

# 2023 Forum on Aging in Rural Oregon

## Climate Emergencies and Resources for Building Resilience

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Thank you to our partners:

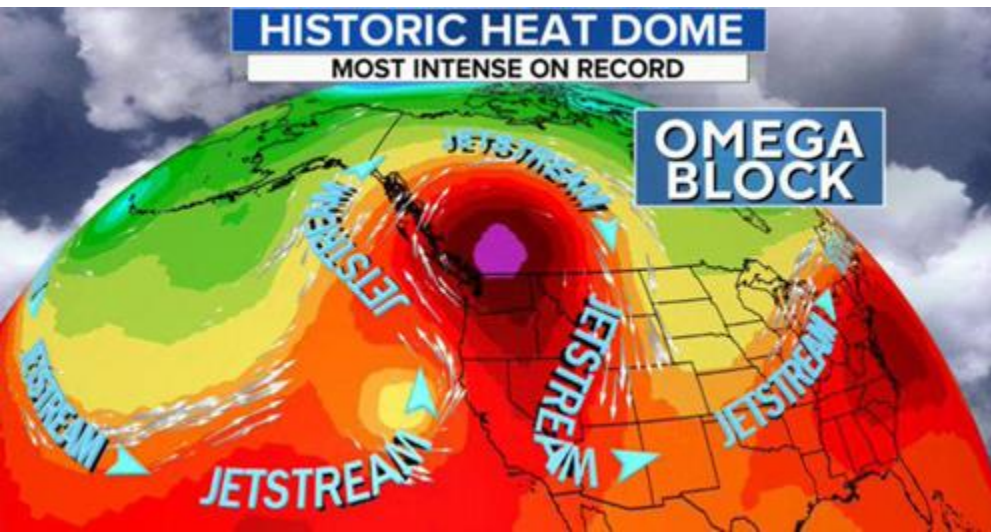


# Climate Emergencies in Oregon

**Wildfires** - examples include: 2020 Alameda Fire (Talent, Phoenix, Ashland, Medford), 2020 Clackamas and Marion county fires, Cedar Creek fire 2022, etc.

**Flooding and landslides** - for example, Hwy 101 near Port Orford in January 2023

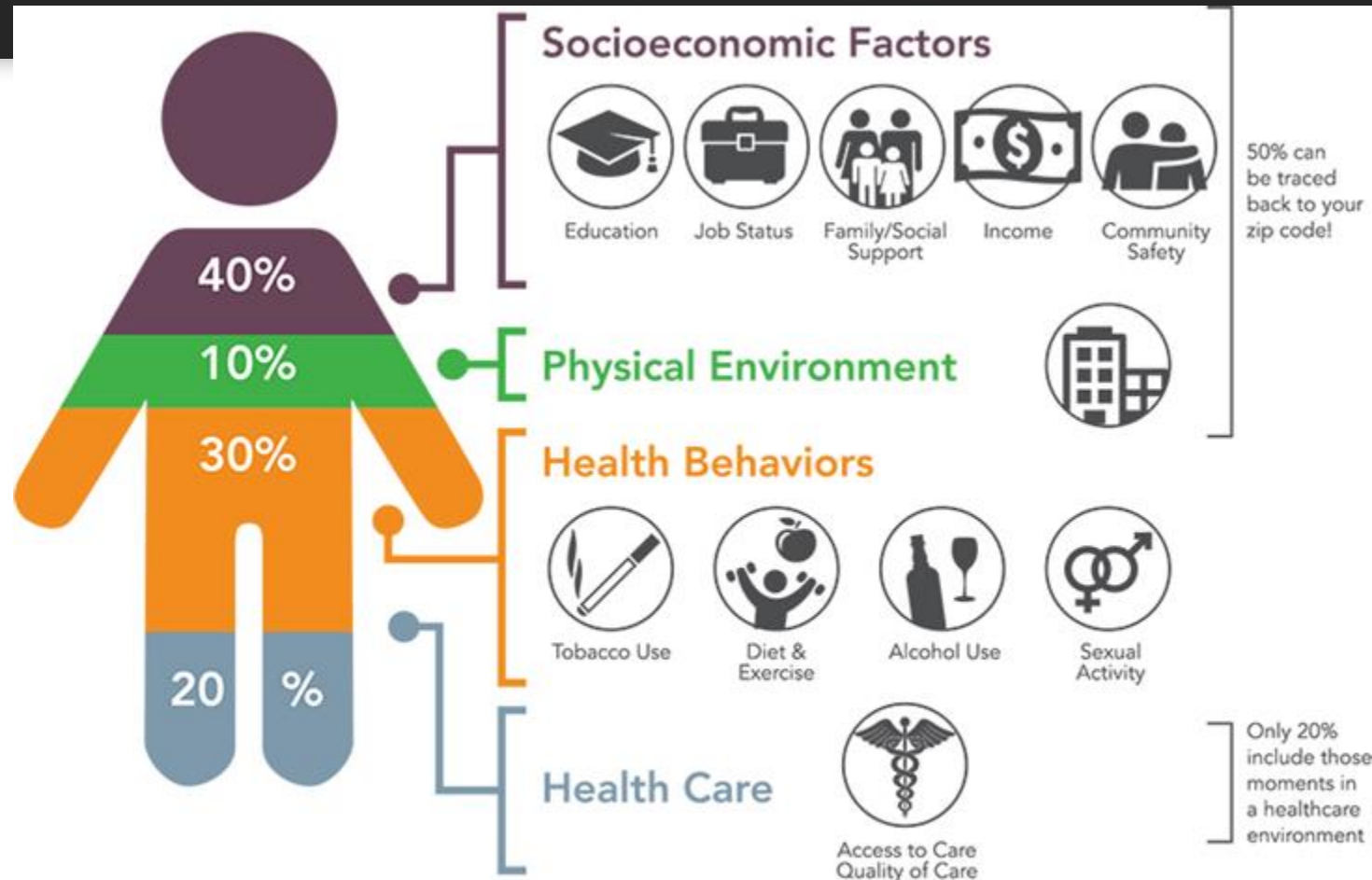
**Extreme heat** - for example, the 2021 heat dome event



