals with mental illnesses or special needs; and a safe, confidential path out of physical/emotional domestic abuse.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2650 would have appropriated \$3.2 million from the General Fund to the Oregon Military Department to expand and increase access to the statewide 2-1-1 system.

[House Bill 2735-A](#)

Not Enacted

Task Force on Disaster Response and Recovery

Chief Sponsors: Rep. Evans

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: The Oregon Office of Emergency Management is the state's lead agency for preparing for natural and man-made disasters. Local governments also play roles in preparedness. In the event of a large-scale earthquake, such as the one expected to happen off the Oregon coast within the Cascadia Subduction Zone, it is assumed that there will be widespread disruptions of the power grid, transportation network, and fuel and water supply that could last for an extended period.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2735-A would have created a 35-member Task Force on Disaster Response and Recovery to identify locations to serve as rally points, staging areas, and recovery spaces after a natural disaster.

[House Bill 2817](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Oregon National Guard Education Grants

Chief Sponsors: Rep. Evans

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: House Bill 4035 (2018) directed the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to offer full resident tuition assistance to qualifying members of the Oregon Army National Guard and Oregon Air National Guard. The assistance is provided in the form of grants to Guard members who are enrolled at one of 17 community colleges or at one of Oregon's seven public universities.

Bill Summary: House Bill 2817 permits higher education tuition grants offered to qualified members of the Oregon National Guard to be used for undergraduate degree programs at qualifying private, post-secondary institutions and the Oregon Health and Science University.

Oregon Laws 2019: Chapter 656

[House Bill 3167](#)

Not Enacted

Urban Search and Rescue

Chief Sponsors: Reps. Nathanson, Evans

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Joint Ways and Means

Background and Current Law: Urban search and rescue involves the location, rescue (extrication), and initial medical stabilization of individuals trapped in confined spaces. These operations typically occur following a structural collapse, but may also result from transportation accidents, mines, and collapsed trenches. It is considered a "multi-hazard" discipline, meaning that it can become necessary following several different types of emergencies, including earthquakes, tsunamis, storms, tornadoes, accidents, terrorist attacks, or the release of hazardous materials.

Bill Summary: House Bill 3167 would have directed the State Fire Marshal to enter into a grant agreement with Eugene Springfield Fire to enable development of urban search and rescue capabilities throughout the state. The measure would have appropriated \$1,210,040 from the General Fund to the State Fire Marshal to issue grants to Eugene Springfield Fire for these services.

[House Bill 3376](#)

Effective Date: January 1, 2020

Emergency Preparedness Grants for Indian Tribes in Oregon

Chief Sponsors: Reps. Sanchez, McKeown

Committees: House Veterans and Emergency Preparedness, Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness

Background and Current Law: In 2017, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2687, creating the State Preparedness and Incident Response Equipment grant program administered by the Office of Emergency Management to assist local governments, special government bodies, and private tax-exempt organizations with the purchase of emergency preparedness equipment. Grant applications are considered based on demonstrated need, ability to keep and maintain the equipment, inventory process, and commitment to partnership-based support. Equipment purchased through the program remains with the grant recipient for the duration of its useful life, unless it is reclaimed or repurposed.

Bill Summary: House Bill 3376 specifies that federally recognized Indian tribes in Oregon may apply for emergency preparedness grants.

Oregon Laws 2019: Chapter 89