

SAFE

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thing else you can do is make sure there's nothing blocking the unit from the outside."

According to Pacific Power, thermostats should be set to 78 degrees to avoid a costly electric bill and windows should be opened in the mornings to allow in cool air.

Have a plan

In response to the record-breaking forecasts nearing wildfire season, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative — which supplies power to roughly 60,000 residents in Eastern Oregon — is prepared to shut off power lines, if needed, to minimize the potential for wildfire ignition.

"The major factors are going to be high winds, extreme heat and any red flag warnings that are given by the National Weather Service," Joe Hathaway, communications manager for OTEC, said. "We follow their lead, and the weather is always changing so it's hard to say if it's definitely going to happen or not this season."

OTEC has an early warning system in place to ensure members are notified of any potential outages. Outages could last anywhere from a few hours to several days. To prepare, residents should create supply kits of food, water and medical supplies and ensure any backup generators are ready.

"I want to emphasize that power shut-offs are a last resort option. They aren't very common, but we want to make sure everyone is aware," Hathaway said. "Everyone should have a backup plan, and if it really comes to it, make sure they are keeping updated on any evacuation procedures."

Working safely in heat

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration is recommending that employers create a heat illness prevention plan, which could include training employees to recognize the signs of heat illness, performing work during the coolest part of the day and providing water and breaks, particularly for those in labor-intensive jobs.

"Employers need to take the threat of heat illness seriously, which means

acting sooner — not later — to put the appropriate safeguards in place," said Penny Wolf-McCormick, statewide health enforcement manager for Oregon OSHA. "And they don't have to do it alone. Oregon OSHA is ready to help with free expert advice and a variety of educational resources."

Oregon Department of Transportation Region 5 Safety Coordinators Cam McGinnis is encouraging his agency's staff and contractors to take a number of precautions to protect themselves from the heat. They include doubling the amount of water or fluids they bring and keeping it nearby.

"Keep some close — having a gallon of water, 2 miles or an hour away does not help you," McGinnis said in a statement.

McGinnis also encourages employees to take breaks often while working in the heat.

"Breaks give your body a chance to catch up," he said.

Looking out for the people you are working with in the heat is also important.

"Lead from every position: check to make sure others take breaks," McGinnis said.

Local resources

The La Grande American Red Cross on Cove Avenue works with schools, churches and community centers around the area in the case of an emergency shelter being required. In the past, they also worked with locations in Union and other cities nearby. According to disaster action team volunteer Heather Stanhope, a number of sheltering agreements are in place in the case of an emergency.

The Red Cross in La Grande operates through the Idaho/Montana Region, which spends efforts year-round preparing emergency services.

"We're there to meet the most immediate needs, from a power outage to a wildfire," said Greater Idaho and Montana Communications Director Matt Oschsner.

The La Grande Police Department is also preparing for the rise in temperatures the same way it does every summer: keeping an eye out on welfare checks on elderly residents, heat-related medical injuries and the homeless.

According to Lt. Jason Hays, there is usually a lag time before the department sees the effects of rising temperatures in the summer.

"La Grande isn't a stranger to high heat," he said.

He also said there has been a slight uptick in reports of unmowed grass in La Grande, which can result in a fire hazard if not dealt with properly.

La Grande typically sees a rise in homelessness during the summer months, so Hays noted there is a rise in calls regarding welfare checks of homeless people. This typically results in the department buying the person a water or taking more serious measures if necessary to ensure their safety.

Other than a slight rise in welfare checks, there is little change in crime trends related to extreme temperatures, Hays said.

Keeping animals safe

Farm animals will also be feeling the impact of the heat wave. According to the Humane Society, animals can be especially vulnerable to heat illness if they are old, overweight or have heart or respiratory disease.

Matt Henneke, co-owner with his wife, Veronica, of Henneke Farm Carriage, La Grande, will be taking a number of steps to protect his animals from the heat, including keeping water troughs filled to capacity and creating muddy areas where animals can roll around to cool off.

Henneke also makes a point of operating his carriage service when it is hot only in the evening to protect the horses who pull it from the heat.

Paul Anderes, a Union County Commissioner who raises farm animals with his wife, Kelly, said farmers should be particularly careful with hogs when it gets hot. They have more trouble dealing with heat because they do not sweat, said Anderes, a retired La Grande High School agricultural sciences teacher and former FFA adviser.

