



Help Oregon Improve Disaster Recovery

Your experience matters. Your voice can make a difference.

Why Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) is Reaching Out

After past disasters, OEM heard clearly from communities that there were gaps in the overall recovery process. Some people were left out, faced barriers, or weren't heard early enough. We want to do better and we can't do that without you.

What We're Doing

OEM is planning a statewide disaster recovery exercise in October 12-16, 2026 called *Getting Through Lahar'd Times 2026* to implement an updated State Recovery Plan in a simulated volcano environment. This is a practice disaster scenario, not a real emergency. One goal of this exercise is to assess the effectiveness of recovery systems to ensure they work better for communities most impacted by disasters.

Ways That You Can Get Involved

Before the exercise:

- **Share** insights from your lived experience to help shape recovery plans
- **Help identify** realistic community needs and barriers
- **Review or help create** simulated needs and inquiries for the exercise

During the exercise (October 12-16, 2026):

- **Observe** recovery plans being put in practice
- **Help us assess** how well equity considerations are actually applied

After the exercise:

- **Share feedback** during debriefs ("hotwashes")
- **Help identify** what worked, what didn't, and what needs to change
- **Support development** of an After-Action Report to guide real improvements

We particularly wish to engage with communities who are systemically marginalized, and organizations that support them, such as:

- English as an additional language (EAL) communities
- Rural communities
- Disability and access and functional needs (D-AFN) communities
- Unhoused and underhoused communities
- Immigrants and refugee communities



Compensation

We recognize that time, expertise, and lived experience is valuable. We are actively developing a grant policy that will allow us to offer a modest stipend to community participants. Details about eligibility and timing will be shared as soon as they are finalized.

How to Join

Learn More at Our Upcoming Event Orientation: An orientation will be offered on Monday April 27, from 12:00 – 1:00 PM to go over the exercise in detail, answer questions, and outline next steps.

Zoom info:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87641272477>

Meeting ID: 876 4127 2477

Passcode: ac5r=\$&9

Please note that you will be required to create a free zoom account in order to log in to the meeting.

Accessibility

The orientation will include American Sign Language and real time captioning. The event will be recorded and the recording will be shared afterward. *If you require an additional accommodation to fully participate in this meeting, please contact Natasha Fox (info below) by no later than April 20, 2026 with your request.*

Questions / Clarification

Please reach out to Natasha Fox, Chief Resilience Officer at Oregon Department of Emergency Management with any questions:

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