

"We probably sold a whole year's worth of air purifiers in one day," Peterson said in mid-September. "We've had quite a bit of increased business last week from customers who had evacuated from their houses and have been staying in the area."

He said many of the customers told him and his employees what they were shopping for and that they had been relocated.

Delivery challenges

But while some businesses were seeing more traffic, others were dealing with a different kind of traffic.

TP Freight Lines, which has a depot in Miles Crossing and carries everything from paper rolls to medical supplies throughout the coast, struggled to make its deliveries to and from fire-affected areas.

Justin Henry, operations manager, said the biggest challenge was the Echo Mountain Complex fire in the Lincoln City area.

"We had to completely close down our Lincoln City office and freight dock for a while, and in that area Highway 101 was closed so we had to move our operation to Eugene for a few days," Henry said.

TP Freight also serves the fire-stricken areas of Phoenix and Talent out of its Medford office.

"We have a fair amount of freight stacking up here because businesses aren't able to receive their freight," Henry said in mid-September.

Though every fire season is different, Henry said TP Freight has contingency plans in place in order to work through natural disasters.

"We always find a way to support the local businesses," Henry said. "We keep chugging along and try to adapt as the environment changes."



Several TP Freight Lines trucks park at the former building in Astoria.



Gearhart By the Sea Resort was sold out through much of September due to an increase in visitation from those escaping wildfires and smoke.



Fred Meyer in Warrenton saw an increase in demand for air purifiers and filters.

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