# Why Older Adults are Particularly Vulnerable...

	Individual Level	Community Level
<b>Risk Factors &amp; Barriers to Adaptation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Physiological changes</b> associated with advanced age and medication use, such as: thermoregulatory impairments, mobility issues, cognitive disorders, comorbidities (particularly diabetes, respiratory conditions, and cardiovascular disease), vulnerability to dehydration, and diminished sensory awareness</li> <li>● <b>Psychological factors</b>, such as: health misconceptions, security issues, cognitive biases, resistance to change</li> <li>● <b>Socioeconomic status factors</b>, such as: housing and homelessness, physical and financial effects, receiving aid and resources, housing and shelter access</li> <li>● <b>Racial and ethnic disparities</b>, such as: living in or near poverty, having poor housing conditions, limited healthcare access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate transportation</li> <li>● Inadequate public warning systems</li> <li>● Shelters that overlook the needs of older adults and people living with disabilities or chronic illness</li> <li>● Social isolation</li> <li>● Inadequate resources to support coping and recovery</li> <li>● Inadequate housing</li> </ul>
<b>Health Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Heat-induced stress</li> <li>● Interruptions in medical treatments and access to food, water, and durable medical equipment for those with limited mobility</li> <li>● Mental health outcomes</li> <li>● Worsening chronic illnesses</li> </ul>	

# Social Determinants of Health



Social Vulnerability

Influences impacts during disaster and recovery

# Portland State University's Institute on Aging Climate Change and Older Adults project

**Heat vulnerability mapping** - mapping social and demographic characteristics (at area and individual levels) to indicate where those with risk factors to heat-related illness and mortality live

**States' climate adaptation planning** - a review of climate adaptation plans produced by state governments to analyze how they talk about and plan for the unique needs of older adults with regard to projected climate emergencies.

Future projects: impacts of wildfires on long-term care communities, tribal elders' adaptation to climate change

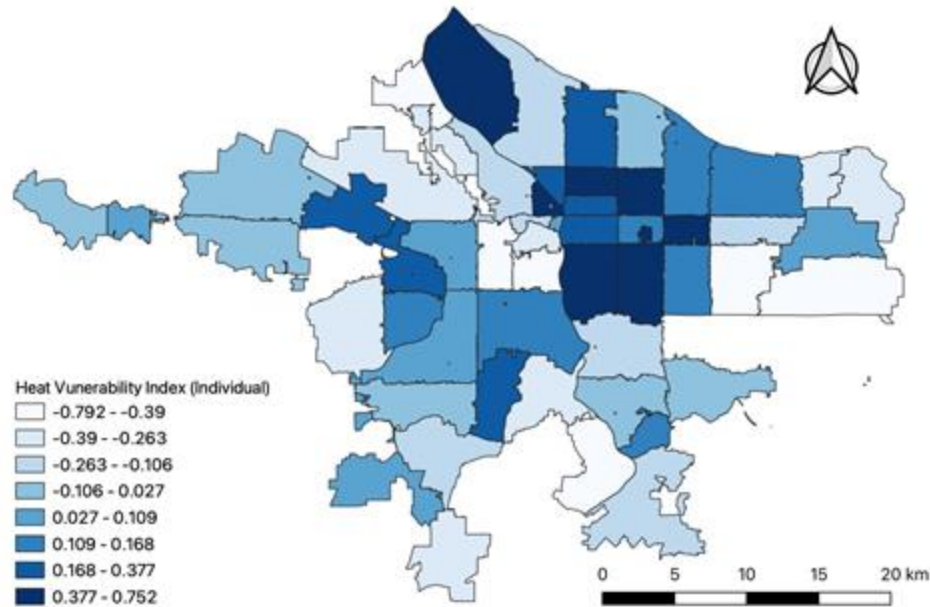


Figure 1 Spatial distribution of heat vulnerability index (individual-level)

