



WILDFIRE RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION

LEAGUE OF OREGON CITIES

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WILDFIRE PROGRAMS UPDATE

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REDUCING WILDFIRE RISK IN YOUR COMMUNITIES

Claire McGrew

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal



GROWING WILDFIRE CRISIS

- Nearly 2,000 communities threatened by wildfire
- Almost 100,000 buildings destroyed
- **246% increase** in building loss (1999-2009 vs. 2010-2020)

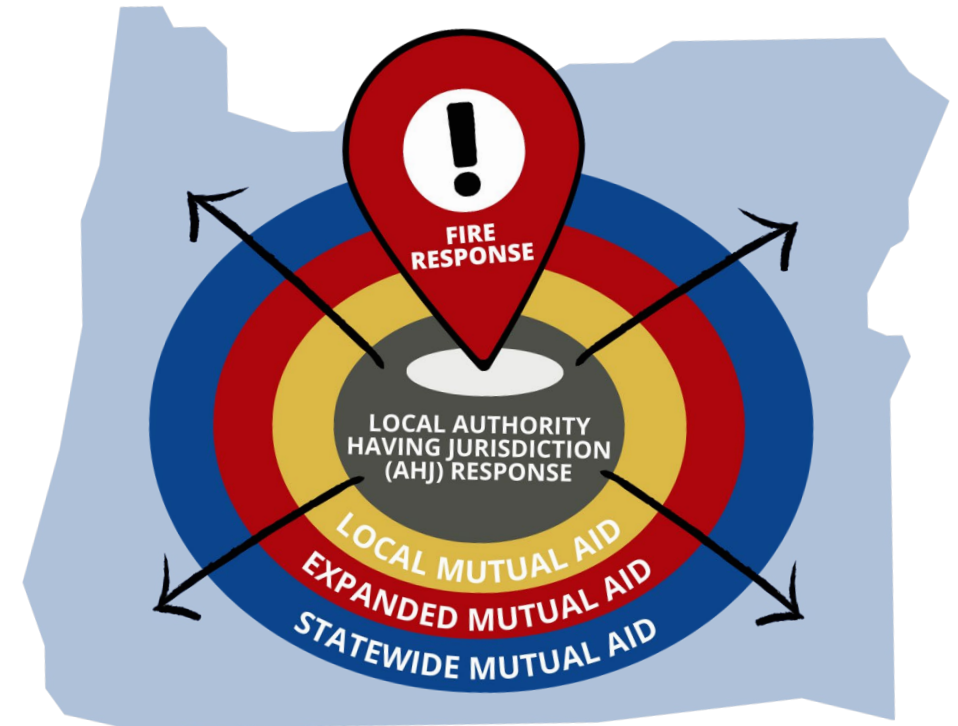
Fire Season	Buildings Lost	Primary Homes Lost
2020	3,823	2,267
2021	421	166
2022	10	2
2023	127	50

From fires under OSFM command



OREGON FIRE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM

- 11,000 firefighters
- 304 fire agencies
- 7 regional mobilization coordinators
- 33 Fire Defense Board chiefs
- Oregon fire service mobilization plan





RESPONSE READY OREGON

- Keep fires small and out of communities
- Modernize and increase response tools in the Oregon Fire Mutual Aid System
- Collaborate with partners to ensure adequate response capacity
- Strategic investments boost capacity in Oregon fire service



