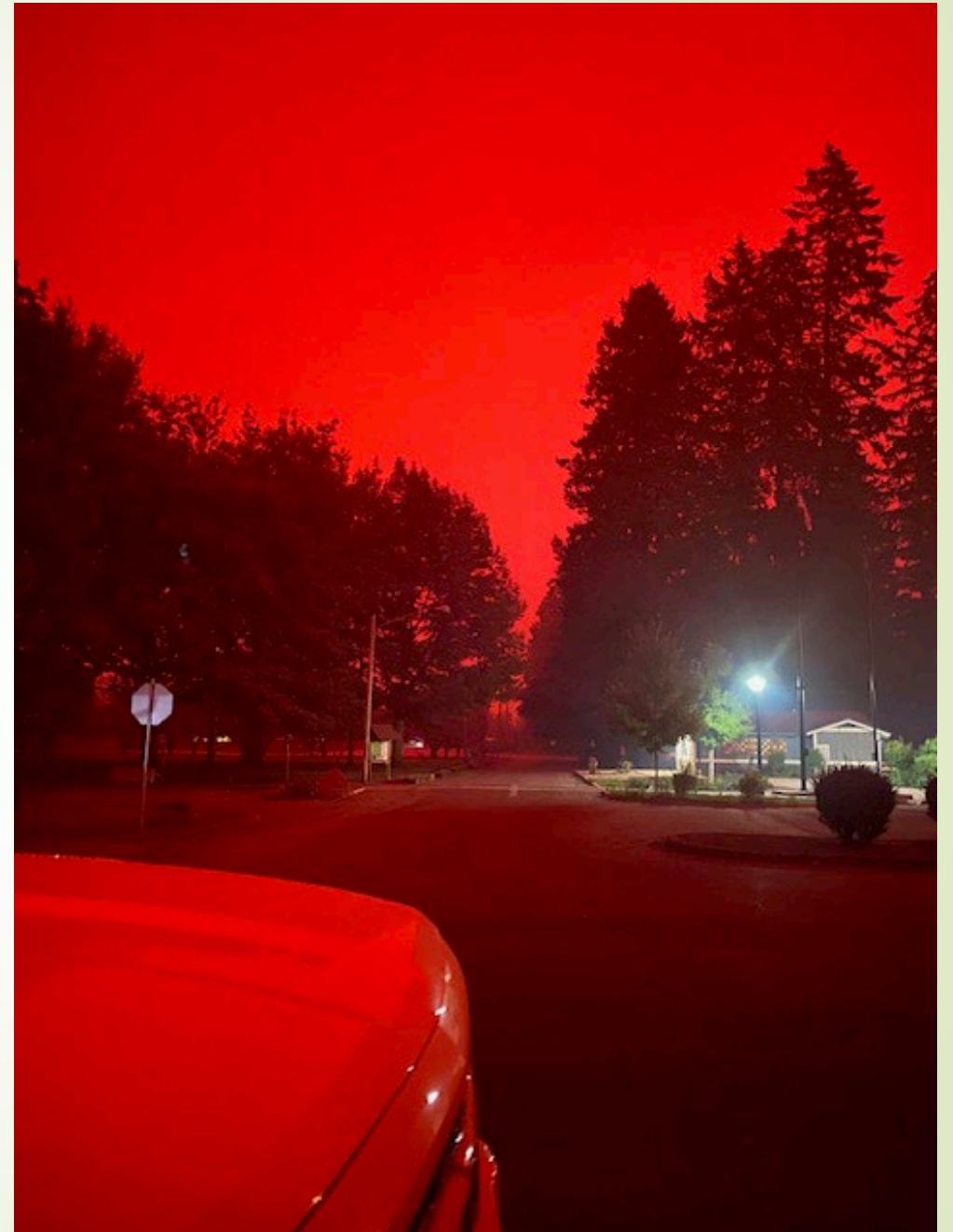




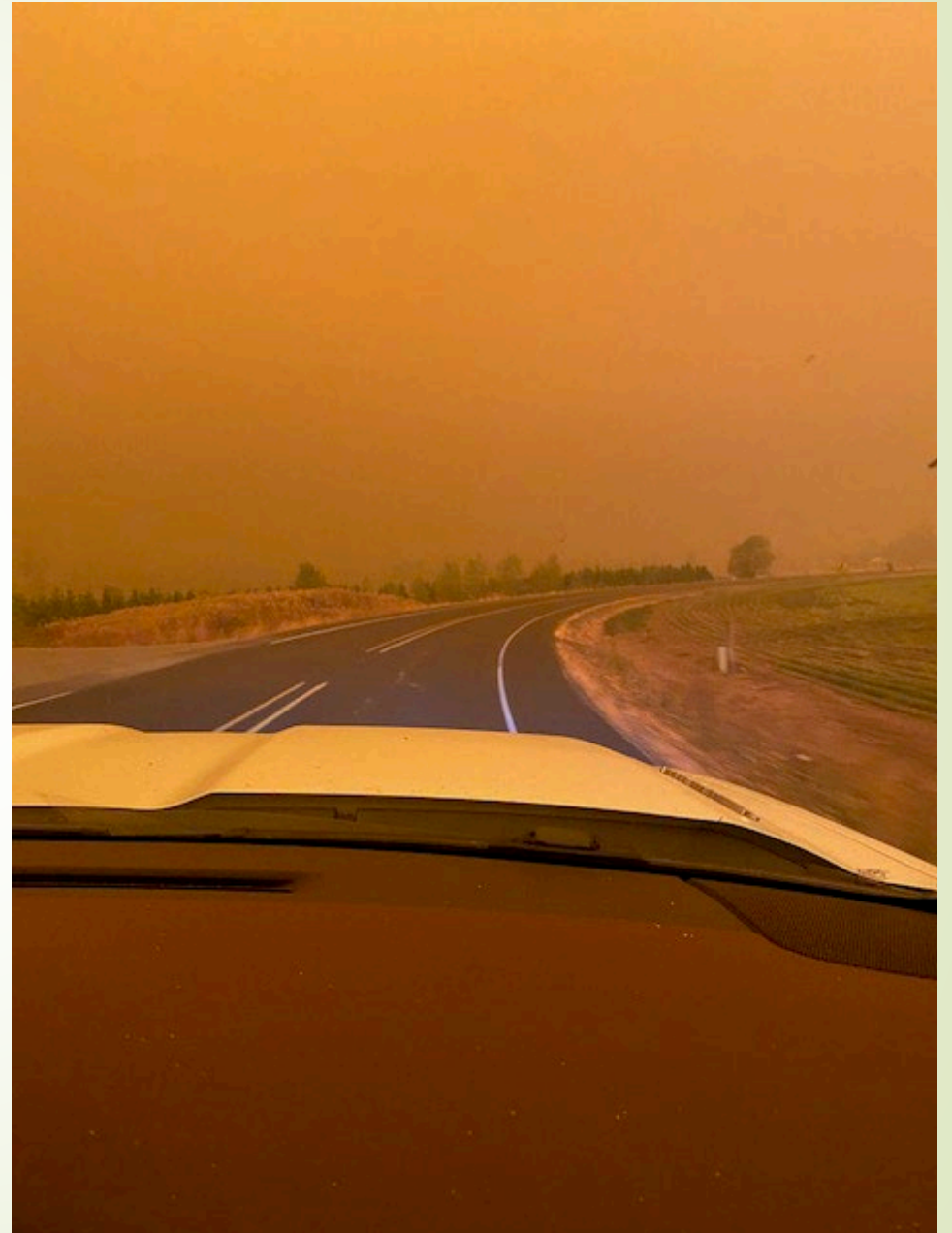
# Santiam Canyon Wildfires 2020

Santiam Hospital


**Santiam Memorial Hospital is a 40-bed general hospital serving a population of over 30,000 people. Our hospital serves as the health center of the community and encourages community participation in the activities of the hospital. It is Santiam Hospital's vision to serve as the healthcare center of the community. We value and encourage community awareness and participation. We pride ourselves in our unique identity- one where we strive to pro-actively pursue growth while maintaining an efficient, integrated system of prevention, care and treatment.**



The Santiam Wildfire event rapidly evolved into a dynamic situation that tested not only Santiam Hospital's Emergency Management Plan, but that of local, state, and federal agencies. Large scale evacuations and road closures along the highway 22 corridor from Mehama to Idahna were in place as emergency management crews including police, fire, EMS and ODOT responded. The first few days of the event focused on gaining critical access to communities to allow for rescue of individuals that were unable to evacuate due to downed trees, roadway blockages, downed power lines, and heavy smoke. Additionally, primary searches for individuals that had been injured or sought safety in local waterways.




