



Tom Story/Inciweb via AP

This Aug. 28 photo provided by Inciweb shows the Milli Fire near Sisters. The two dozen blazes around the state Wednesday are affecting air quality and have forced the evacuations of more than 4,500 people.

# 4,500 people evacuated due to Oregon wildfires

By GILLIAN FLACCUS  
Associated Press

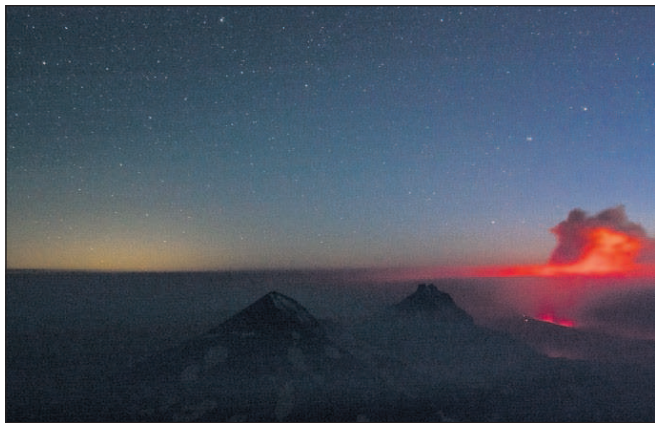
PORTLAND — Wildfires in Oregon are burning an area roughly equivalent to half the state of Rhode Island, affecting air quality throughout the state and forcing the evacuations of more than 4,500 people, fire authorities said Wednesday.

Two dozen fires in southern, eastern and central parts of the state had scorched a total of 571 square miles.

And although fire crews appreciated cooler weather and some fog on some fire lines, they are bracing for triple-digit temperatures and the return of windy conditions and extremely low humidity later this week and into the weekend, said Terry Krasko, a U.S. Forest Service spokesman.

The largest fire is near the coastal town of Brookings near the California border.

That 196-square-mile blaze is 5 percent contained and 4,568 people have fled their homes. Firefighters have managed to carve out a containment line along the southwestern edge of the fire to protect the 6,500-person town that will be bolstered by the arrival Wednesday of six Oregon National Guard teams.



Fedor Zarkhin/The Oregonian via AP

In this Aug. 27 photo, a plume of smoke rises from a wildfire west of Sisters.

The fire started July 12 from a lightning strike in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest but grew rapidly last week.

“That 5 percent doesn’t sound like a lot but it’s very critical to this town and we feel very good about that. There have been people asking, ‘What about the other side of the fire, what about the east?’” Krasko said. “But we have to put our efforts first where the homes and businesses are — where people live. These are our family and friends.”

Also in the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, but further east, a complex of fires forced the

evacuation of six homes Tuesday in a rural community called Joe Bar near the Applegate River Valley. Several of the fires have merged and firefighters have divided the largest ones into three areas of attack, fire authorities said.

About two dozen blazes all began on Aug. 12 after a lightning storm in the area but most were put out quickly by crews.

In central Oregon, a 34-square-mile fire west of Sisters is now 44 percent contained. No mandatory evacuations are in effect.

Fires statewide continue to generate thick smoke that’s affecting air quality in southern and central Oregon.

# Governor celebrates transportation package with statewide tour

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

PORTLAND — Gov. Kate Brown’s tour of the state Monday and Tuesday to celebrate signing into law a \$5.3 billion transportation funding package possessed the energy of a campaign blitz.

Oregon’s 38th governor stopped in Ontario, Bend and Medford Monday and Eugene and Portland Tuesday to reenact signing the bill and to highlight projects that will benefit those areas.

Her last stop was at Portland Community College’s Southeast campus at 82nd Avenue and Division Street Tuesday.

“The transportation package is truly a roadmap to Oregon’s future,” Brown told a crowd of about 200 at the campus. “Not only will it improve the safety and condition of our roads and bridges, it will support thousands of family-wage jobs and help local businesses get their goods to market more efficiently.”

Brown actually signed the legislation into law Aug. 18, the deadline to enact bills from the 2017 Legislature, which adjourned early last month.

The transportation package was a chief victory for both Democratic and Republican lawmakers during the legislative session.

As the bill appeared ready to combust over discontent among interest groups, Brown intervened to help negotiate a deal that would save the package she’d been promising to constituents for the past two years.

“Passing the transportation package was no easy feat,” Brown said Tuesday. “We faced some significant challenges this last legislative session but we worked across the aisle and toward a shared vision for a better Oregon.”

Brown, just two years into her position, already faces a challenge to her incumbency in 2018.

