

Office of State Fire Marshal Annual Report 2012



A division of the Oregon State Police



Building cooperative partnerships with the fire service, regulated industries, and stakeholders is key to ensuring the OSFM successfully meets and sustains its mission and vision for life safety and property conservation. The OSFM strives to create and maintain relationships with constituents, partners, and employees through leadership and innovative strategies and programs.

Our synergistic collaborations amplify our reach and success. It is how we create a solid foundation on which to build even greater and more effective programs to accomplish our mission.

The OSFM also works with a variety of agencies and public officials to share knowledge and training. Through this proactive collaboration, fire and life safety policies are crafted, fire codes are amended and adopted, laws and administrative rules are reviewed and modified, and educational materials are developed and distributed.

Although the entire OSFM staff works hard to educate and train members of the fire service and community partners on preventing, preparing for, and responding to all types of emergencies, our success is only enhanced by the support of all Oregonians and the collaboration and partnerships of many local, state, and national agencies.



TOP: Forest Grove Fire & Rescue Division Chief David Nemeyer (front, center), flanked by Forest Grove Fire Chief Michael Kinkade to his right and State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace to his left, receives his Golden Sparky award in recognition of his tireless work in fire prevention and safety.

MIDDLE: OSFM Compliance Specialist Jay Hardwick (right) during the inspection of a bulk propane tank.

BOTTOM: Class photo for a 2012 Juvenile Firesetter Intervention training in Warrenton, Oregon.

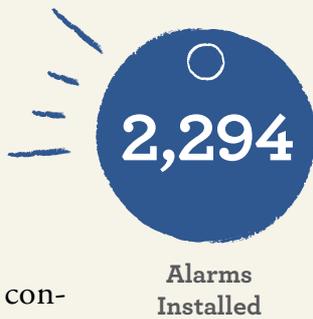
Protecting citizens, their property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.

PROTECTING CITIZENS

FIRE

Oregonians are safer when they have working smoke alarms in their residences. The OSFM has partnered with fire agencies across the state to execute the OSFM's **Smoke Alarm Installation Program**, which was revised, rejuvenated, and streamlined in 2012.

Through this program 30 fire agencies received 2,294 smoke alarms from the OSFM to conduct door-to-door smoke alarm installation and training events to at-risk demographics.



FIRE

OSFM staff trained licensed caregivers, staff, and their clients on **planning and practicing a home fire escape plan**. Thousands of Home Fire Escape Planning guides were distributed by the OSFM to caregivers, staff, and their clients around the state.



FIRE

The OSFM published the inaugural edition of the **Oregon Fire Injury Review**. This publication is the result of the collaboration of several organizations that make up the Oregon Fire Casualty Review Committee. Their work resulted in key findings on the causes of fire-related injuries and provided important recommendations on how all Oregon fire agencies can reduce the number of residential fire injuries.

FIRE

The OSFM's Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Program partnered with Special Districts of Oregon, Property Casualty Coverage for Education to **update the Report School Fires campaign**. The campaign included materials that warned school officials about **"fire tricks"** youths may attempt after learning about them through internet videos and other sources. These campaign materials were distributed to 341 high schools, 806 elementary schools, 266 middle schools, 19 education service districts, and 115 charter schools. Copies were also provided to fire departments, mental health agencies, and juvenile justice agencies throughout the state.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

In 2012, the OSFM provided **Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness grant funds** for hazardous materials planning and training projects in nine counties, enhancing first responder abilities. One example is a full-scale exercise facilitated by Mid-Valley Local Emergency Planning Committee that depicted a hazardous substance leaking from a railroad car. This exercise combined the training of first responders from more than nine different public safety agencies.

FIRE

Significant progress was made in firefighter safety. The OSFM worked with the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council, and the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association to develop Oregon's first ever **Air Monitoring Report** and **Best Practices White Paper** to benefit firefighter safety. This best practices guide serves an important role in the safety practices of firefighters for respiratory and dermal protection during the extinguishment, overhaul, and investigation phases of a fire.



