

After the Fire Resources for Affected Residents

Fire Management Assistance (FMAG) is available to States, local and tribal governments, for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands, which threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The Fire Management Assistance declaration process is initiated when a State submits a request for assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Director at the time a "threat of major disaster" exists. The entire process is accomplished on an expedited basis and a FEMA decision is rendered in a matter of hours.

The Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAGP) provides a 75 percent Federal cost share and the State pays the remaining 25 percent for actual costs. Before a grant can be awarded, a State must demonstrate that total eligible costs for the declared fire meet or exceed either the individual fire cost threshold - which applies to single fires, or the cumulative fire cost threshold, which recognizes numerous smaller fires burning throughout a State. Eligible firefighting costs may include expenses for field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; tools, materials and supplies; and mobilization and demobilization activities.

FEMA Individual Assistance (FEMA IA) has created a set of tools to help those facilitating their community's recovery. Community Services Programs deliver a variety of services to assist in disaster recovery. Disaster Housing Resources provides links to access information on multiple disaster housing programs and strategies. FEMA Voluntary Agency and Donations Coordination delivers information, support and guidance during disaster recovery. The National Emergency Child Locator Center and National Mass Evacuation Tracking System are both tracking databases that can be activated during disasters and assist in reunifying family members. The National Shelter System is a database that supports the agencies responsible for Mass Care and Emergency Assistance.

FEMA Public Assistance (FEMA PA) missions to provide assistance to State, Tribal and local governments, and certain types of Private Nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President.

Through the PA Program, FEMA provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain Private Non-Profit (PNP) organizations. The PA Program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

The Federal share of assistance is not less than 75% of the eligible cost for emergency measures and permanent restoration. The grantee (usually the State) determines how the non-Federal share (up to 25%) is split with the sub-grantees (eligible applicants).

Small Business Disaster Loans through the Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA provides low-interest disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters. SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace the following items damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster: real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets.

Oregon VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) is a group of faith-based, community service organizations with disaster relief roles related to short and long-term recovery from disasters.

Functions include but are not limited to: damage assessment, cleanup, building repair, donations management, child care, clothing, communication, counseling, disaster welfare inquiry, financial assistance, food, human relations, mass care, sheltering, transportation, volunteer staffing, warehousing and bulk distribution. ORVOAD coordinates disaster planning with member agencies to ensure reduction of duplication and an increase in effective delivery of services.

Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) may provide funding they are allocated to help with fire recovery efforts for agricultural and private, non-industrial forestland owners. Program and application announcements will be made as funding becomes available. Please check this site frequently for updates.

American Red Cross Casework: Providing Emergency Assistance trained caseworkers to conduct effective client interviews and provide appropriate assistance to help meet a client's immediate disaster-caused or disaster-aggravated needs.

Fire Recovery Safety Tips

REMEMBER – use caution and good judgment. Hazards may still exist, even though the fire is controlled.

Electrical

General: An important part of the disaster recovery is hazard recognition. Should you come across damaged or fallen power poles or lines, contact your local electrical power authorities. **DO NOT TOUCH THE DOWNED WIRES.** In the cleanup area, be especially careful when cutting trees and operating heavy equipment around power lines. Vegetation and power poles may have lost stability due to fire damage.

If a power line or pole should fall next to you while working in the area, do not walk hop out of the area. (Using this technique, you will be less likely to be a conductor of electricity).

Electricity is always trying to go somewhere. It goes easily through conductors; it does not go easily through non-conductors.

Conductors

Metal

Water

Wet Things

Things in Water (including animals/pets)

Non-Conductors

Rubber

Glass

Plastic

One of the most important fixtures in the conduction of electric current are utility poles. The fire or fire suppression actions may have dislodged or broken some of these poles, causing the wires to sag or break, resulting in extremely hazardous conditions. Do not touch anything at the scene.

Trees can also be dangerous conductors of electricity. When a tree falls or grows into contact with power wires, the electric power diverts and finds a path to the ground through the branches and the trunk. Anyone who comes into contact with these trees is subject to tragic consequences, since electric power can easily jump from the tree to the person.

Electrical Safety Tips

- Do not overload circuits; do not operate several large appliances at the same time on the same circuit.
- Do not use extension cords to plug in many items on one outlet.
- Turn off appliances when you finish using them. Provide adequate air circulation around all appliances to prevent over-heating. Keep appliances clean, repaired and serviced.

- Check wires and plugs regularly. Replace worn or frayed wires. Do not run cords under carpets or across doorways. Be careful when replacing fuses or breakers. Keep the area near the circuit box dry and turn the main switch off before changing the fuse/breaker.
- Temporary lines should be removed from service.