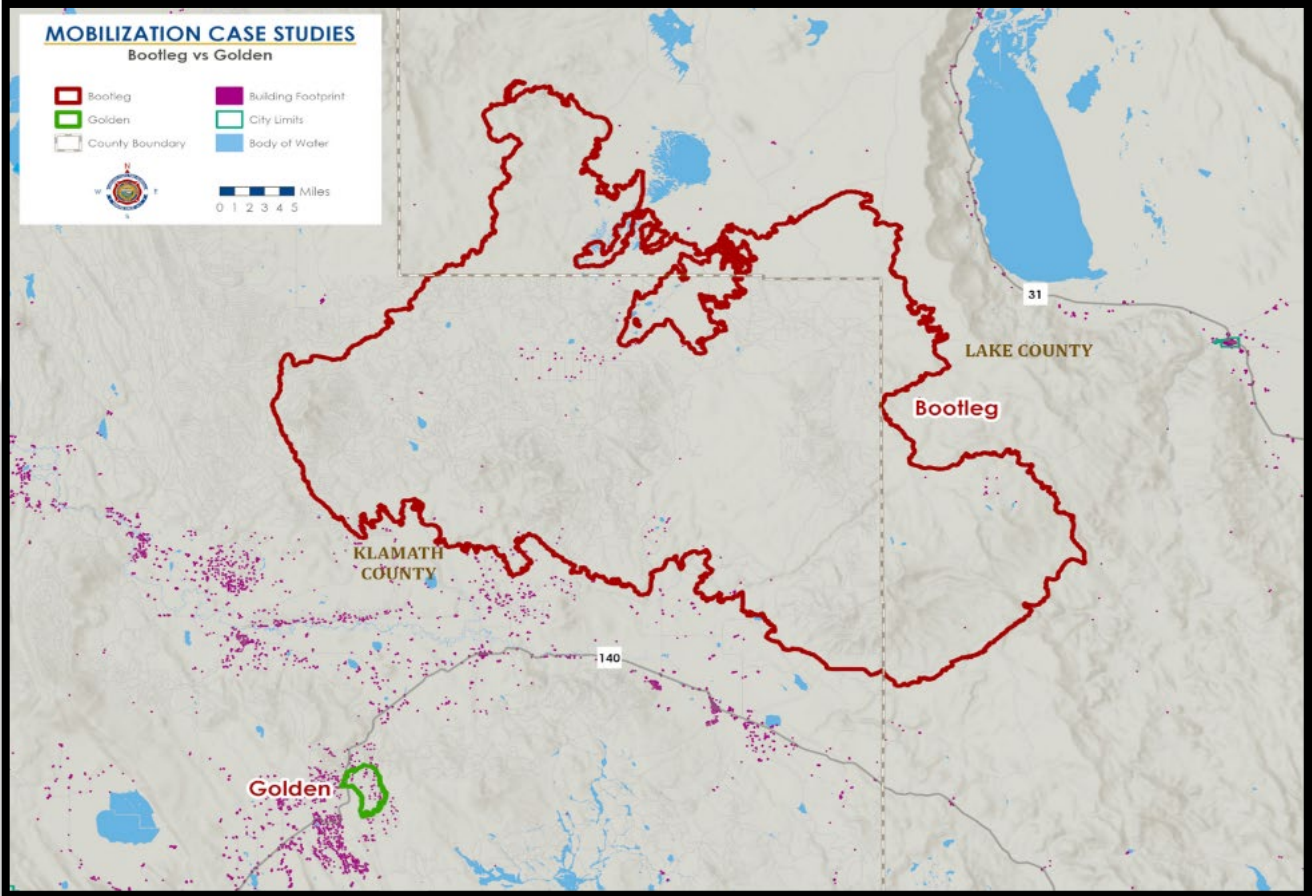
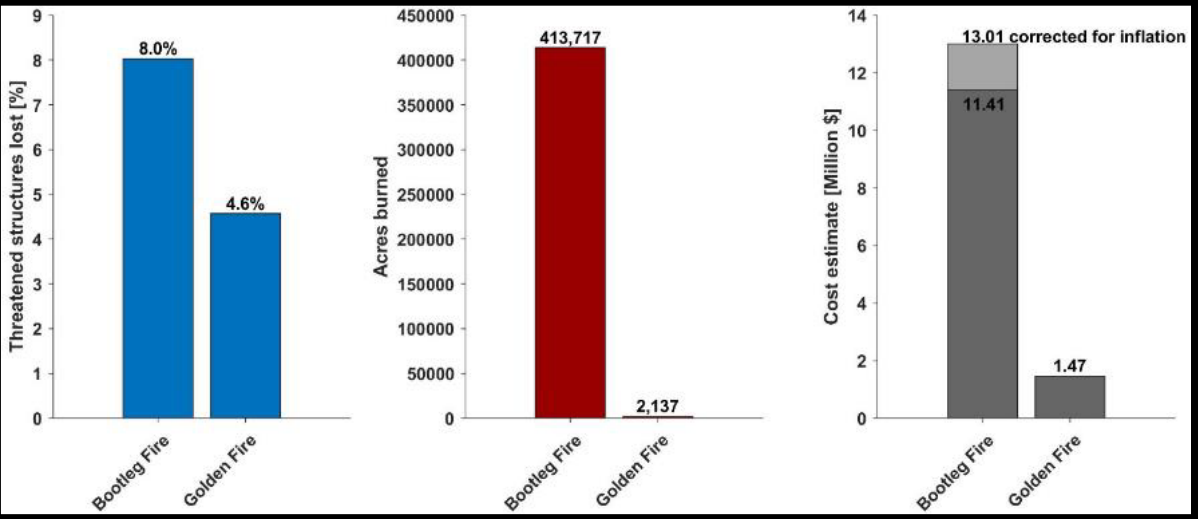


RESPONSE READY OREGON

- **Pre-Positioning** and **Immediate Response**
- 3 examples:
 - Bootleg vs. Golden Fire
 - Substation vs. Sunset Valley Fire
 - Substation vs. Wrentham Market Fire

