



State of Oregon Wildfires August 3, 2026

Office of the Governor

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Posted July 31, 2026

“Salem, OR – Today, Governor Tina Kotek directed the Division of Financial Regulation (DFR) at the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) to immediately prohibit insurance carriers from canceling or nonrenewing homeowners insurance policies for people affected by Oregon’s growing wildfire emergency.

“Last week, I met with fire response teams and community members in Sisters currently challenged by the Akawa Butte Fire,” Governor Kotek said. “I could not be more proud of the way Oregon communities are supporting each other during this time, but the last thing anyone needs to worry about in this moment is losing their homeowners insurance. I’m taking immediate action with this directive to ensure that families and communities across the state that are or will be responding to the catastrophic effects of wildfires this summer are provided with stability and certainty during this ongoing wildfire state of emergency.”

Authorized under ORS 731.870, the directive ensures continuity of insurance coverage and requires all property and casualty insurers to take proactive steps to protect homeowners in wildfire-affected areas. Under the order, insurers must:

- *Suspend cancellations and nonrenewals*
- *Provide a grace period for premium payments*
- *Extend deadlines for reporting claims or submitting claim-related communications*
- *Take all practicable steps to ensure policyholders can report claims*

These protections apply to all insurance companies transacting property and casualty insurance in Oregon and cover policyholders in ZIP codes subject to

wildfire evacuation notices. The directive follows Governor Kotek's June 16 state of emergency declaration due to the imminent threat of wildfires.

"We issued this order to make sure evacuees and other Oregonians affected by these wildfires are able to access the insurance resources they need, especially while they are displaced," Oregon Insurance Commissioner TK Keen said. "We appreciate all the work our state's insurance representatives are doing to help their customers right now, and we encourage everyone to be patient and work together throughout the recovery process."

If your home or property was damaged by the wildfires, contact your insurance company as soon as possible to discuss your situation and next steps. If you need additional assistance, DFR's consumer advocates are available at 888-877-4894 (toll-free) or email dfr.insurancehelp@oregon.gov. Visit the DFR's wildfire insurance resource page to view the order, bulletin, and more insurance information.

Go to [Wildfire.Oregon.gov](https://www.wildfire.oregon.gov) for fire updates and sign up for emergency notifications on [oralert.gov](https://www.oralert.gov)."

Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency

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[Oregon Department of Emergency Management : Oregon Department of Emergency Management : State of Oregon](#)

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"With the National Weather Service issuing a fire weather watch for Saturday across large portions of north-central, northeast and southeast Oregon, the state's public safety services, natural resource agencies, and tourism office want to remind residents and visitors to practice wildfire prevention, prepare their home and a go-bag for evacuation, and know where to go for real-time alerts and information.

According to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center's predictive services, each year the Pacific Northwest is at elevated risk of significant fires

from now until October. With fire crews responding to new fire starts every day, Oregonians and our visitors need to be prepared for wildfires, help prevent future ones, and be aware of up-to-date conditions as they travel across the state.

How can people help prevent wildfires?

The Oregon Department of Forestry is urging the public to actively practice wildfire prevention as the state continues to put out new fires every day. Additional human-caused fires on the landscape will draw the firefighting efforts away from the lightning-caused fires and put extra strain on ground and aviation resources, which are already spread thin. YOU can help prevent wildfires by:

- *Checking and following your local fire regulations. The majority of the state is either in high or extreme fire danger right now, meaning even the smallest of sparks could start the next large wildfire.*
- *Debris burning may be prohibited where you live.*
 - *Check local restrictions or contact your local ODF office.*
 - *Return to check on your burn site if you burned earlier in the year.*
- *Make sure your car has been recently serviced to avoid faulty parts throwing sparks.*
- *Don't drag tow chains.*
- *Avoid parking vehicles on tall, dry grass.*
- *Recreate responsibly. Where campfires are allowed, make sure your campfire is DEAD OUT before leaving it by drowning it with water, stirring it with a shovel and repeating that process until it is cold to the touch. If there is heat coming off it, there are still embers that could reignite.*

Take Simple Steps to Protect Your Home from Wildfire

The Oregon State Fire Marshal reminds Oregonians that summer is not the safest time to tackle large landscaping or defensible space projects. Hot, dry conditions increase the risk of starting a fire from using tools or equipment. There are small, safe steps you can take now to reduce wildfire risk around your home. The Oregon State Fire Marshal encourages everyone to plan ahead and do light cleanup tasks that protect your property without increasing fire danger.