Electrical Locations to Avoid

- Electrical meters and service lines coming into the home or other outbuildings.
- Any power supply line that appears to sag, show bare wire, or have insulation missing.
- Secured power sub-stations or any area identified as high voltage.
- Downed power lines.

Emergency Procedures for an Electrical Fire

- Call the fire department.
- Shut off power supply at the breaker if possible.

Restoring Electric Power

If, upon returning to your residence, there is no electrical power, please check to make sure the main breaker is on. If the breakers are on and power is still not present, please call to report the power outage to your local electrical power authorities.

Reporting problems like a down or broken wire will speed up the process of power restoration.

- Stand off to one side of the breaker box when turning on the main breaker. Do not stand directly in front of the box.
- If any smells of hot electrical insulation or sparking occurs, turn off the breaker immediately and call an electrician.
- If electrical lights or appliances appear brighter than normal, turn off main breaker. The service entrance needs to be checked.

Generators

Only connect generators to homes through a transfer switch installed by a licensed electrician and approved. Improperly connected generators can back-feed the power lines and present hazards to workers. If using a generator directly to an appliance, make sure you use an adequately rated cord. Do not run generators without adequate ventilation as they can pose a carbon monoxide hazard.

To Change a Fuse

Try to find the cause of the blown fuse, and correct it by disconnecting the defective appliance or appliances causing the overload or short circuit. Shut off the main power switch when you change the fuse.

- Do not replace fuses with a higher amp rating fuse than you removed. Turn on the main switch to restore the power.
- If the fuse blows again, leave it alone and contact a certified electrician. Other problems may exist and should be investigated to remove the possibility of an electrical fire.

To Reset a Circuit Breaker

Try to find the cause of the overload or short circuit and correct it by disconnecting the defective leave it alone, and contact a certified electrician. Other problems may exist and should be found to remove the possibility of an electrical fire.

Special Information of Fuses & Circuit Breakers

Fuses and circuit breakers shut off the current whenever too much current tries to flow through a wire because of:

- A short circuit, possibly caused by a bare wire touching the ground;
- Overloading, possibly caused by too many lights or appliances on one circuit;
- Or By defective parts in an appliance.

Know where the main circuit or fuse box is located in your house. Be sure you can locate the main switch; it controls all of the power coming into the house and is usually inside the circuit box. In some cases, however, it may be located outside of the house. Fuse or circuit boxes generally are labeled to designate which area of the house the circuits or fuses serve.

Restoring Water Systems

Unless impacted by a fuel spill, the fire should not have affected wells at undamaged homes. If your house was damaged, your water system may potentially have become contaminated with bacteria due to loss of water pressure. In this case, it is recommended that the well be disinfected and the water be tested before consumption. To disinfect your water system, pour ½ - 1 cup of chlorine bleach inside the well casing and turn on all faucets until a chlorine scent is noticed. Allow the chlorine solution to remain in the system overnight. The following morning, open all faucets and flush the system until free of chlorine smell.

If you have a public use well or water system, contact the Public Health Department for specifics on testing prior to consumption of any water.

Oregon implements drinking water protection through a partnership of DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) and the OHA (Oregon Health Authority). The program provides information about drinking water, and helps Oregonians get involved in protecting drinking water quality. In general, for questions regarding groundwater sources, contact OHA. Contact DEQ for questions about protecting public water supplies using surface water.

For questions about regulations, water quality, treatment plants, and testing, contact OHA who is the primacy agency for the implementation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act in Oregon.

Removing Debris

Cleanup of your property can expose you to potential health problems from hazardous materials. Wet down any debris to minimize health impacts from breathing dust particles. The use of a two- strap dust particulate mask N95 with nose clip and coveralls will provide the best minimal protection. Leather gloves should be worn to protect your hands from sharp objects while removing debris.

Hazardous materials such as kitchen and bathroom cleaning products, paint, batteries, contaminated fuel and damaged fuel containers must be handled properly. Contact your local County Officials for specific handling restrictions and disposal options.

All hazardous materials should be labeled as to their contents if known!

Miscellaneous Safety Awareness

Checking Propane Tanks

Propane suppliers recommend homeowners contact them for an inspection prior to reusing their system. If the fire burned the tank, pressure relief valve probably opened and released the contents of the tank. Tanks, brass and copper fittings, and lines may be heat-damaged and unsafe. Valves should be turned off and remain closed until the propane suppliers inspect the system.