PROTECTING PROPERTY



FIRE

The number of residents living in wildland-urban interface zones increases every year. This increases the need for residents to have the knowledge and information necessary to ensure they can take steps to protect themselves and their property from the dangers of wildfire. To this end, the OSFM partnered with Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon Garden Foundation, Moonstone Management, and Oregon State University to create the **first full-scale home wildfire safety exhibit in the nation**. Thousands of visitors to the Oregon Garden every year will now have the opportunity to tour the Oregon Garden Fire Safety House and learn how they can put the principles of home wildfire protection to practical use.

FIRE

The OSFM continued its highly successful **media partnership event focusing on the safe use of fireworks** and discouraging the use of illegal fireworks. This annual event is led by the OSFM and incorporates our partners from metropolitan fire districts, Oregon Department of Forestry, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State Parks, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Burn Center, Eye Health Northwest, and the fireworks industry.

FIRE

The OSFM continued its **collaboration with the Oregon Building Codes Division** to update and refine Oregon construction and fire codes to improve the safety of homes and other structures. Working together allows the stakeholders a continued harmony of overlapping codes which results in consistent code application and enforcement.

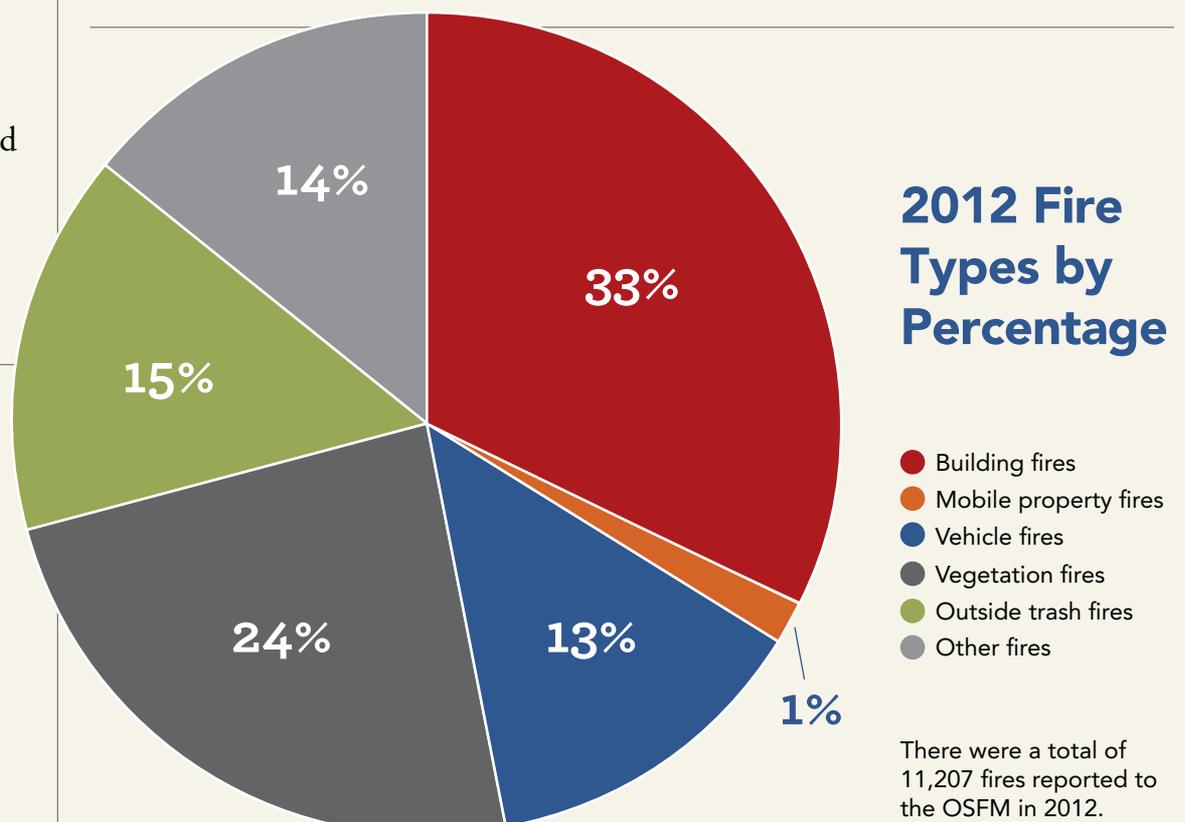
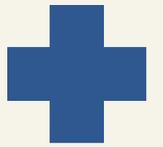
PROPERTY CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ▶

