

5.3.9 Multnomah County

Multnomah County government does not have a fire service and therefore does not identify Communities at Risk. Multnomah County plays an important role in convening stakeholders, as one of the few jurisdictional partners in this plan with constituency across the entire county.



The departments and divisions from Multnomah County that participated in the development of this plan are listed here.

- **Multnomah County Emergency Management (MCEM)** - Served as project manager for this planning process and will continue to support centralized plan maintenance and organization. MCEM also supports alerting, evacuation planning, and other needs in unincorporated areas, as well as post-disaster sheltering across the entire county.
- **Multnomah County Department of County Services (DCS)**
 - **County Land Use** – Performs development review under zoning and land use codes to ensure compliance for new construction in unincorporated Multnomah County. Multnomah County Land Use is monitoring land use planning implementation requirements or optional policies that will be developed at the state level under Senate Bill 762.
 - **County Transportation** – Maintains roads and bridges in locations across the county, making the division a key partner in evacuation planning and fire prevention in right-of-ways.
- **Multnomah County Sustainability** – The Office of Sustainability has long recognized the increased risk of wildfire as a major local vulnerability due to climate change. The 2015 joint Climate Action Plan between the county and the City of Portland included actions recognizing the importance of implementing CWPP actions, monitoring building codes for opportunities to reduce structural ignition risk, and improving the quality of vegetated corridors and buffers.
- **Multnomah County Sheriff's Office (MCSO)** – Serves as the primary evacuation and search response organization for wildfire events in unincorporated areas and in the Cities of Fairview, Troutdale, and Wood Village.

Wildfire mitigation strategies for Multnomah County in this plan focus on Multnomah County's role as a convener for countywide coordination, training and exercises, and enhancing stakeholder participation. Other strategies reflect the county's role in supporting evacuation planning and sheltering during wildfire disasters.

Multnomah County Mitigation Strategies

Action No.	Mitigation Topic	Mitigation Action	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners
1	Organizational Collaboration	Build relationships with additional wildfire stakeholders across fire district boundaries and identify strategies for integrating them into future mitigation and preparedness planning efforts. Some potential groups could be from the insurance industry, watershed councils, and community-based organizations.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Oregon State Fire Marshal
2	Organizational Collaboration	Assess resource and funding support needed for Multnomah County Emergency Management to maintain a central position for organization of ongoing countywide wildfire mitigation efforts, including convening meetings, maintaining group member lists, and mitigation grant planning.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Oregon Emergency Management, Oregon State Fire Marshal
3	Organizational Collaboration	Align countywide CWPP priorities, when possible, with planning priorities in connected wildfire risk areas that cross county lines and fire districts and emergency management agencies in neighboring counties.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Cascade Locks Fire Clackamas Fire, Lake Oswego Fire, Portland Fire & Rescue, Sauvie Island Fire, Sandy Fire, Scappoose Rural Fire Protection District, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Clackamas County, Columbia County, Hood River County, Washington County
4	Organizational Collaboration	Support regional wildland firefighting equipment grants and other potential projects available through RDPO UASI funding.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization, Portland Emergency Management, Gresham Emergency Management
5	Organizational Collaboration	Determine if Multnomah County should become a participating county in the Oregon State University Extension Service to coordinate additional wildfire mitigation expertise and program support.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Oregon State University
6	Organizational Collaboration	Build wildfire specific components in the upcoming update to the Multnomah County Recovery Plan.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization
7	Data & Risk Assessment	Identify grants to support GIS projects to develop Story Maps and other engaging, accessible and broad-ranging public wildfire risk materials.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Multnomah County GIS, Multnomah County Communications, Oregon Emergency Management, Oregon State Fire Marshal

