



PRESS RELEASE

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WLEOG/City of Florence PIO

West Lane Emergency Operations Group Activates the Emergency Operations Center in Response to COVID-19

FLORENCE, OR – The West Lane Emergency Operations Group met Friday, March 20, 2020, to implement the West Lane Emergency Operations Plan and stand up its Emergency Operations Center in conjunction with regional partners. This ensures our ability to enhance coordination among our partner agencies, maintain critical and essential services, as well as support state and county health efforts. An incident command structure has been established with Fire/EMS Chief Michael Schick and Police Chief Tom Turner serving as unified command.

The West Lane Emergency Operations Group (WLEOG) Board has been in constant communication regarding COVID-19 since March 1, 2020, to monitor the global pandemic. The WLEOG Board has been participating in regional meetings with the Lane County Emergency Operations Center since that time. In addition, our members have been participating in discipline specific meetings with Lane County, the State of Oregon, the League of Oregon Cities, and public health networks. This information is shared during our local partners call.

Governor Brown declared a state of emergency for the State of Oregon on March 8, 2020, and Lane County Board of Commissioners adopted Order 20-03-17-06, declaring a local emergency as a result of public health response to COVID-19 on March 17, 2020. The City of Florence City Council will consider their resolution to declare a local emergency at their Special Meeting on Monday, March 23, 2020.

The WLEOG Board would like to reinforce the State of Oregon’s message to abide by social distancing guidelines, avoid unnecessary travel, avoid gatherings of greater than 10 people, and not to hoard supplies.

“We’re asking a lot from Oregonians right now. However, it’s really important that you take this message to heart and share it with your parents, kids, friends, and family: The actions we take today will determine how many people our hospitals can treat, how many lives they can save and how long this pandemic will last. Let’s work together to slow the spread of COVID-19.”

– Oregon Health Authority Update March 20, 2020



Additional updates to the community will be provided as it becomes available. For up to date information, please continue to monitor the following websites:

- [City of Florence COVID-19 Updates](http://www.ci.florence.or.us/covid19) – www.ci.florence.or.us/covid19
- [Lane County Public Health](http://www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus) -- www.lanecountyor.gov/coronavirus
- [Oregon Health Authority](https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19) -- <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>
- [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) -- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus) -- <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- School Closures & Food Service Plans
 - [Siuslaw School District](https://www.siuslaw.k12.or.us/) -- <https://www.siuslaw.k12.or.us/>
 - [Mapleton School District](https://www.mapleton.k12.or.us/) -- <https://www.mapleton.k12.or.us/>

About WLEOG

Established in 2007, the West Lane Emergency Operations Group (WLEOG) is based on an intergovernmental agreement to establish emergency operations in Western Lane County between the City of Florence, Dunes City, the Port of Siuslaw, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue District, Western Lane Ambulance District, Mapleton Fire Department, Peace Health, and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians Police Department. The WLEOG Board meets monthly to plan disaster drills, review policies and procedures, and coordinate regionally. In addition to the Board members, WLEOG incorporates dozens of regional partners, including Lane County, for emergency preparedness and management. The WLEOG Board adopted the latest version of the West Lane Emergency Operations Plan in 2016 and is currently in the process of updating it.

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