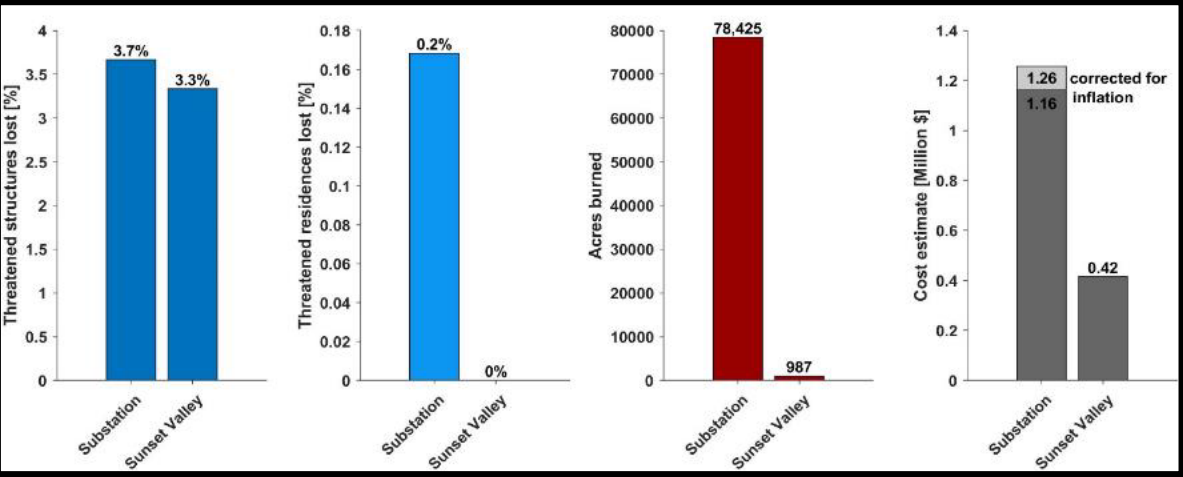
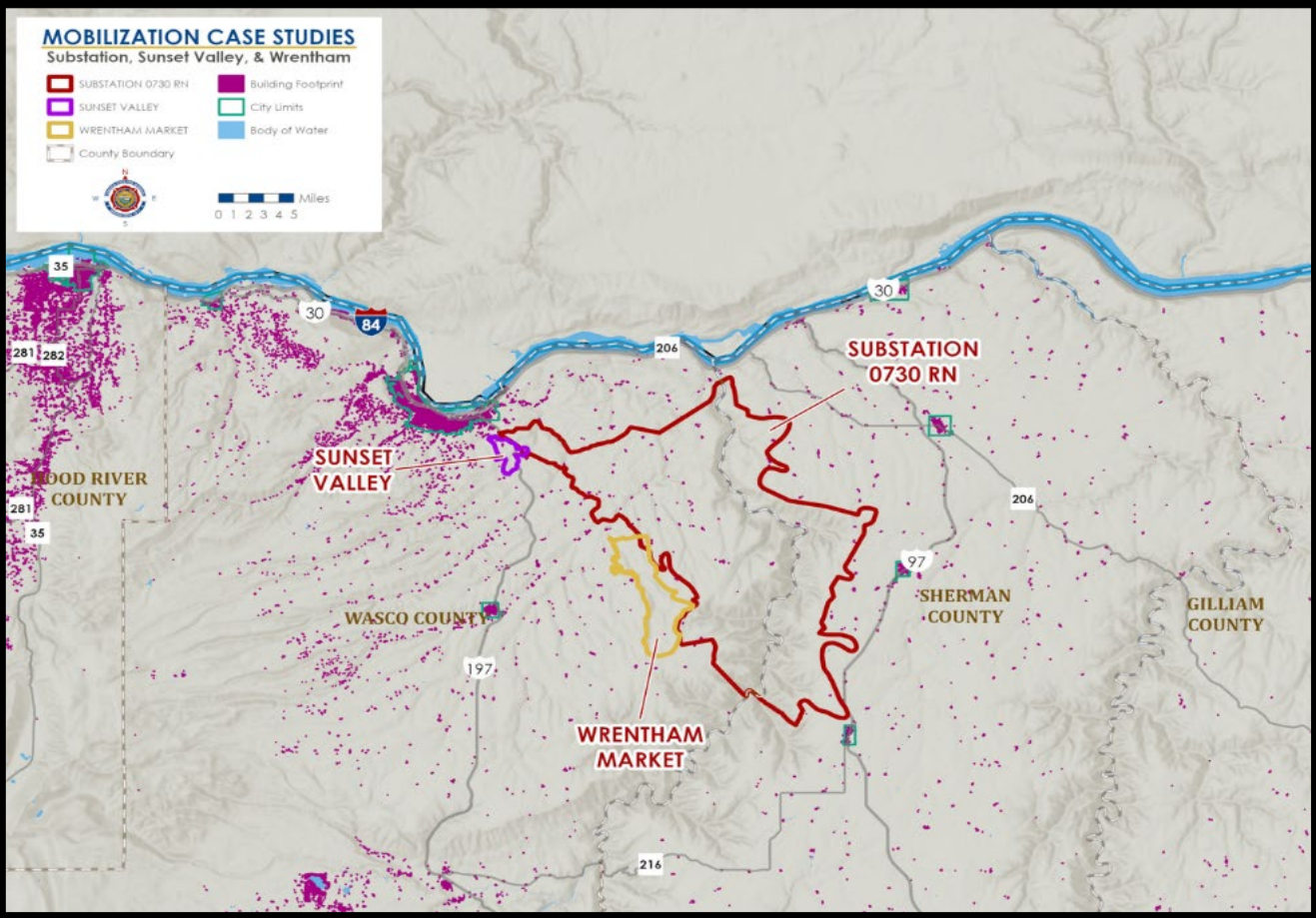