# Timeline of Events



**9/6- Weather warnings of expected sustained high winds from the East. The Beachie Creek Fire was burning in Jaw Bone Flats area (acres of old growth timber). Potential spreading of fire. Fire Status “Be Prepared” to evacuate.**

**9/7-9/8 0030- Level 3 Evacuation notice “Go Now” for residents of North Fork, Mill City, Gates and Lyons. Large scale level 3 evacuation route along highway 22 corridor from Mehama to Idahna. Stayton/Sublimity level 2 “Be Ready”. Level 1 notice “Prepare” for Aumsville and Turner.**




**9/7-9/8**

**0130- CNO notified of the evolving wildfire event by house supervisor**

**0200- Incident Command activated, department directors informed with critical onsite directors to report. Attempted contact with local emergency management incident command.**


**0500-0800- Off-site clinics open but with skeleton crew, except Mill City which was closed. Elective surgical procedures cancelled for the next 2 days. Non-urgent imaging studies (MRI, nuc med, CT) were cancelled for the next 2 days. Planning with local nursing homes, Marian Estates, Marquis and Elmcroft for evacuation of residents should evacuation level be raised. The hospital liaison attended the city briefing. Fire incident management moved to Salem. Coordinators and managers arrived to assist with care of patients to ensure through put of patients and potential continuation of ED surge due to injury (smoke, evacuation, burns). Medications/vaccines gathered and moved to Salem for anticipation of evacuation of the hospital.**



**0800- Large increase of ED patients overnight. Increased EMS runs as local area systems assisting with notification of evacuation. Briefing of department directors as to growth of wildfire overnight, preliminary planning to maintain critical functions.**

**1000-Contact with area hospital incident command to ascertain evacuation status, census, and operational status.**

**1000-1900-Continues planning for potential patient surge, maintenance of critical hospital functions, nonessential personnel, and evacuation. Labor pool availability collected and released. Patients needing to be admitted were sent to Salem and Emanuel Burn Center. 1 patient transferred to Salem, 1 inpatient discharged, 1 inpatient remained as the SNFs were also on standby for evacuation and not taking patients back. At 1115 the winds shifted the fire away from Stayton and North towards Silverton.**




**9/9 1900-0700-** Review and update to hospital evacuation protocols. Continued evaluation of hospital census including level of care, admission/discharge planning, staff/patient safety

**0700-**Unified Command Meeting set in Marion County. The Stayton fire chief was our Liaison for East Marin County.

**1000-** Staff living within evacuated areas contacted to ensure safety and need for immediate assistance. (75 employees were displaced due to fire) Increase smoke notice in the hospital. Planning to mitigate further smoke from entering the hospital completed.

**9/11 1900-0700-** Moderate accumulation of smoke. Elective procedures and outpatient imaging studies, outpatient imaging studies, outpatient treatment areas opened and running as usual. Medical clinics opened and are running as usual.



**9/12 0800- Announcement of hospital staff wildfire relief fund (allowance of payment of up to 40 hours of PTO and 40 hours of EIB, regardless of banked status prior to wildfire event) for all employees evacuated. Additionally staff were allowed to donate time to a special fund for staff that had a loss of their home due to the wildfire.**

**9/14-9/18- Hospital operation monitored and has returned to pre wildfire function. Accumulation of smoke monitored daily and continued to decrease as the air outside began to clear.**

**9/18- Incident Command Terminated**

# In Summary



- During the initial stages of the Santiam Wildfire event the focus was on actions directly related to life safety for communities and emergency management teams along the highway 22 corridor. Santiam Hospital's proximity to the line of fire necessitated the activation of the Emergency Management Plan to reduce the impact and potential health consequences as the wildfire intensified. Planning included preparation for a surge of emergency department patients due to injury, burns, and respiratory complaints. EMS agencies were moved throughout the Santiam Canyon, many outside of their normal response boundaries. Additional fires in surrounding areas further complicated hospital operations, many staff members were evacuated, and unclear how they would be affected.

# Conclusion



The Wildfire Event affected thousands of people throughout the Santiam Canyon with over 700 homes burned and long-term displacement of the residents. There was also large-scale damage across the state from the other fires burning during this same time period. In order to accommodate the needs of the incident and because of the incident duration Santiam Hospital engaged in both internal and external operations. There was an increase in coordination and communication with multiple entities including those at local, county, and state level. The hospital provide immediate shelter and care for evacuating residents while maintaining critical patient care departments such as the emergency department, inpatient medical surgical and obstetrics. Overall, there was little disruption to outpatient services including surgical services, imaging, lab, pharmacy and medical clinics. Despite nearly 75 hospital staff members being evacuated during the first week of the event due to the wildfire, smoke and loss of critical infrastructure, Santiam Hospital was able to accommodate requests of staff to attend to personal needs, securement and safety of personal home/property, and continued evacuation.

Overall, the response of Santiam Hospital during the wildfire event was successful. Hospital and medical clinic staff resilience was in the forefront of the response. Most were facing changes and effects since the beginning of 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Yet when asked, they came together for their families, co-workers, and community and offered what they could. Our SIT(Service Integration Team) team was able to mobilize within days to assist residents in the community offering shelter, food, and clothing.

