

EMS Modernization Phase 2

Rural Oregon needs increased EMS support

THE CRISIS

Oregon's **EMS workforce** and infrastructure are facing significant challenges. Increasingly, there are **fewer paramedics** and **EMTs** available to serve Oregonians in **rural areas** of the state. In several towns, an ambulance is not guaranteed to show up even if a patient calls 9-1-1.

HOW WE CAN HELP

EMS Modernization Phase 2 refers to two bills, **HB 3572** and **HB 3380**, that will address Oregon's paramedic and EMT **workforce crisis** through a combination of **long-term planning** and **short-term rural relief**. EMS Modernization Phase 2 will create an EMS Mobilization plan, short-term workforce initiatives, and a 10-year strategic plan



- ~ **64%** of EMS agencies in Oregon serve rural communities
- Rural Oregon is **underprepared** for emergencies due to a severe lack of EMS personnel
- Fossil, Oregon, has **no full-time** EMS resources
- A regional survey of 21 Oregon EMS agencies revealed 158 vacancies for paramedics and 84 vacancies for EMTs, leading to decreased availability to respond to 911 calls and increasing response times (OPB)

WHAT EMS PHASE 2 DOES

1

Creates an **EMS Mobilization Plan** to allow for the redistribution of EMS resources around the state in a more streamlined way.

2

Develops **short-term workforce initiatives**, with **\$9M** in appropriated funding, that provides EMS workforce relief, especially in rural areas. The EMS workforce is underfunded and understaffed, with some areas of the state having no EMS presence, these policies will help us stop the bleeding until a longer-term strategy comes into effect.

3

Requires the State EMS Program to create a **10-year strategic EMS plan** in Oregon to provide a suite of long-term solutions to the EMS workforce and funding crisis, which will naturally replace our short-term solutions.