Mobilization Case Study: Bootleg vs. Golden Fire



	<u>Bootleg</u>	<u>Golden Fire</u>
Start Date:	July 6, 2021	July 22, 2023
Location:	Beatty Oregon (Klamath County)	Bonanza Oregon (Klamath County)
Temperature:	97 degrees Fahrenheit	97 degrees Fahrenheit
Wind Speed:	13 mph average (Northwest direction)	12 mph average (West-Northwest direction)

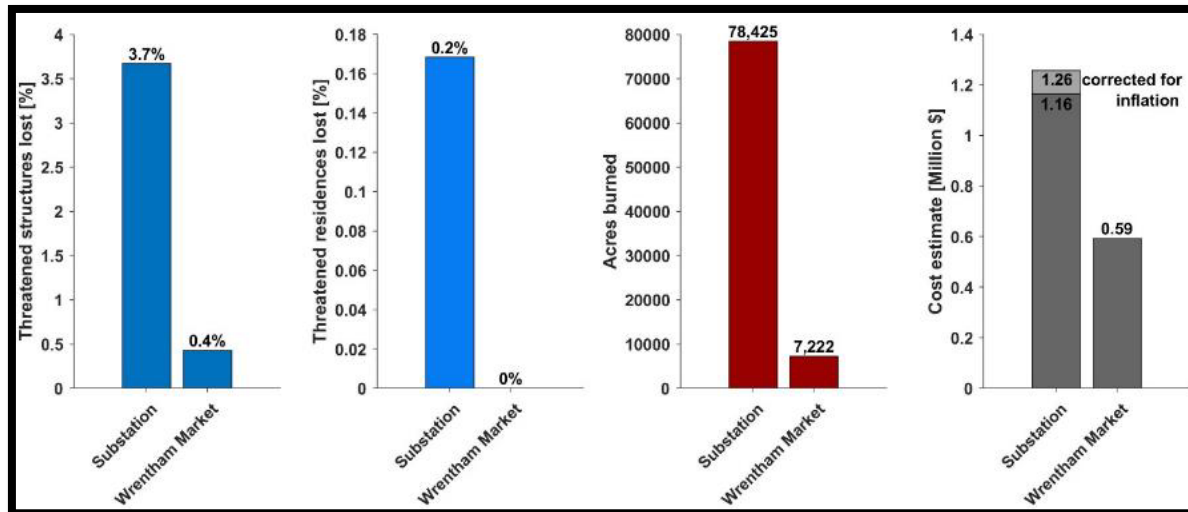
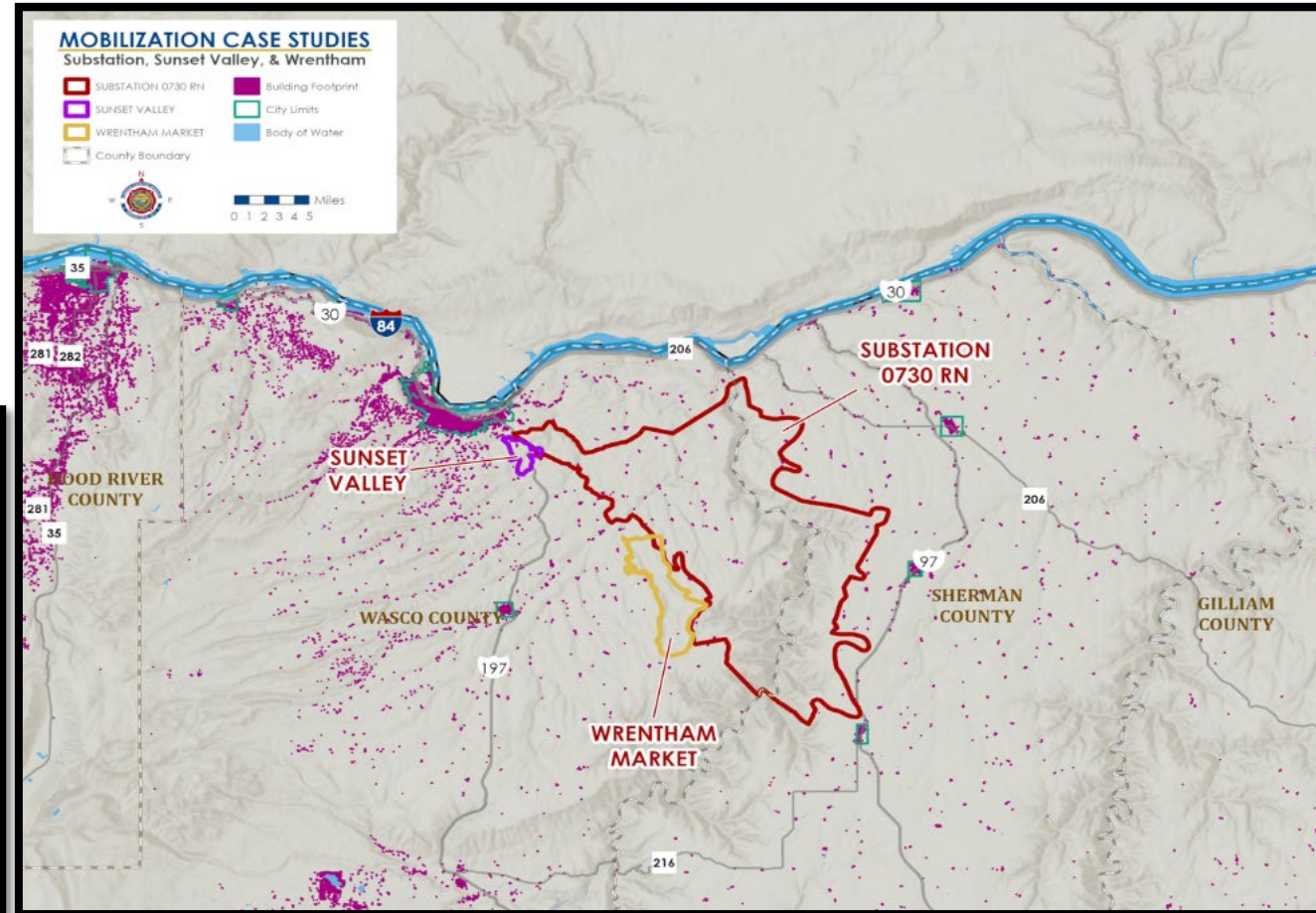
Mobilization Case Study: Substation vs. Sunset Valley Fire



