

COUNTY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESILIENCE ISSUES

Background

Oregon's resilience is frequently challenged by natural, technological, and human-caused disasters. AOC is uniquely situated to address the three aspects of resilience: prepare, survive, and recover. We are a convening and problem-solving entity dedicated to the improvement of community and personal resilience in Oregon.

Leadership

Gilliam County Judge Steve Shaffer, Co-Chair

Clatsop County Commissioner Lianne Thompson, Co-Chair

Our Principles

- Oregon statutory authority for emergency preparation and response starts at the local level. Priorities of local communities should be elevated with state, federal, and tribal partners to effectively improve resilience. Individuals closest to emergencies often know best what a community needs to survive and recover from an emergency. Bureaucratic processes and rules frequently delay the implementation of mitigation efforts or hinder emergency response and recovery, and red tape should be actively minimized.
- Resilience depends upon a variety of other policy areas, including public health, land-use planning, housing, public safety, transportation, energy, and many others. Interconnection and coordination of these too often separated efforts is a core concern of the Resilience Subcommittee.
- AOC supports improving the resilience of whole communities and county government against every hazard, including earthquakes, tsunamis, wildfires, active shooters, terrorist events, flooding, and storm events, among others.
- Preparing for an emergency is not enough: counties and partners also respond to the incident, maximize life safety, mitigate impacts, build capacity, and recover as flourishing communities.
- Maximizing county resilience requires engaging and collaborating with all partners as individuals and communities.

Contact Information

Patrick Sieng, Public Safety Policy Manager

(503) 799-8280

psieng@oregoncounties.org