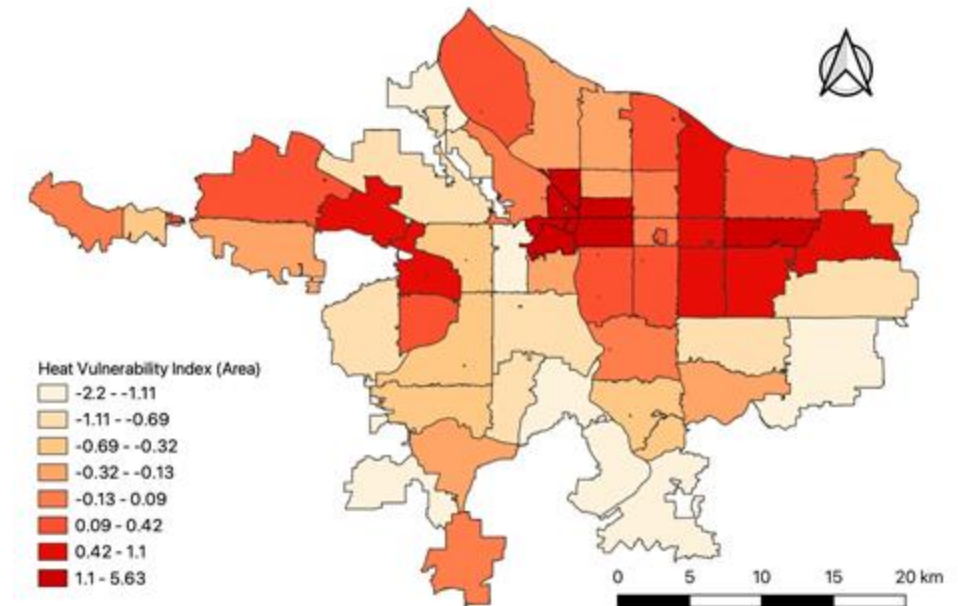


Figure 2 Spatial distribution of heat vulnerability index (area-level)