Moderate Republican



Jaime Valdez/Pamplin Media

Gov. Kate Brown holds up copies of the signed transportation funding bill during a signing ceremony at Portland Community College Southeast Tuesday.

Rep. Knute Buehler, a surgeon from Bend, announced his candidacy earlier this month and is expected hit \$1 million in campaign funds by the week’s end. Brown has about \$1.5 million cash on hand for her campaign.

Political insiders say the transportation package gives the governor a bipartisan triumph to tout in her presumed reelection bid. (She has yet to official announce her intentions.)

Her tour of the state shows she can turn political rhetoric into results, said one statewide political operative unassociated with Brown’s campaign.

“I was very committed to delivering on a transportation package because I saw the critical importance for keeping Oregon moving and keeping our economy humming,” Brown said. “I was pleased we were able to get bipartisan support: Republicans, Democrats, urban and rural working together to deliver on this package to make Oregon a better place for all of us.”

Jim Moore, director of the Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation at Pacific University, said transportation is unlikely to be a Top 10 issue in the gubernatorial campaign. That’s because most voters aren’t in tune with legislative developments or even whether the state or local government

fixes the roads they traverse, he said.

“Transportation is kind of a political nerd sport,” Moore said. “Because of that it may or may not make a good issue at the center of that campaign.”

However, the statewide tour still gives some momentum to her campaign.

“Her face is being seen out there; she is talking to people,” Moore said. “It gives you a reason t... to go around the state. Transportation is good because it is not a natural disaster. It is: ‘Hi, here I am, your emissary from Salem. I have brought you something. It is classic incumbent behavior.’”

Brown’s campaign funds were not used to pay for the statewide tour, said Bryan Hockaday, a press secretary in Brown’s office. He said last week he did not yet know the cost of the tour to taxpayers and was not immediately available for comment Tuesday.

The eight-year transportation plan includes staggered hikes in the gas tax, increases to registration and title fees, and new taxes on payroll, new vehicle purchases and bicycles priced more than \$200.

The package also calls for congestion-priced tolling at some of Portland’s bottlenecks, which could include certain lanes on Interstate 5 and Interstate 205, to pay for congestion-busting projects.

## Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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### AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Pleasant with plenty of sunshine	Very warm with plenty of sun	Very hot	Very hot	Mostly sunny

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
87°	58°	94°	60°	99°
58°	60°	68°	101°	66°
97°	60°			

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
89°	53°	96°	56°	102°
53°	66°	104°	65°	101°
60°	60°			

### ALMANAC

#### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
93°	63°
84°	54°
103° (1967)	37° (1924)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.07"
Normal month to date	0.41"
Year to date	11.37"
Last year to date	7.34"
Normal year to date	8.36"

#### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
92°	58°
84°	54°
102° (2007)	39° (1965)

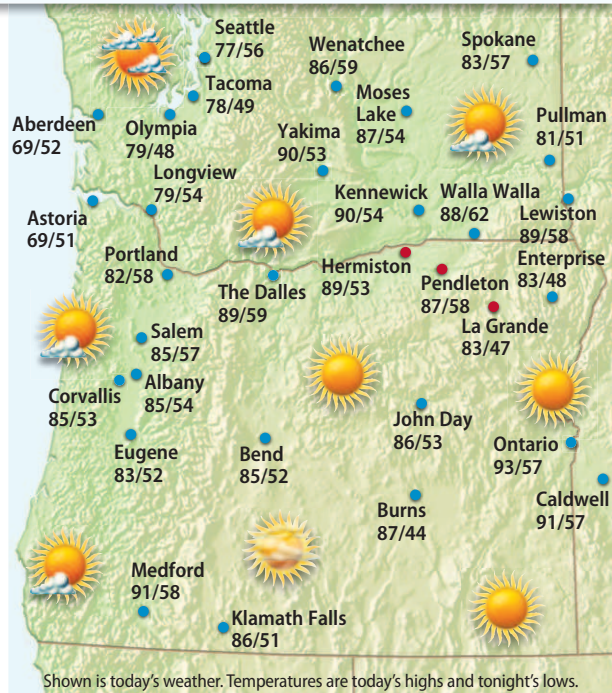
#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.06"
Normal month to date	0.19"
Year to date	6.65"
Last year to date	4.99"
Normal year to date	6.11"

#### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:15 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:35 p.m.
Moonrise today	4:10 p.m.
Moonset today	12:51 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Sep 5	Sep 12	Sep 19	Sep 27



