

Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS)



2021 Mobilization Readiness Review Guide



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Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal
“Protecting people, their property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials”



Purpose & Use

The 2021 Mobilization Readiness Review Guide is the second edition and result of many conversations between Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) staff and our structural fire service partners. This document will assist Oregon fire agencies in creating and maintaining a healthy mutual aid system that allows for collaboration and relationships at the local, regional, and state levels.

This guide provides a checklist for Fire Chiefs and Fire Defense Board Chiefs to assess their local capability to engage in statewide response through OSFM.

This document serves as a supplement to the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan (Mob Plan), which assumes the existence of the systems and agreements outlined in this document. This document does not supersede any information in the current Mob Plan, nor does it seek to establish rules or regulations; instead this guide promotes conversations to strengthen the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System as a whole.

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2021 Mobilization Readiness Review Timeline

- ✓ **April 26 – May 14, 2021:** Recommend timeframe to complete checklists
- ✓ **May 11, 2021:** Fire Defense Board Chief 101 / Refresher Training (virtual)
- ✓ **May 18, 2021:** State Fire Defense Board meeting (virtual)
- ✓ **Late May (TBD):** Annual Fire Defense Board Chief drill with OSFM Agency Operations Center



Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System

The Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS) is a term used to describe fire response in the state at all levels: local, regional, statewide, and into other states.



1. Local Response

Initial attack by AHJ or nearby agencies



2. Local Mutual Aid

Local agency agreements used to bring in partners from neighboring jurisdictions



3. Expanded Mutual Aid

Local agency agreements which may be county-wide or inter-county used to bolster capability



4. Statewide Mutual Aid

Conflagration or other state-level response by resources mobilized by State Fire Marshal



5. Interstate Mutual Aid

State-level agreements allowing resources from other states to respond

Safety in the Era of COVID-19

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) will continue to fulfill its mission of safely mobilizing resources in support of the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System (OFMAS) during the COVID-19 pandemic. To ensure the ability of the OFMAS to respond to wildfires over the coming months, the OSFM is working with our partners to:

Safeguard firefighters, our response partners, and the public

The safety of responders and the public is always the number one priority at all wildland fires. Firefighters should continue to follow current local, state, and federal guidance to protect themselves and others from the transmission of COVID-19. Firefighters responding as part of a mobilization should be prepared with a supply of PPE and other cleaning tools (i.e., hand sanitizer, disinfectant sprays, etc.) to stay protected while en route to a fire, while off-shift, and when returning home.

Prepare for outbreaks at incidents

Firefighters working on wildfire incidents need to be vigilant about the spread of infectious disease. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group released [Infectious Disease Guidance](#) for wildland fires so that Incident Management Teams and firefighters can plan for, recognize, and respond to outbreaks if they arise.

OSFM has acquired cache items pursuant to the mitigation of COVID-19, including infrared thermometers, nitrile gloves, hand sanitizer, disinfecting supplies, N95 respirators, and other face coverings. These are high-demand items, as deliveries are being prioritized to hospitals and other treatment facilities on a national level. As such, the following recommendation is provided:

- All resources are expected to travel to and arrive at the incident with an initial supply of specialized PPE to include face masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting supplies. Face coverings are required for general use throughout camp.

Adopt best management practices

As of late April, the Northwest Incident Management Team Best Management Practices are in the process of being revised for 2021.

Continue our work on community risk reduction

Working with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Keep Oregon Green (KOG), the OSFM will continue its effort to prepare communities to be fire adapted, to build defensible space, and to be ready to evacuate using the Ready – Set – Go communications campaign, all the while adhering to community interventions aimed at reducing the spread of COVID-19. In 2021, Bigfoot will once again serve as an ambassador of wildfire prevention messaging.

Monitor new developments

The OSFM will continue to assess potential risks to firefighters and our response partners as the response to COVID-19 continues and our public health partners develop new guidance.

Local Fire Department / District Checklist

Below is a checklist to review that will aid in strengthening local organization and capability within a Fire Defense District. This checklist should be used to drive local readiness activities prior to participating in a statewide response.

- Local fire departments or districts communicate regularly with Fire Defense Board Chief and information from the OSFM is shared locally.
 - Communications from OSFM to Fire Defense Board Chiefs should be shared with all agencies within a given district.

- Local fire departments or districts have agreements with all mutual aid partners and they participate actively in mutual aid calls.

- Local fire departments or districts have agreements with local ODF offices and other partner agencies.
 - The foundation of OFMAS is initial attack along with mutual aid at the local level.

- Local fire departments or districts are versed in the Mob Plan.
 - The Mob Plan contains specific information relevant to all tiers of the statewide system. OSFM provides Mob Plan training opportunities at multiple levels.

- Resources utilize Mob Plan standards for equipment and personnel for the purposes of in-district and mutual aid response.
 - Meeting Mob Plan standards locally aids in understanding and ensures continuity of operations.