Checking Home Heating Oil Tanks

Heating oil suppliers recommend homeowners contact them for an inspection prior to reusing their system. The tank may have shifted or fallen from the stand and fuel lines may have kinked or weakened. Heat from the fire may have caused the tank to warp or bulge. Non-vented tanks are more likely to bulge or show signs of stress. The fire may have loosened or damaged fittings and filters. If the tank is intact and heating oil remains in the tank, the heating oil should still be good. If you have questions on the integrity of the tank, fuel lines, tank stand, or the fuel, or need assistance in moving the tank or returning it to service, contact your fuel supplier.

Ash Pits

Holes created by burned trees and stumps create ash pits, which are full of hot ashes. Mark them for your safety, as they can stay hot for many days following the fire, causing serious burns. Warn your family and neighbors, especially children.

Evaluation of Trees Damaged by Fire

The following information will assist you in evaluating any trees that have been scorched or burnt by the fire. Identification of the type of tree affected is important and can easily be done. Two basic types of trees exist in this area: deciduous and evergreen. Deciduous trees are broad leaf trees that lose their leaves in the fall.

In this area, we have a variety of deciduous tree species. Evergreen trees have needles and in this area, we mainly have Ponderosa Pine, Lodgepole Pine and Western Juniper.

First: visually check the tree stability. Any tree weakened by fire may be a hazard. Winds are normally responsible for toppling weakened trees. The wind patterns in your area may have changed because of the loss of adjacent tree cover. Seek professional assistance before felling trees near power lines, houses or other improvements.

If the tree looks stable:

- Visually check for burnt, partially burnt or broken branches and treetops that may fall.
- Check for burns on the tree trunk. If the bark on the trunk of the tree has been burned off or scorched by very high temperatures around the tree's circumference; the tree will not survive. This is because the living portion of the tree (cambium) was destroyed. The bark of the tree provides protection to the tree during fire. Bark thickness varies based upon tree species: check carefully to see if the fire or heat penetrated the bark. Where fire has burnt deep into the tree trunk, the tree should be considered unstable until checked.
- Check for burnt roots by probing the ground with a rod around the base of the tree and out away from the base several feet. The roots are generally six to eight inches below the surface. If you find that the roots have been burned you should consider this tree very unstable; it could easily be toppled by wind.

If the tree is scorched

- A scorched tree is one that has lost part or all of its needles. Leaves will be dry and curled. Needles will be a light red or straw colored. Healthy deciduous trees are resilient and may possibly produce new branches and leaves, as well as sprouts at the base of the tree. Evergreen trees, particularly long-needled trees, may survive when partially scorched. An evergreen tree that has been damaged by fire is subject to bark beetle attack. Please seek professional assistance concerning measures for protecting evergreen trees from bark beetle attack.

Residual Smoke

Smoke may be present within the perimeter of the fire for several days following containment. This occurs as a result of stumps, roots, and other surface materials being exposed to changing temperatures and wind conditions. Smoke volume from these materials may fluctuate depending on weather conditions. This activity should not pose a risk and smoke will continue to dissipate until materials are fully consumed or extinguished by fire crews or weather.

Flooding Risk

With the recent large high intensity wildfires in Oregon certain locations within burned areas, or downhill and downstream of burned areas are much more susceptible to flash flooding and debris flows. Even areas that are not traditionally flood prone are at risk due to changes to the landscape caused by wildfire. Rainfall that would normally be absorbed will run off extremely quickly after a wildfire, as burned soil can be as water repellent as pavement. As a result, much less rainfall is required to produce a flash flood. A good rule of thumb is, if you can look uphill from where you are and see an area burned by wildfire, you are at risk.

Preparing for Flooding

In the event of moderate to heavy rainfall, do not wait for a flash flood warning in order to take steps to protect life and property. Thunderstorms that develop over the burned area may begin to produce flash flooding and debris flows before a warning can be issued. If you are in an area vulnerable to flooding and debris flows, plan and move away from the area. There may be very little time to react once the storms and rain start.

- Have an evacuation/escape route planned that is least likely to be impacted by Flash Flooding or Debris Flows
- Have an Emergency Supply Kit available
- Stay informed before and during any potential event; knowing where to obtain National Weather Service (NWS) Outlooks, Watches and Warnings via the NWS Pendleton Website, Facebook, Twitter, or All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio
- Be alert if any rain develops. Do not wait for a warning to evacuate should heavy rain develop.
- Call 911 if you are caught in a Flash Flood or Debris Flow
- Contact local officials for additional risk information and potential mitigation efforts
Contact The US Army Corps of Engineers regarding their Silver Jackets Program