Easy tasks to reduce risk in the first five feet around your home:

- *Clear leaves, pine needles, and other debris from your roof, gutters, and under decks.*
- *Trim plants and bushes that are touching your home or growing under roof eaves. Give trees and shrubs space from each other and from structures.*
- *Remove dead plants and wood mulch. Use nonflammable materials like rocks or gravel near your home. Avoid bark mulch or dry grasses right next to buildings.*

- Move firewood, propane tanks, and other flammable items at least five feet away from your home.
- Cover attic vents, soffit vents, and spaces under decks with 1/8-inch metal mesh to block embers.

Avoid using power tools or equipment that could spark a fire, especially during the heat of the day. Summer is a good time to plan defensible space projects, so you're ready to work safely once wildfire season ends.

For more tips or help with defensible space, visit www.oregondefensiblespace.org or <https://preventwildfires.oregon.gov>.

How can I prepare myself in case I need to evacuate?

The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) urges everyone to prepare for wildfires and other emergencies by knowing evacuation levels, staying informed, having a plan, and having a go-kit ready.

Evacuation Levels

- Oregon follows a three-level evacuation notification system, each structured around safety threat level.
- Oregonians should become familiar with "Be Ready, Be Set, Go!" evacuation levels to make informed decisions when receiving evacuation notices.
- OEM urges people to evacuate whenever they feel unsafe, conditions can change rapidly; individuals should always make the best decision for their safety.
- Following evacuation, people should not return to the area until public safety officials state it is safe.

Stay Informed

- Stay informed, sign up to receive evacuation at, ORAlert.gov remember to update information if need be.
- Find the websites for your county emergency management, sheriff's office, or tribal police and follow them on social media.
- Check your phone settings to ensure wireless emergency alerts are turned on.
- Build redundancy into how you can access alerts. Have a personal A.C.E plan for what you will do if your cell phone stops working. A good place to start is a hand-cranked NOAA radio.
- If you use a third-party app for alerts and situational awareness and notice discrepancy information, default to the information provided by your local emergency management office.

Have a Plan

- *Do you know what to do during an evacuation? This evacuation checklist explains what to do before, during and after an evacuation.*
- *Establish a communication plan with a list of important contacts and a safe place for loved ones to meet if they are separated during an emergency.*
- *Identify multiple evacuation routes from home, work, or school and plan for transportation needs.*
- *People with disabilities should consider individual circumstances and specific needs when planning for evacuation, such as special equipment, transportation, and service animals. Then plan extra time, when possible, this may mean treating a level 2 notice like a level 3 notice.*
- *Have an evacuation plan for pets, make a pet evacuation kit in a tote bag or pet crate, and plan for transportation and sheltering of large animals such as horses and other livestock.*

Make a Go-Kit

- *Assemble an emergency kit of essential supplies that can be grabbed quickly.*
- *Pack an easy-to-carry backpack or bag for each household member with health and safety items such as food, water, medication, flashlights, phone chargers, clothing, and important documents. Visit American Red Cross to learn more.*
- *Find more information and resources at Wildfire.Oregon.gov.*

Recreate Responsibly

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) encourages visitors to know before they go when it comes to campfire restrictions. OPRD coordinates with local fire officials throughout the summer and bans open flames in high-risk areas around the state until conditions improve. Please check park webpages or the current fire restrictions list before your next visit. Thank you for helping to reduce the risk of wildfires.

Additionally, many waterways in eastern Oregon are currently being used by firefighting aircraft. Stay clear of the center of major waterways. Recreational boats can block aircraft from accessing the water, which means they will not be able to retrieve water to help put out nearby wildfires.