	<u>Substation</u>	<u>Sunset Valley</u>
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Start Date:	July 17, 2018	July 1, 2021
Location:	The Dalles Oregon (Wasco County)	The Dalles Oregon (Wasco County)
Temperature:	89 degrees Fahrenheit	75 degrees Fahrenheit
Wind Speed:	9 mph average (North direction)	6 mph average (Northwest direction)

Mobilization Case Study: Substation vs. Wrentham Market Fire



Substation

Wrentham Market

Start Date:

July 17, 2018

June 29, 2021

Location:

The Dalles Oregon (Wasco County)

Dufur Oregon (Wasco County)

Temperature:

89 degrees Fahrenheit

88 degrees Fahrenheit

Wind Speed:

9 mph average (North direction)

6 mph average (North direction)



FIRE ADAPTED OREGON

- Create wildfire-resilient communities
- Support and educate local communities
- Develop and support Oregon-specific codes
- Create local preparedness solutions: education, grant programs, hands-on work





DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

- Launched June 2023
- [Oregondefensiblespace.org](https://oregondefensiblespace.org)
- Free property assessments
- 1,000+ assessments conducted
- Trained 254 partners, 54 fire service agencies
- \$250 pilot incentive program





GRANTS & INVESTMENTS



- Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant
- Strategic investments
- Oregon Fire Service Capacity Grant



ALBANY FIRE



GRANTS & INVESTMENTS



- Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant
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- Oregon Fire Service Capacity Grant



JACKSON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3



WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH



- Each May we educate Oregonians
 - Oregon Department of Forestry
 - Keep Oregon Green
 - Oregon Emergency Management
 - Oregon State University
- Wildfire Community Preparedness Day - May 4



OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL



THANK YOU

Claire McGrew

Chief Deputy

claire.mcgreg@osfm.oregon.gov

503-569-5034



LOC Spring Meeting

April 25, 2024



Department of Consumer
and Business Services



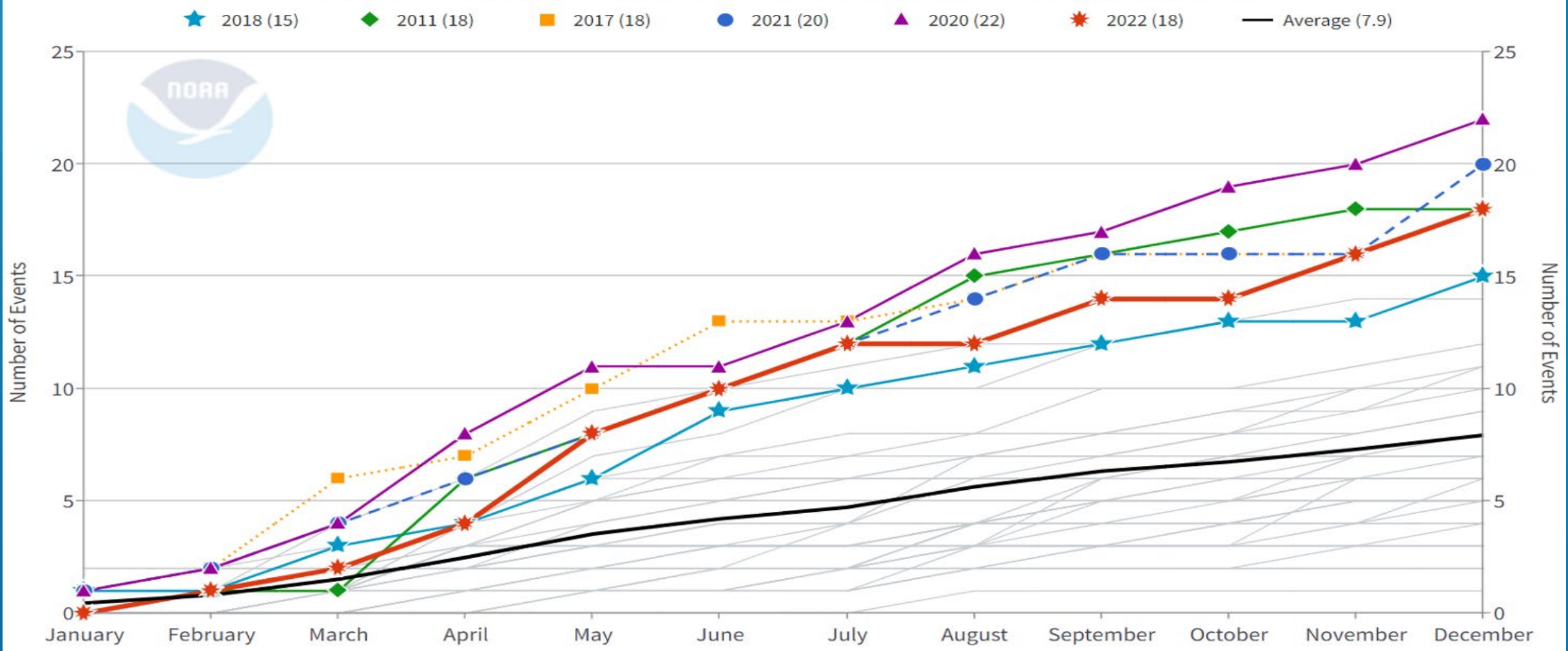
Department of Consumer
and Business Services

2022 Wildfire Risk Map NOT used by insurers

- DFR's formal data call confirmed that insurance companies did not use the map and had no intent to use the map for rating or underwriting decisions
- Bulletin 2022-5 addressed insurance agent communications to policyholders regarding the map

