



Office of State Fire Marshal

Emergency mobilization briefing

June 2006 . State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr . 4760 Portland Road NE . Salem Oregon 97305-1760

The *Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan* is used to mobilize firefighters when an incident threatens life or structures exceeding the capacity of local firefighting and mutual aid resources. The plan

- is all-risk,
- is based upon accepted incident command standards, and
- provides a method for reimbursing resources.

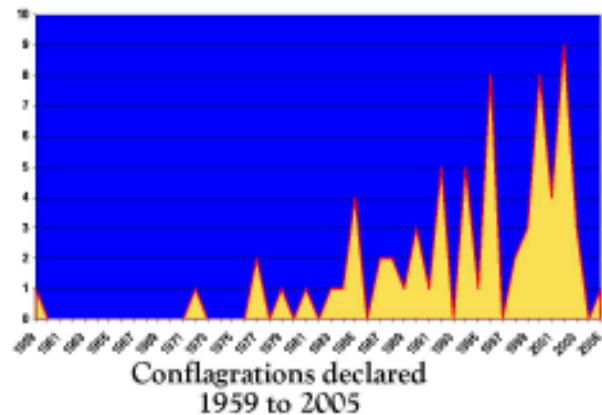
AUTHORITY

The Office of State Fire Marshal coordinates response by the Oregon fire services during major emergency operations through:

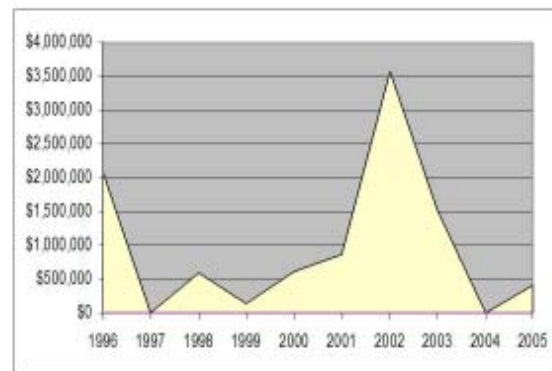
- **The Conflagration Act:** ORS 476.510 to 476.610 and 476.990(4) allows the State Fire Marshal to mobilize firefighters and equipment from around the state and provides for the funding of resources through state funds.
- **A State of Emergency:** ORS 401.055 to 401.155 allows fire service to mobilize under the powers of the Governor and the Governor's direction for a State of Emergency.
- **Intergovernmental Cooperation:** ORS 190 gives local government entities the authority to enter into agreements with other local governments and state government. The statute provides states the authority to enter into agreements with other state governments as well as other nations and agencies of other nations.
- **Interstate Emergency Assistance:** ORS 401.045 provides the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, also referred to as EMAC, mutual assistance between states managing any emergency or disaster declared by the governor of the affected state.

THE CONFLAGRATION ACT:

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal Oregon responds to wildfires **only** when the threat involves **life and structures**.



Since 1996 Oregon conflagration costs have exceeded \$9 million. Increasing costs, use of mobilization, and limited resources emphasize the need for community accountability through mitigation plans to reduce the threat of wildfires.



Conflagration Costs
1996 to 2005

Unprotected Communities

Oregon fire departments protect structures within the boundaries of their jurisdiction. Many areas of Oregon remain unprotected by structural fire service. Originating with the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council, current policy motivates

communities to create Community Wildfire Protection Plans or CWPPs. Prior to a request for invoking the Conflagration Act, counties should:

- Have a CWPP.
- Adopt construction standards requiring reduction of fire risk and structural ignitability, including fire siting standards for structures and roads.
- Clarify language on county tax statements regarding forest patrol assessments by defining this assessment does not include structural protection.

URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE

State Fire Marshal leadership recognized the existing emergency response needs and expectations beyond conflagration fires and developed the State of Oregon Urban Search and Rescue Task Force (OR-US&R). The OR-US&R is activated via the *Mobilization Plan*.

Geologists, emergency managers, and fire service leaders have warned of Oregon's potential for large scale catastrophic events including earthquakes, landslides, tsunamis and other natural disasters. Possible terrorist attacks pose a similar threat as demonstrated in Oklahoma City in 1995 and New York in 2001. Manmade or natural disasters quickly exhaust local resources. Federal resources take as long as four days to arrive and become operational. An ORS 190 Intergovernmental agreement between those fire departments having technical rescue expertise, the Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Emergency Management, and others enable immediate response to incidents involving structural collapse.

The goal of the OR-US&R is to fill the need between local fire service immediate response and the large scale federal resources by providing trained personnel and specialized equipment for response to large scale events involving structural collapse.

The OR-US&R is a State Task Force with a Type 1 capability including:

- Triage of damaged structures and reconnaissance duties,
- Assistance in stabilization of damaged structures,
- Physical and electronic search and rescue in damaged structures.

- Maintaining self-sufficiency for 72 hours and possible extended operations, and
- Specialized equipment cached in trailers ready to be transported to the event scene.

MOBILIZATION REQUEST PROCESS

The *Mobilization Plan* supplements resources of a fire agency in critical need. This includes but is not limited to:

- Structural fires by sheer number, size or speed of fire spread that cannot be controlled by available resources,
- Major disasters including earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and
- Human disasters including terrorist attacks.

Each incident involves assessment of six decision criteria:

1. Incident status
2. Area/terrain involved
3. Resources
4. Factors at risk
5. Control concerns
6. Other contributing factors

The request process begins at the local level:

1. The **local chief** and **fire defense board chief** determine mutual aid resources are depleted or determine the event to be beyond local and mutual aid capacity to control.
2. The State Fire Marshal receives notification from the fire defense board chief and verifies the need for mobilizing additional support.
3. If appropriate, the **State Fire Marshal** requests authorization from the **Governor** to invoke the Act to mobilize additional resources.

Reimbursement

Reimbursement for responding resources is assured only when the Governor invokes the Conflagration Act. The *Mobilization Plan* may be used separately from the Conflagration Act to mobilize local structural fire agencies for any emergency exceeding mutual aid resources.

More information on is available at http://www.oregon.gov/OOHS/SFM/Emergency_mobilization.shtml