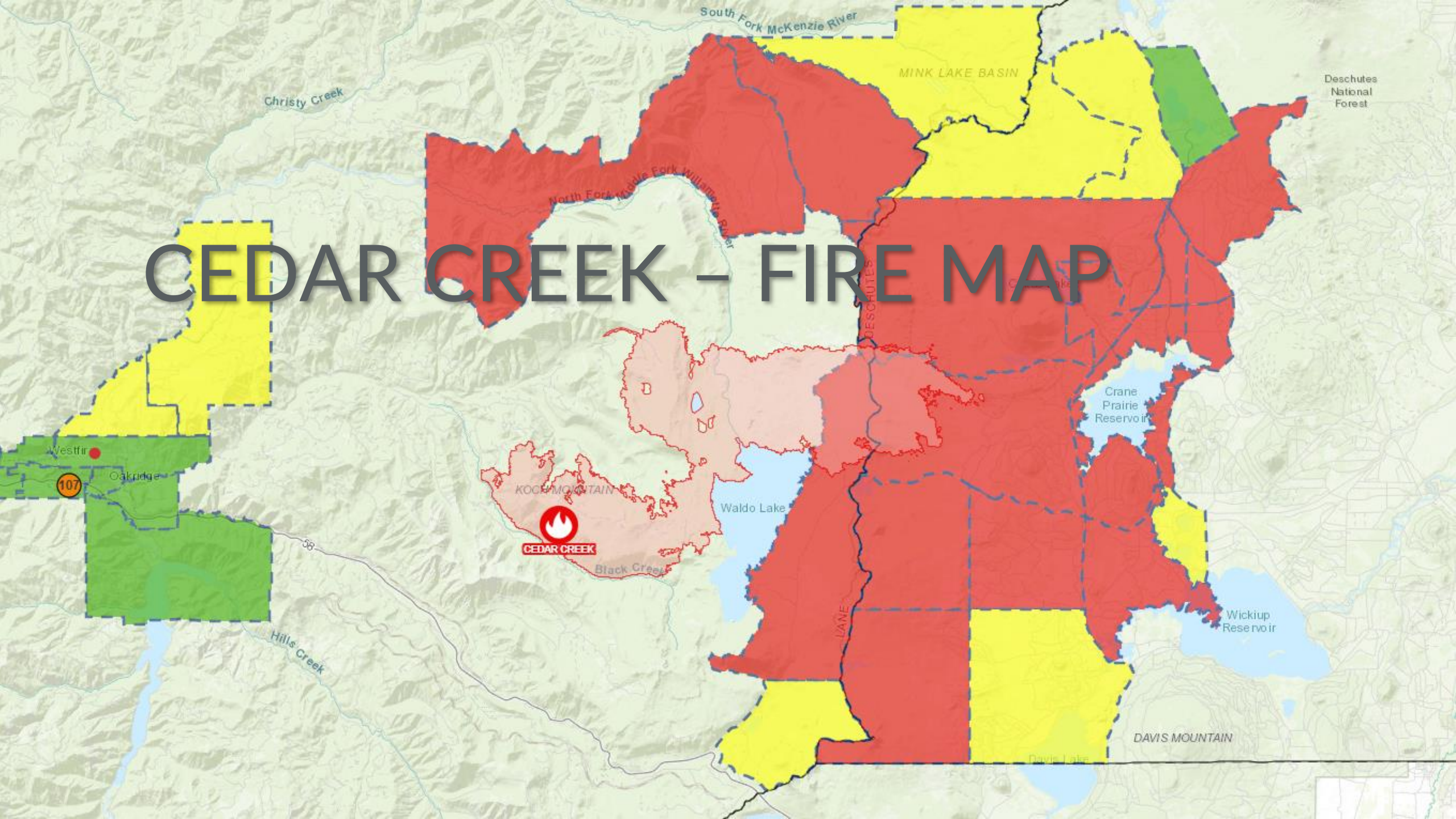


**Oregon Department  
of Human Services**

## **Aging and People with Disabilities Safety and Emergency Coordination**

**Presented by Nicki Holmes  
APD Safety Manager**

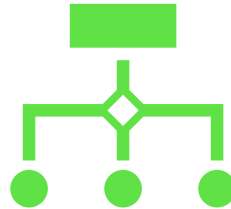
# CEDAR CREEK – FIRE MAP



# ENSURING CONSUMER SAFETY DURING AN EVENT



COMMUNICATION



COORDINATION



COLLABORATION

# COMMUNICATION



## CONTINUOUS INFORMATION FLOW

- APD, SOQ, LOCAL OFFICE LEADERSHIP & OTHERS
- TIMELY / ACCURATE
- EVENT INFORMATION
- UPDATES
- DEBRIEF

# COORDINATION

## LOCAL OFFICE

- IN-HOME CONSUMERS AT RISK
- ADULT FOSTER HOMES AT RISK
- BASIC LIST OF QUESTIONS TO ASK CONSUMERS
- RESOURCES

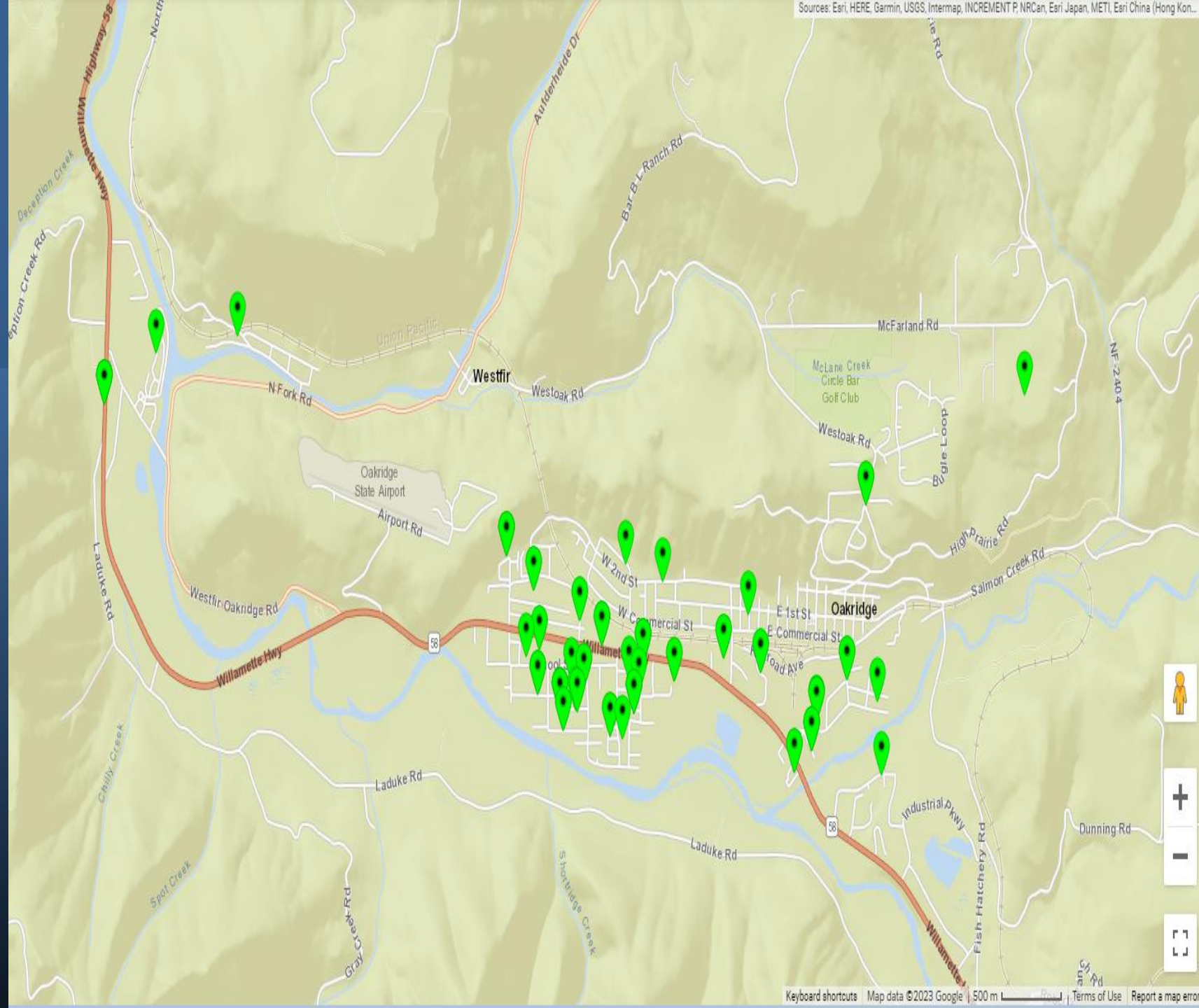
## SAFETY OVERSIGHT AND QUALITY

- FACILITIES (CBC, NF) AT RISK
- SOQ will identify consumers in facilities

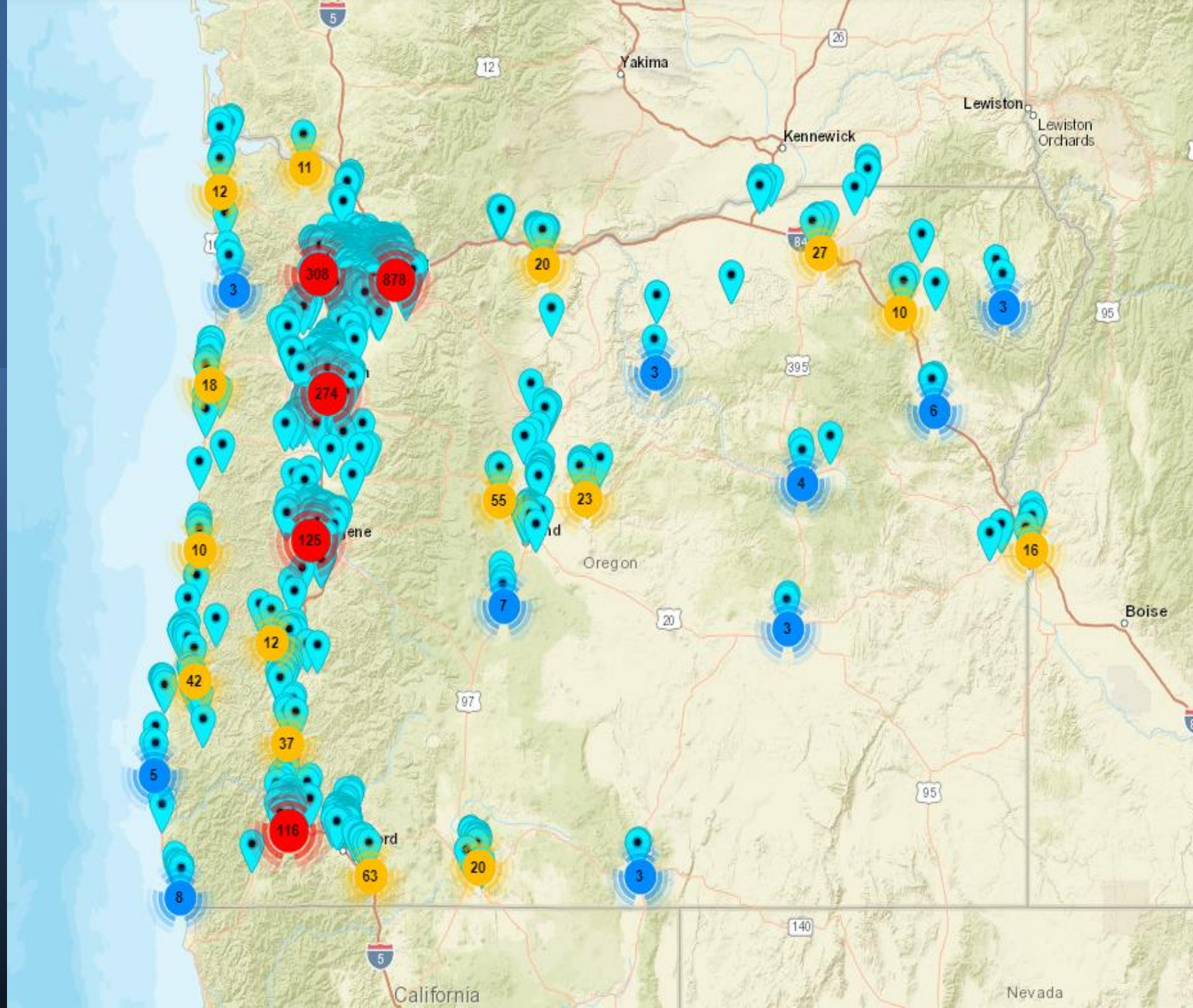
*\*ONGOING COORDINATION\**

1	Brnch1	PrimeNum	PersonName	BenefitType	InHome	OPI	RsdntAddr	RsdntCity	RsdntState	RsdntZip	HomePhnNum	CellNum	TTYNum	Sex	Race
2	9901	2515	Joslyn Johns	APD - In Home	Y	N	2021-1 2 Main St #238	Hillsboro	OR	97124	(826) 232-0272	(236) 404-1689		Decline to answer	African
3	9901	3812	Litzy Mann	APD - In Home	Y	N	1082 SE 58th Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97003	(847) 526-9087			Decline to answer	African American
4	9901	3485	Emery N Baird	APD - In Home	Y	N	7275 Ariel St	Hillsboro	OR	97006	(904) 512-6277			Decline to answer	Alaska Native
5	9901	4580	Giada Weiss	APD - In Home	Y	N	227 S 41st Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97007		(577) 892-0686		Decline to answer	American Indian
6	9901	8583	Alexis Zuniga	APD - In Home	Y	N	830 62nd Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97078	(833) 576-2066			Decline to answer	Asian
7	9901	9401	Urijah Owens	APD - In Home	Y	N	3021 NW Overlook Dr #APT 827	Hillsboro	OR	97123	(984) 847-3080			Decline to answer	Asian Indian
8	9901	7589	Jaden G Love	APD - In Home	Y	N	2795 John Olsen Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97124		(236) 404-1689		Decline to answer	Black
9	9901	3409	Albert Cervantes	APD - In Home	Y	N	6373 SE Heike Ct	Hillsboro	OR	97129	(782) 862-1088			Decline to answer	Canadian Inuit