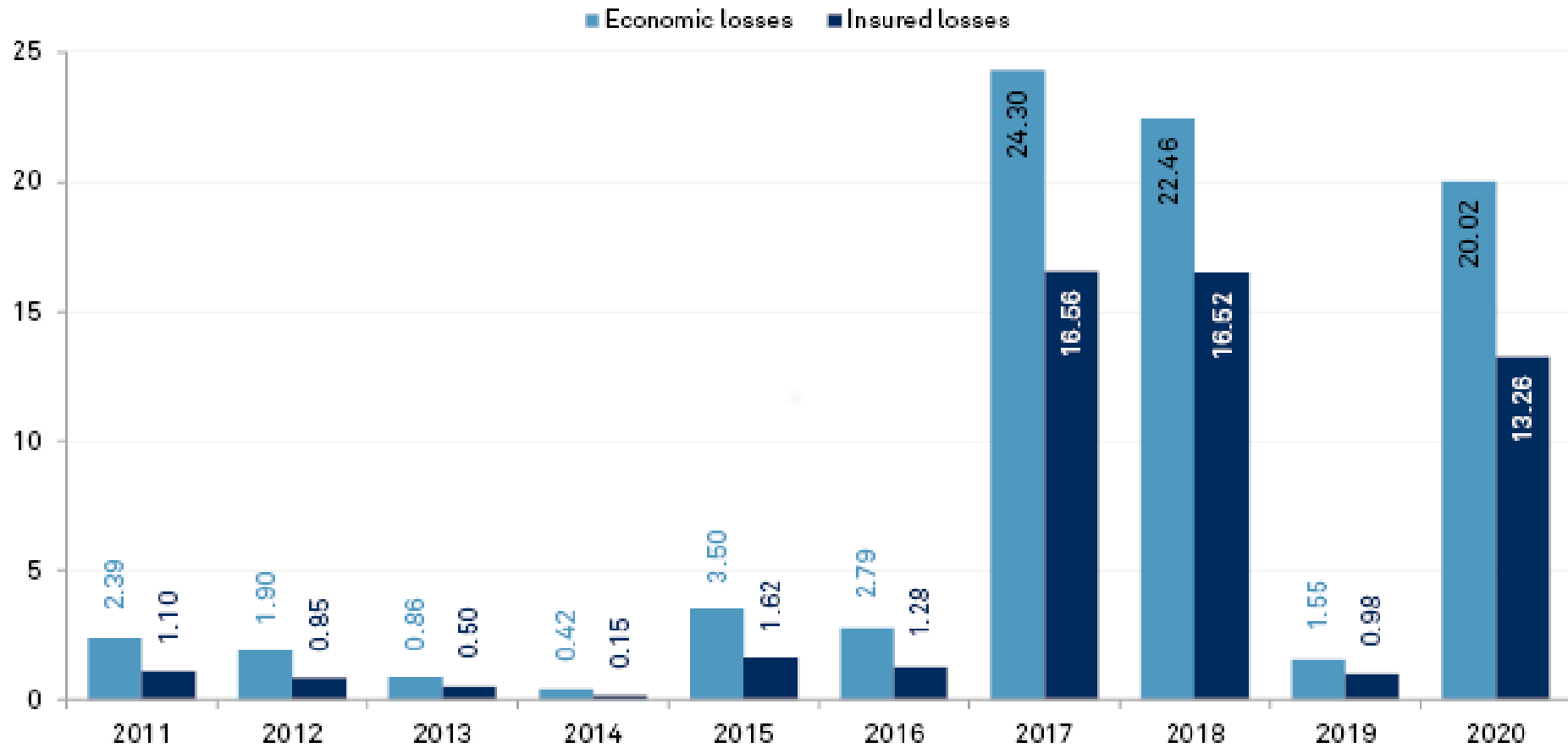
Costly disasters are increasing

1980-2022 United States Billion-Dollar Disaster Event Count (CPI-Adjusted)



U.S. wildfire losses growing

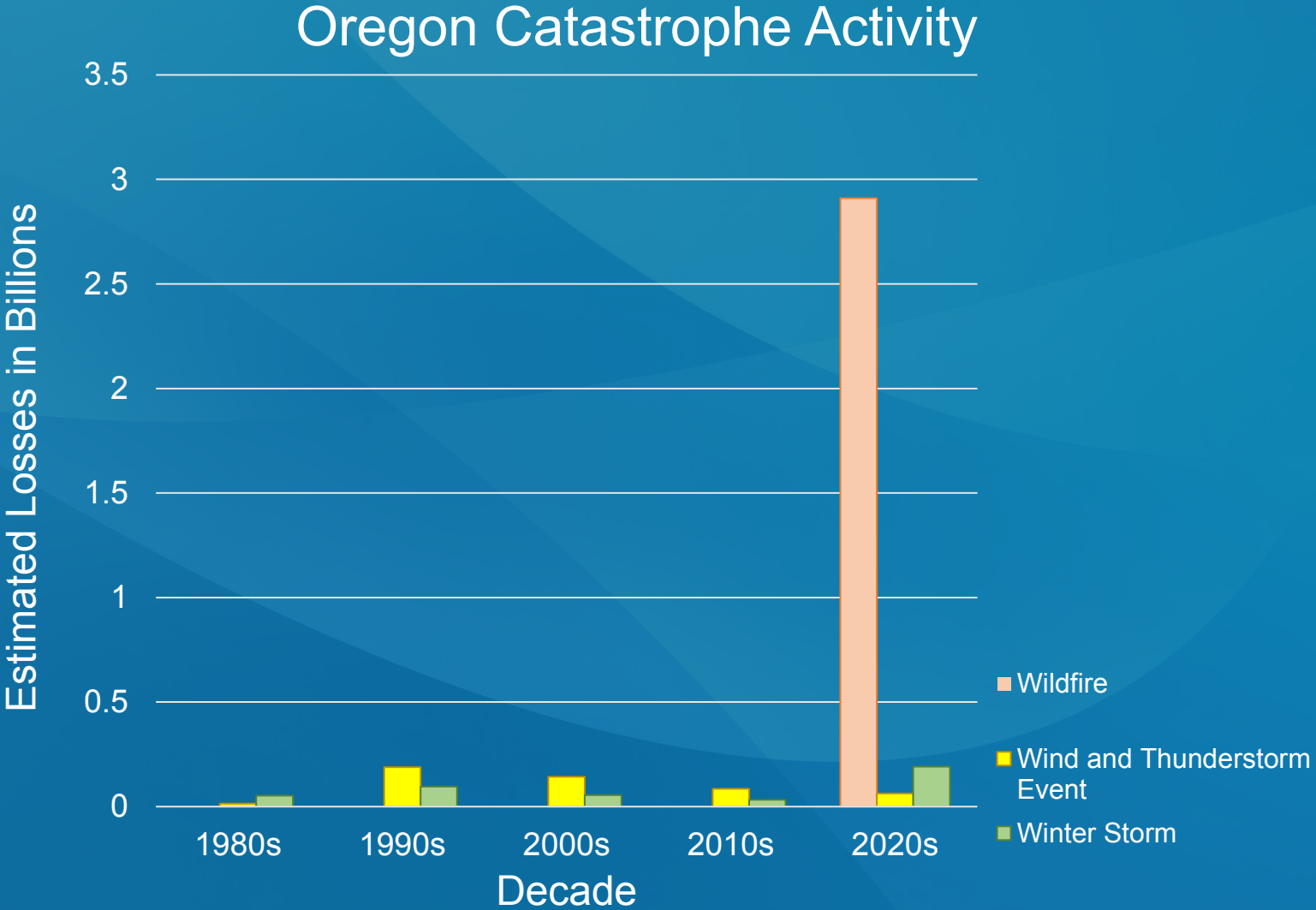
US insured, economic wildfire losses since 2011 (\$B)



Data compiled July 13, 2021.

