

## OFSM LAUNCHES INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROJECTS

## News Release from Oregon State Fire Marshal

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**SALEM, Ore.** – To help those living in communities more likely to be impacted by a wildfire, the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is launching an incentive program to help Oregonians pay for defensible space projects. Defensible space is one of the most effective ways to better protect a home during a wildfire. The OSFM understands that money may be a barrier for some to do these projects.

As part of the program, those who meet eligibility requirements will receive a \$250 one-time payment. Homeowners, renters, and property owners must live in select areas of the state and <u>request and receive a free defensible space</u> <u>assessment</u>.

The free assessments are given by a local fire service agency member or an OSFM representative. An expert will walk the participants' property with them and provide valuable one-on-one time to discuss how to build and increase their fire resiliency.

After the assessment, those who qualify will receive the payment in the mail for their participation. This incentive is designed to encourage people to implement the recommendations received during their assessment.

For a list of eligible communities, please read the program guidelines <u>here</u>. These communities were chosen based on their vulnerability to wildfire to get money to those who need it the most.

The OSFM's defensible space program is a crucial step toward building more resilient communities in the face of increasing wildfire risks. By empowering Oregonians to take proactive measures, we will reduce the impact of wildfires on lives, property, and the environment.

For more details about the OSFM's defensible space program, visit their website.

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