10	9901	1852	Gauge Sparks	APD - In Home	Y	N	34265 SW Tualatin Valley Hwy	Hillsboro	OR	97124	(791) 950-0904			Decline to answer	Caribbean
11	9901	1957	Kian Burton	APD - In Home	Y	N	6373 Heike Ct	Hillsboro	OR	97003				Decline to answer	Central or South American
12	9901	9402	Jessica J Jennings	APD - In Home	Y	N	2021-1 2 Main St #239	Hillsboro	OR	97006	(210) 226-2273			Decline to answer	Chinese
13	9901	1093	Keely H Bruce	APD - In Home	Y	N	1083 SE 58th Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97007	(794) 212-7141			Decline to answer	Eastern European
14	9901	3733.6	Derek Mcpherson	APD - In Home	Y	N	7276 Ariel St	Hillsboro	OR	97078	(884) 981-4219			Decline to answer	Filipino/a
15	9901	3612.8	Tucker Norman	APD - In Home	Y	N	228 S 41st Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97123		(236) 404-1689		Decline to answer	Guamanian or Chamorro
16	9901	3492	Melina Alvarado	APD - In Home	Y	N	831 62nd Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97124	(296) 840-7052			Decline to answer	Hispanic or Latino
17	9901	3371.2	Lauryn Nunez	APD - In Home	Y	N	3022 NW Overlook Dr #APT 827	Hillsboro	OR	97129	(577) 892-0686			Decline to answer	Hispanic or Latino Central American
18	9901	3250.3	Dawson Jones	APD - In Home	Y	N	2796 John Olsen Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97124	(626) 531-0359			Decline to answer	Hispanic or Latino Mexican
19	9901	3129.5	Gaige Y Perkins	APD - In Home	Y	N	6374 SE Heike Ct	Hillsboro	OR	97003	(446) 245-1775			Decline to answer	Hispanic or Latino South American
20	9901	3008.7	Amirah Bates	APD - In Home	Y	N	34266 SW Tualatin Valley Hwy	Hillsboro	OR	97006				Decline to answer	Hmong
21	9901	2887.9	Malcolm Rush	APD - In Home	Y	N	6374 Heike Ct	Hillsboro	OR	97007	(636) 607-3427			Decline to answer	Indigenous Mexican
22	9901	2767.1	Giovanna Lewis	APD - In Home	Y	N	2021-1 2 Main St #240	Hillsboro	OR	97078	(960) 331-2849			Decline to answer	Japanese
23	9901	2646.3	Brisa Ray	APD - In Home	Y	N	1084 SE 58th Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97123				Decline to answer	Korean
24	9901	2525.5	Pierce Mack	APD - In Home	Y	N	7277 Ariel St	Hillsboro	OR	97124	(238) 860-7898			Decline to answer	Laotian
25	9901	2404.7	Ishaan Hickman	APD - In Home	Y	N	2021-1 2 Main St #239	Hillsboro	OR	97129	(783) 841-7353			Decline to answer	Metis or First Nation