Occasionally, OPRD will need to evacuate a state park. Evacuations occur at level 2 or earlier depending on fire conditions and the time required to get in and out of the park. Please follow park ranger instructions to pack gear and evacuate. Any park closure information will be posted on the park web page and OPRD social media.

How do I know if I should change my vacation plans?

Oregon is a large state, and while wildfires can disrupt travel in some regions, those impacts are often localized and can change rapidly as conditions improve or deteriorate. Because of this, it's important to check current alerts at the resources below to see whether your destination is affected. If you're looking for general guidance about traveling during wildfire season, [read Travel Oregon's Wildfire Travel FAQ](#).

Before You Go:

- *Check road conditions at [TripCheck.com](#) or by calling 511.*
- *Review and follow all local [fire restrictions and closures](#).*
- *[Be aware of air quality conditions](#) that could impact health and visibility.*
- *View real-time hazard updates, maps, and fire information through [OEM's Wildfire Dashboard](#).*
- *Sign up for emergency alerts at [ORAlert.gov](#) and ensure [Wireless Emergency Alerts](#) are enabled on your mobile device."*

American Red Cross

Red Cross Cascade Regions
Regional Headquarters
3131 N. Vancouver Ave
Portland, OR 97227
(503) 284-1234

[Cascades Region | American Red Cross](#)
[Red Cross Cascade Facebook](#)
[Red Cross Cascades \(@RedCrossCasc\) / X](#)
[Red Cross Cascades Region - YouTube](#)

Open Shelters: Please follow the link to find open shelters throughout the state. [Disaster Shelters](#) | [Find Shelters](#) | [American Red Cross](#)

Department of Transportation

Oregon Department of Transportation
355 Capitol Street NE, MS 11
Salem, OR 97301
(888) 275-6368

[Oregon Department of Transportation : Home : State of Oregon](#)
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[OregonDOT - YouTube](#)

United Way/211 Information and Referrals Lines

These information and referral lines may know of additional resources currently providing assistance, such as food pantries, clothing closets, emergency shelters, and agencies offering financial assistance. Please dial 2-1-1 and provide your zip code and demographic information in order to receive referrals. Information can also be obtained at [Call 211 for Essential Community Services | United Way 211](#).

United Way of Greater Portland and Central Oregon Regions
619 SW 11th Ave
Portland, OR 97205

United Way of Mid-Willamette Valley
455 Biller Ave NE
Salem, OR 97301

United Way of Central Oregon
150 NE Hawthorne Ave Ste 100
Bend, OR 97701

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

(800) 621-3362
[FEMA.gov](#)

Please visit the website and click on “*Disaster Declarations*”. If a disaster is declared, please call to apply for assistance by phone, or visit: [Individual Assistance | FEMA.gov](#) to apply online.

DisasterAssistance.gov

[Home | disasterassistance.gov](#)

Offers information about local resources for disasters, including: FEMA Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs), Red Cross, food, shelter, state emergency management agencies, and hospital locators.

To determine if individual disaster assistance is available through FEMA, please visit the website and enter the address.

To locate your local state emergency management agency for disaster information and updates, please visit: [Search Your Location | FEMA.gov](#)

American Red Cross National

(800) 733-2767
[American Red Cross | Help Those Affected by Disasters](#)

National Weather Service

Weather alerts by state are available at: [Active Alerts \(weather.gov\)](#).

The Weather Channel

Local forecasts and severe weather.

[National and Local Weather Radar, Daily Forecast, Hurricane and information from The Weather Channel and weather.com.](#)

Safe Travel USA

[SafeTravelUSA](#)

National Traffic And Road Closure Information

[National Traffic and Road Closure Information | Federal Highway Administration \(dot.gov\)](#)

Free Help Line

Optum, a leading health and behavioral health services company, is offering a free emotional-support help line.

The toll-free number, 866-447-3573, will be open Monday-Friday, 8am-8pm CST. The service is free of charge and open to anyone. Specially trained Optum mental health specialists help people manage their stress and anxiety so they can continue to address their everyday needs. Callers may also receive referrals to community resources to help them with specific concerns, including financial and legal matters.

Along with the toll-free help line, emotional-support resources and information are available online at <https://www.liveandworkwell.com>.