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Action No.	Mitigation Topic	Mitigation Action	Lead Agency	Supporting Partners
8	Data & Risk Assessment	Explore platforms for developing and maintaining a countywide mapping application showing active and planned fuel treatment project locations.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Multnomah County IT, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State Fire Marshal, All County Fire Districts, Land Management Agencies and Organizations
9	Community Engagement & Resilience Building	Gather survey information from unhoused residents about unmet needs and community wildfire risk awareness.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS), JOHS Outreach Contractors
10	Community Engagement & Resilience Building	Provide simple, graphic-based materials for homeless service contractors to distribute to unhoused communities before each wildfire season. Materials could address wildfire risk reduction, evacuation messaging, and how to limit wildfire smoke vulnerability.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Joint Office of Homeless Services, JOHS Outreach Contractors, Multnomah County Communications
11	Community Engagement & Resilience Building	Explore ways to foster countywide Firewise Community coordination for sharing of information, best practices, and mutual support. Determine if there are ways for existing Firewise Communities to provide support to new groups with an interest in neighborhood-based resilience.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Existing Firewise Communities and their local Fire Districts, Oregon State Fire Marshal, National Fire Protection Association
12	Land and Vegetation Management	Support the development of grants or other opportunities that could facilitate the shared use of air curtain burners by fire districts and resource management agencies across the county or region, to safely dispose of vegetative debris.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	US Forest Service, Regional Disaster Preparedness Organization, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Oregon Department of Forestry
13	Wildfire Prevention	Assess the feasibility of grants for providing fire prevention and suppression equipment - such as flameless stoves and fire buckets - to unsheltered communities in unincorporated vegetated areas.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Joint Office of Homeless Services
14	Operational Coordination and Capacity	Convene forums for residents in the structurally unprotected areas in eastern and western Multnomah County to explore alternatives for establishing structural fire district protection.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Cascade Locks Fire, Corbett Fire, Portland Fire & Rescue, Scappoose Fire, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Multnomah County Fire Defense Board, Oregon State Fire Marshal

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15	Operational Coordination and Capacity	Create an Alert and Warning Annex to the Multnomah County Emergency Operations Plan that prioritizes communicating wildfire risk to underserved communities.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Joint Office of Homeless Services, Department of County Human Services, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Gresham Fire, Corbett Fire, Sauvie Island Fire, Scappoose Fire, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Cascade Locks Fire
16	Operational Coordination and Capacity	Continue to organize annual exercises to test operational wildfire coordination, alternating scenarios between the east and west sides of the county.	Multnomah County Emergency Management	Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Gresham Fire, Corbett Fire, Sauvie Island Fire, Scappoose Fire, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Cascade Locks Fire, Portland Fire & Rescue, Oregon Department of Forestry, US Forest Service, Oregon State Parks, Metro Parks and Natural Areas, Portland Water Bureau
17	Structural Ignitability	Determine a method to review defensible space around new development and maintain evaluation and permitting of established fuel breaks,	Multnomah County Land Use	Gresham Fire, Corbett Fire, Sauvie Island Fire, Scappoose Fire, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Cascade Locks Fire
18	Structural Ignitability	Coordinate with fire districts to review and update zoning codes. Consider expanding wildfire codes into non-resource zones, and align programs with Senate Bill 762 land use programs.	Multnomah County Land Use	Gresham Fire, Corbett Fire, Sauvie Island Fire, Scappoose Fire, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Cascade Locks Fire
19	Structural Ignitability	Maintain engagement with fire districts to ensure planning codes meet wildfire safety needs.	Multnomah County Land Use	Gresham Fire, Corbett Fire, Sauvie Island Fire, Scappoose Fire, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Cascade Locks Fire
20	Operational Coordination and Capacity	Support fire districts in the development of fire response best practices for rural addressing .	Multnomah County Land Use	Multnomah County Emergency Management, Gresham Fire, Corbett Fire, Sauvie Island Fire, Scappoose Fire, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Cascade Locks Fire
21	Operational Coordination and Capacity	Determine evacuation zones in unincorporated areas that can streamline determination and communication of evacuation levels.	Multnomah County Sheriff's Office	Multnomah County Emergency Management, Gresham Fire, Corbett Fire, Sauvie Island Fire, Scappoose Fire, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Cascade Locks Fire

Priority Fuel Mitigation Location	Notes
Areas Without Structural Protection (unincorporated East and West Multnomah County)	Support defensible space projects initiated by residents in these areas