26	9901	2283.9	Kira F Mckee	APD - In Home	Y	N	1083 SE 58th Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97124		(428) 961-8257		Decline to answer	Middle Eastern
27	9901	2163.1	Marvin Juarez	APD - In Home	Y	N	7276 Ariel St	Hillsboro	OR	97003	(621) 837-2865			Decline to answer	Native Hawaiian
28	9901	2042.3	Haylee Raymond	APD - In Home	Y	N	228 S 41st Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97006	(776) 558-1714			Decline to answer	North African
29	9901	1921.5	Charlie Harmon	APD - In Home	Y	N	831 62nd Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97007				Decline to answer	Other
30	9901	1800.7	Samara Y Adkins	APD - In Home	Y	N	3022 NW Overlook Dr #APT 827	Hillsboro	OR	97078	(828) 818-1564			Decline to answer	Pacific Islander
31	9901	1679.8	Michaela Jenkins	APD - In Home	Y	N	2796 John Olsen Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97123	(317) 553-9897			Decline to answer	Samoa
32	9901	1559	Susan Humphrey	APD - In Home	Y	N	6374 SE Heike Ct	Hillsboro	OR	97124	(428) 961-8257			Decline to answer	Slavic
33	9901	1438.2	Hayden Stevenson	APD - In Home	Y	N	34266 SW Tualatin Valley Hwy	Hillsboro	OR	97129	(748) 968-6209	(236) 404-1689		Decline to answer	South Asian
34	9901	1317.4	Jaydon Le	APD - In Home	Y	N	6374 Heike Ct	Hillsboro	OR	97124	(809) 607-1336			Decline to answer	Vietnamese
35	9901	1196.6	Zachery Meadows	APD - In Home	Y	N	2021-1 2 Main St #240	Hillsboro	OR	97003				Decline to answer	Western European
36	9901	1075.8	Jaquan Olsen	APD - In Home	Y	N	1084 SE 58th Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97006	(598) 703-3873			Decline to answer	White
37	9901	3448.5	Kamar I Kennedy	APD - In Home	Y	N	7277 Ariel St	Hillsboro	OR	97007	(638) 700-2411	(321) 901-4072		Decline to answer	African
38	9901	3420.4	Gaige Guerra	APD - In Home	Y	N	229 S 41st Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97078	(581) 489-8316			Decline to answer	African American
39	9901	3392.4	Pierce Roberts	APD - In Home	Y	N	832 62nd Ave	Hillsboro	OR	97123	(304) 463-6865			Decline to answer	Alaska Native
40	9901	3364.3	Malachi May	APD - In Home	Y	N	3023 NW Overlook Dr #APT 827	Hillsboro	OR	97124	(638) 893-8434			Decline to answer	American Indian

