**Wildfire Recovery Update**

October 12, 2020

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.

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

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

**INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Active fire dashboard  
Oregon Wildfire News  
Sign up for Individual Assistance  
Emergency management websites by county  
Oregon Insurance Commissioner

**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.