FIRE

The OSFM Data Unit launched a rigorous training effort throughout the state to help Oregon fire agencies **improve the accuracy of the data they submit to OSFM**. Accurate data is crucial to understanding the Oregon fire picture and is a driving factor in financial and operational decisions at the state and local level. This OSFM-directed training resulted in an increased data accuracy rate of 96%; up from 85% since the OSFM deployed a new and improved data collection system in 2010 called Oregon Fire Bridge.™

FIRE

Protecting vulnerable citizens who live in nursing homes and other care facilities in Oregon is a priority of our deputy state fire marshals. Deputies focus on ensuring Oregon's healthcare facilities are fire safe. In 2012, these deputies **inspected 116 nursing homes, 22 ambulatory surgical centers, and eight hospitals**; resulting in 974 corrections of 1,083 deficiencies.



FIRE & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The OSFM organized the participation of members of the state's incident management teams, hazardous materials response teams, and urban search and rescue team in a **national-scale exercise in Salem**. This exercise improved the ability of all teams to work together in response to an "all-hazards" emergency event.



PROTECTING PROPERTY CONTINUED

FIRE

In 2012, the **Data Unit greatly improved the tracking of statewide fire resources** for any future Governor-declared conflagration. Having this statewide resource information allows incident commanders to more effectively plan and develop strategies when responding to these large-scale incidents.

FIRE

The OSFM **continued its partnership** with Portland Police, Oregon State Police, and Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue **to safely destroy confiscated illegal fireworks**. This program began in 2006, and to date, a total of 10,000 pounds of illegal fireworks has been removed from public distribution and destroyed.



FIRE

The economic downturn has seen a rise in the number of families using recreational vehicles as residences, and heating them with portable heaters. Working with local partners, and under the guidance of the OSFM, the **Oregon Life Safety Team developed educational materials** for distribution to this at-risk demographic to ensure they learned how to keep their family and property protected from the dangers associated with the improper use of portable space heaters.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The OSFM continues to serve as a **vital resource to existing and developing Local Emergency Planning Committees** around the state. There are currently 10 active LEPCs in Oregon and the OSFM plays an important role in their success by providing support, resources, and important data to these committees about extremely hazardous substance facilities located in their specific jurisdictions. This enhances their ability to prepare for, and respond to hazardous material incidents in their community.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

The OSFM hosted its **4th Oregon Hazmat Teams Conference**. The conference was funded by an HMEP grant and attended by representatives from each hazmat team, rail, Civil Support Team, members of industry, and various state and federal agencies. This conference served as the forum by which industry, emergency response, and state agencies train together to increase knowledge, promote communication, and discuss response techniques.

FIRE

Deciding if and when state resources are needed during an emergency is an important step to balancing fiscal commitment and the safety of people and the environment. The OSFM developed and **distributed two new resource documents** to fire defense board chiefs and first responder team leaders to **provide step-by-step instructions and decision-making criteria** needed before requesting state resources during an emergency.



FIRE

The OSFM Emergency Response Unit **partnered with Oregon Department of Forestry on a combined incident management team training**. This annual event allowed emergency response members from both organizations to train together, to more effectively respond to Governor declared conflagrations and other incidents.

FIRE

The OSFM implemented a new **auto messaging service** that allows for important information from the OSFM to be communicated with incident management teams, hazardous material response teams, external partners, and OSFM staff in a variety of methods. The new system can communicate via email, voice alerts, and SMS text messaging at the same time to ensure important messages are communicated and received immediately.