# Map of In-Home Consumers



# ERM – Facilities Map

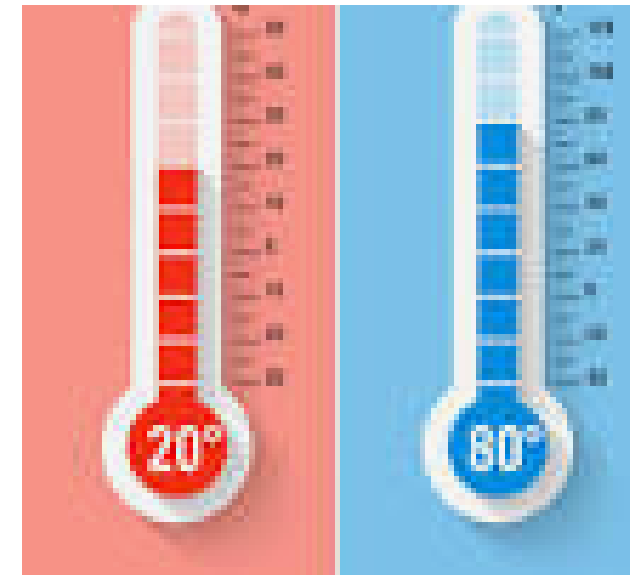


# COLLABORATION

## HIGH RISK CONSUMERS – NEEDS IDENTIFICATION

- EVACUATION ASSISTANCE
- CAREGIVER CAN'T WORK
- SHELTERING SAFETY IN PLACE
- ANIMALS
- DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
- POWER SOURCE
- HEAT/AC NEEDS

COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL OFFICE, SAFETY AND OREM





LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



# Senior and Disability Services



Presented by Stephanie Sheelar,  
S&DS Division Director



# Cedar Creek Fire Response

Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>



Cedar Creek  
Fire

# Support Response Team

A total of 35 administrative, lead, and staff in training made calls to consumers during this critical time. Our Emergency Response Plan was activated at 10:00 a.m. and by 4:30 p.m. the following information was gathered.



744

Consumers identified in areas impacted by Cedar Creek Fire and planned Public Safety Power Shutdown areas.

356

Consumers called in the Oakridge & Westfir area to identify evacuation needs.

13

Consumers contacted did not have an evacuation plan and were considered high risk. 140 consumers had evacuation plans or had already evacuated.

9

Referrals sent for emergency transportation to evacuate.

# Who Do We Call?

During the Cedar Creek Fire response, we received confirmation from the State office that we would contact all active consumers in both Medicaid and OAA within a specified area, regardless of risk evaluation. Nicki Holmes at the State was able to populate a list of consumers in the impacted areas and provided this directly to our Division Director in order to guide and prioritize our calls. All calls were tracked with information for identified needs and community resources, such as transportation for evacuation, location of emergency shelters, and more.

The Support Response Team was created based on lessons learned from previous wildfire responses. Our Leadership identified non-caseload carrying staff are best suited to be the core Support Response Team to allow our caseload carrying staff to focus on ongoing support. Communication between the Support Response Team and the consumer's case manager is critical during our response.



We were able to coordinate our response with Lane County's Emergency Management and Emergency Operations Command (EOC). Because of this, we had streamlined access to Oregon's Office of Resiliency and Emergency Management (OREM) in order to quickly learn of rapidly changing resources and create avenues of information sharing to our consumers. On Saturday, September 10th, our Emergency Coordinator was able to attend onsite operations at the Lane County EOC and work directly with Terra Ralph (OREM) to verify contact or enrollment in services, as well as identify support needs for a consumer at the evacuation shelter. On Monday, September 12th, we were able to send a staff member to the evacuation shelter at Lane Events Center to contact evacuees.



Cedar Creek Fire

# Lessons Learned: Wins

- Identifying non-caseload carrying staff in advance of our response was highly beneficial as it allowed us to quickly activate the team and recruit volunteers from our staff in training.
- Overall, the Support Response Team reported satisfactory communication. In both the event debrief and a survey, staff liked having communication in a centralized location (Microsoft Teams) as it allowed them to ask questions and receive answers quickly, as well as real-time updates from coordinators attending County meetings. This allowed them to pivot and prioritize calls as needed. The use of scheduled Teams meetings for updates immediately following County meetings received mixed feedback. Several staff reported they found benefit in these meetings while others stated they would have rather kept making phone calls to consumers without interruption.
- This was the first incident where we worked directly with OREM. Terra Ralph was communicative and offered resources and additional avenues to make contact with clients, such as the PULSE report and 211 data. Working onsite at the EOC was streamlined and we could quickly share information and discuss barriers and needs that were arising at the shelter and determine what support S&DS could or could not provide.

# Lessons Learned: Where to Improve

- The consumer report pulled by the State and those pulled from Oregon Access for power calls included multiple consumers with incorrect contact information, creating a delay in our response. We identified the need to ensure the most accurate information is placed in Oregon Access and Get Care and for staff to correctly close out and unassign themselves from caseloads within Oregon Access.
- New staff on the Support Response Team did not know what to expect from the process and found that training before the event would have been helpful. We identified the need to offer advanced training to those identified as Call Support and to identify Call Support members who are available for translation.
- Information received from the State was not comprehensive or customizable to our needs. For example, there is no indication of spoken language or TTY communications. Recommendations were made to the State for Get Care assessments that could be pulled for reports, such as language used at home, household size, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, Blind/Vision Impaired, and if they rely on Durable Medical Equipment.
- Due to restrictions on information sharing with Red Cross, we identified the need to have Eligibility staff who are willing to respond to the emergency shelter in a timely matter to provide support, and the need to strengthen our relationship with Red Cross and engage community partners serving those with disabilities in pre-planning.

**PLACE HOLDER – OREM**

## **Breakout session discussion:**

1. What kind of experiences and/or challenges have you had working with older adults during disaster events such as wildfires, extreme heat, or flooding?
1. What have you tried that helps build resilience for older adults in your community in the face of climate emergencies?

# 2023 Forum on Aging in Rural Oregon

## Thank you!

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