Anderes suggests farmers use a mist system for hogs and a mud wallow to help keep them cool. He also said it is a good idea for farmers to limit the activity of all of their farm animals during a heat wave.

"It is important not to move or push them," he said.

perature was recorded twice in 2018, on Aug. 10 and Aug. 13. The city's third highest mark was 105 degrees, recorded in 1992 and 2015.

La Grande receives its share of hot weather but it falls short of what hits Umatilla County, where downtown Pendleton has an all-time high of 119 degrees set in 1898, and Hermiston has a top mark of 113 degrees set in 1965. The National Weather Service is forecasting that on June

28 Hermiston will have a high of 113 and Pendleton will have a top mark of 110 degrees.

Lawhorn said La Grande is generally cooler than many Umatilla County cities because of its higher altitude. La Grande's elevation is 2,785 feet, significantly higher than Pendleton, 1,200 feet, and Hermiston's 591 feet.

"Your higher elevation keeps you cooler than the Columbia Basin," he said.

PROJECTS

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event of an emergency. Modernized electrical and mechanical systems will allow more interior space for classrooms, hallways and offices. Hardware and software upgrades will allow classrooms to use 21st-century technology and enhance the experience of students who take part in distance learning. The Rural Engagement and Vitality Center will offer enhanced programs, while the renovated spaces will improve admissions, advising and student services.

Oregon State University, Corvallis

Reser Stadium, \$40,555,000

The football stadium for the Oregon State Beavers will get a new west grandstand. It will include new seating, enclosures, restrooms, concessions, press boxes and athletic training and storage spaces. Around the stadium will be new parking, walkways and fire lanes. The plan may include interior facilities for academics or a health care facility.

Cordley Hall, \$87,065,000

The 1950s-era building houses the school's Integrative Biology and Botany and Plant Pathology program with students and their research having a worldwide impact. The 235,000-square-foot building is the site of classes for about 60% of all students on the Corvallis campus. The renovation will include environmentally and economically advanced heating, cooling and electrical systems. The overhaul will transform classrooms, laboratories and faculty offices. Seismic upgrades will be made

to better withstand large earthquakes.

OSU-Cascades, Bend Student Success Center, \$14,035,000

The Bend campus of Oregon State University will use the funds to create a modern version of a student union: a place to meet, learn and seek services. Plans call for academic advising, career coaching, tutoring, counseling, a wellness center and space for students to hold group meetings or study. A state study shows the campus currently has just slightly more than 50% of the 28,000 square feet of "academic support space" it needs. The desire for a centerpiece of the new campus led students to levy an extra charge to their fees to finance an additional \$5 million of spending on the facility.

Portland State University, Portland

Gateway Center, \$68,990,000

The existing Art Building would be renovated, with space on an adjacent lot use to expand the School of Art and Design, the Center for Student Health and Counseling, and the Speech and Hearing Sciences program areas. Classrooms, laboratories, study and meeting spaces would receive upgrades. The building will be designed to include business or commercial space.

University of Oregon, Eugene

University Hall (formerly Deady Hall), \$58,245,000

One of Oregon's rare sites on the National Register of Historic Places will be given a preservationist-driven overhaul that will include classrooms, offices and a theater.

While retaining the

look of the university's longstanding place in Oregon history, the 7,000 students and 115 faculty members who use its classroom and offices will work and study in a safer, improved interior space. Building materials and electrical systems will be updated to meet current safety codes. Classrooms will be modernized and include computer workstations.

Western Oregon University, Monmouth

Student Success Center, \$21,615,000

The existing Old Education Building would be demolished and replaced by a new facility to house student services. The center would offer modernized environments for advising, tutoring, support group activity, computer labs and study space.

Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls

\$55,650,000

Funds will build a new residence hall for 900 students, including sleeping and study space.

Oregon Institute of Technology/Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center, Scappoose

\$5,105,000

Bonds would pay for two new labs within the Research and Development (R&D) facility, including a powdered metal handling vault and airlock to support the addition of laser powder bed fusion and binder jetting methods of additive manufacturing. Office space, conference rooms and other spaces will allow partnering with university researchers from other locations to develop new additive manufacturing projects.

HEAT

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The all-time mark was first set July 18, 1960, according to data from the National Weather Service cited in The Observer at the time. The record was tied four decades later on July 13, 2002.

La Grande's second highest recorded temperature is 106 degrees, according to the National Weather Service. This tem-



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