Source: Aon PLC

Increased wildfire risk



SB 82: DFR's 2023 Wildfire insurance response

Four main elements:

- Prohibition on using state wildfire map for insurance decisions
- Improved consumer disclosure requirements
- Underwriting and rating plans reflect how an insurer addresses or considers:
 - Defensible space
 - Home hardening
 - Community-level mitigation
- Flexibility to extend rebuild and content replacement timelines

Nonlegislative accomplishment:

- FAIR Plan policy limit increases

What can consumers do?

- Ask your insurance company for detailed information about decisions
- Take steps to reduce wildfire risk
- Ask your insurance company about eligible discounts and annual credit rerate
- Shop around: There are about 130 companies to choose from; be sure your agent has access to them
- Contact DFR with questions



Department of Consumer
and Business Services

DFR consumer advocates

1-888-877-4894 (toll-free)

dfr.insurancehelp@dcbs.oregon.gov

dfr.oregon.gov

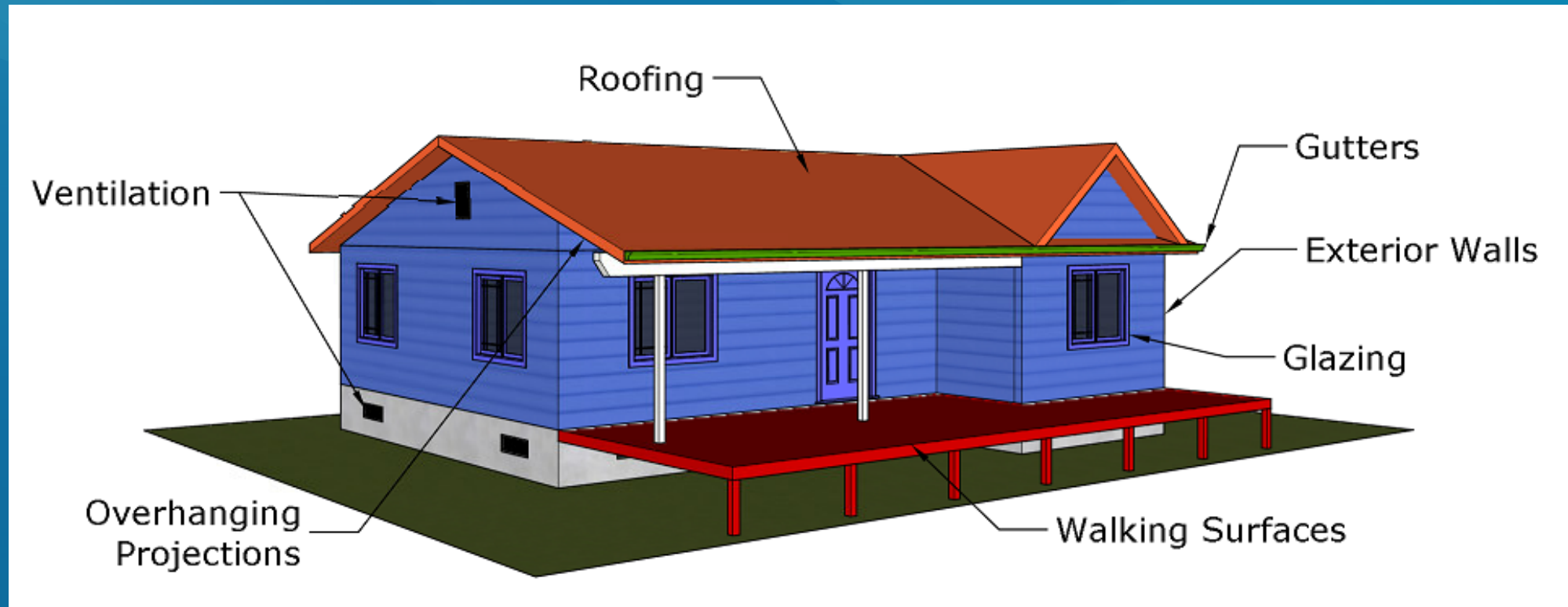
Building Codes Division – fire hardening

What?

- New construction of single family dwellings, duplexes, townhomes, and accessory structures
- Replacement of exterior elements on existing homes (not retroactive)

Where?

- High hazard zones within the wildland urban interface





Department of Consumer
and Business Services

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