- The area utilizes task forces or strike teams locally to provide mutual aid.
 - There has been success building a process to mobilize within the Fire Defense District in the same manner as mobilizing through OSFM. This is not a requirement but is a consideration.

- Local fire chiefs know how and when to request support for a conflagration.

- All local fire agencies have workers' compensation insurance for their personnel and volunteers.

Fire Defense Board Chief Readiness Checklist

Below is a checklist to assist Fire Defense Board Chiefs in assessing readiness to mobilize statewide through OSFM.

- The Fire Defense Board holds regular meetings with all member agencies.
 - Meetings should be semi-annually at a minimum and ensure the points outlined in this guide have been discussed.
- The Fire Defense Board Chief (FDBC) understand the Mob Plan and knows where in the plan to find information on personnel training requirements, apparatus typing and equipment standards, and what mobilization costs are reimbursable.
- The FDBC (and their alternates) know how to access, use, and submit the weekly online form to report [Resource Availability](#) to the OSFM Agency Operations Center.
- The FDBC (and their alternates) understands the process to request a conflagration.
 - Whether requesting or responding to a conflagration, it's important to understand the process in order to participate. The process is outlined in the Mob Plan and OSFM trainings.
- The FDBC (and their alternates) are scheduled to participate in OSFM's annual Fire Defense Board Drill (***expected late May 2021***).
- The FDBC (and their alternates) have participated in pre-season meetings with partners to include County Commissioners, County Emergency Manager, Oregon Department of Forestry, federal agencies, and law enforcement.

Statewide Mobilization – Apparatus Checklist

Below is a checklist for apparatus mobilized by OSFM as part of a Task Force or Strike Team. Typing information is found in the Mob Plan.

- All engines carry the equipment listed in Appendix F of the Mob Plan.
- All engines improved/unpaved road and draft-capable.
- Type I and II engines carry structural PPE to include SCBAs.
- Apparatus to be mobilized have communications capability as described in Appendix G of the Mob Plan, including having a mobile or portable radio with the State FIRE NET frequency.
- Apparatus to be mobilized as “ALS capable” will be staffed with personnel that meet their agencies' guidelines for training and equipment, and are operating under the direction of their local Physician Advisor.
- Apparatus have a contingency plan for accessing fuel, certified fire apparatus repair, and water supply.
- Resources carry an initial supply of specialized COVID-19 PPE, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting supplies. Dust masks or face coverings are included for general use.

Statewide Mobilization – Personnel Checklist

Once you have set your fire agencies up for success locally, you will want to ensure all agencies and personnel who mobilize through OSFM have completed training and understand planning documents. Below is a checklist of requirements for personnel mobilized by OSFM as part of a Task Force or Strike Team.

- All personnel meet the minimum training requirements for the position they are filling per NWCG guidelines and the Mob Plan.
 - Trainee or Assistant Task Force or Strike Team Leaders are qualified as Engine Bosses, at a minimum.
 - All engines have a qualified Engine Boss.
 - In addition to meeting NWCG standards, all personnel mobilized by OSFM are qualified as NFPA Firefighter 1.

- Personnel have completed RT-130 annually and carry a fire shelter.
- Personnel are prepared to remain at an incident for a minimum of seven days.
- Personnel understand and are committed to following the Code of Conduct and safety expectations as outlined in the Mob Plan.
- Personnel are covered by a workers' compensation policy carried by their home agency.

- Personnel from each agency are prepared to make necessary purchases (such as fuel) during travel to and from an incident.
- Personnel understand OSFM paperwork requirements.
- Personnel are familiar with OSFM's Structural Protection Plan and how it is applied in the field.
- Task Force Leaders have been identified, completed required training, reviewed the current Task Force Leader Guidebook and/or attended OSFM's TFL Symposium, and understand the local plan for being notified of mobilization.

Interstate Mobilization Through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact

OFMAS resources can be mobilized out of Oregon through established agreements, including the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). An EMAC mission request comes through Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) and is then filled by OSFM through the standard mobilization process. Below is a checklist for agencies interested in participating in an EMAC mission through OSFM. These items are in addition to the information in the previous checklists for in-state response.

- Review Appendix L of the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan. This appendix covers some of the differences between an in-state mobilization and an EMAC mobilization.
- Be prepared to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with OEM on short notice. This agreement is necessary in order for Oregon firefighting resources to perform work out of state and must be signed by an individual with the appropriate authorities to represent your agency. OSFM will provide this agreement.
- Be prepared to complete an EMAC Request for Assistance Form (REQ-A). This form will include an estimate of the costs that will be incurred by the agency during the mission. You will need to know wages & benefits of your personnel who are responding as well as their backfill. OSFM will provide this form.
- Personnel should be prepared to be mobilized for 16 days: two travel days and 14 days assigned to the incident.
- Personnel should be prepared to make necessary purchases (such as fuel) during travel to and from the incident and understand which receipts will be required for reimbursement.
- Understand that individual mission requests through EMAC may have different requirements for personnel, PPE, or mission expectations. For example, personnel mobilized to California are expected to wear uniforms in camp.