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

### REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly sunny today; however, some clouds across the north; smoky in the south.  
Eastern and Central Oregon: Plenty of sunshine today, but hazy sun near the Cascades.  
Western Washington: Areas of low clouds early today; otherwise, mostly sunny. Mainly clear tonight.  
Eastern Washington: Mostly sunny today. Mainly clear tonight. Plenty of sun tomorrow.  
Cascades: Mostly sunny today. Smoky in the south; pleasant across the north. Clear tonight.  
Northern California: Mostly sunny today; hot in central parts. Clear tonight. Very hot tomorrow.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	69	51	pc	78	56	s
Baker City	87	46	s	93	47	s
Bend	85	52	pc	95	57	pc
Brookings	74	59	pc	76	59	pc
Burns	87	44	s	92	48	s
Enterprise	83	48	s	89	54	s
Eugene	83	52	s	92	54	s
Heppner	85	57	s	93	61	s
Hermiston	89	53	s	96	56	s
John Day	86	53	s	95	61	s
Klamath Falls	86	51	pc	94	53	pc
La Grande	83	47	s	91	53	s
Meacham	80	44	s	89	51	s
Medford	91	58	pc	103	63	pc
Newport	65	48	s	70	52	s
North Bend	68	52	s	73	54	s
Ontario	93	57	s	94	55	s
Pasco	90	52	s	93	54	s
Pendleton	87	58	s	94	60	s
Portland	82	58	pc	91	61	s
Redmond	87	46	pc	96	51	pc
Salem	85	57	s	94	59	s
Spokane	83	57	s	88	59	s
Ukiah	81	45	s	91	51	s
Vancouver	81	56	pc	91	58	s
Walla Walla	88	62	s	93	65	s
Yakima	90	53	s	94	57	s

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	83	66	pc	84	65	pc
Hong Kong	93	81	t	91	81	t
Jerusalem	82	63	s	82	65	s
London	65	49	pc	67	51	pc
Mexico City	69	56	c	70	59	pc
Moscow	65	45	s	69	50	s
Paris	69	51	pc	67	52	t
Rome	85	70	s	82	66	t
Seoul	80	60	s	82	62	s
Sydney	86	47	pc	63	45	s
Tokyo	74	65	r	74	67	r

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Fri.
Boardman	WSW 4-8	NE 3-6
Pendleton	W 6-12	N 4-8

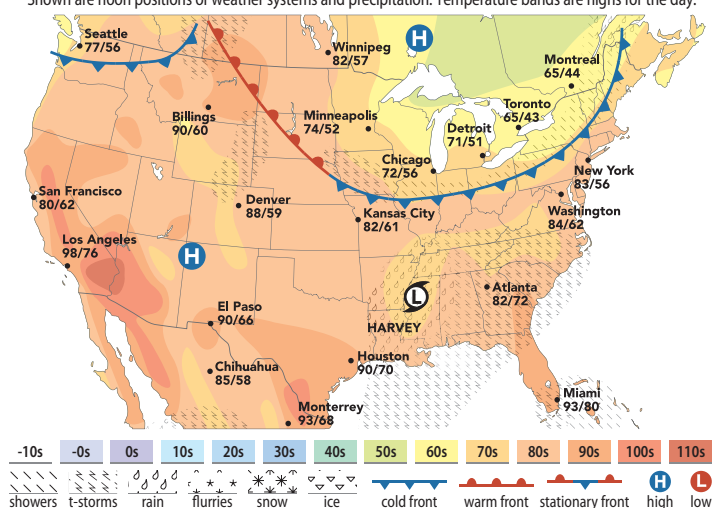
### UV INDEX TODAY

1 3 5 5 3 1  
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.  
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme  
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2017

### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Harvey will bring a risk of isolated flash flooding to the lower Mississippi Valley today. Severe storms will dot the Southeast as showers extend from Maine to Illinois. Much of the West will be sunny.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 115° in Needles, Calif. Low 34° in Leadville, Colo.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.				Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	88	64	s	89	62	pc	Louisville	82	62	c	82	62	r
Atlanta	82	72	t	82	63	t	Memphis	77	67	r	80	62	c
Atlanta City	82	59	pc	69	58	pc	Miami	93	80	pc	90	79	t
Baltimore	84	59	pc	65	55	sh	Millwaukee	69	56	pc	67	53	s
Birmingham	90	60	pc	89	60	s	Minneapolis	74	52	pc	72	61	pc
Boise	84	69	t	81	62	t	Nashville	80	68	r	69	55	r
Boston	91	59	s	93	63	s	New Orleans	86	73	t	87	73	t
Charleston, SC	81	54	pc	69	52	s	New York City	83	56	pc	69	58	pc
Chicago	88	76	t	91	75	t	Oklahoma City	85	61	s	87	64	pc
Chicago, WV	82	63	c	70	59	s	Omaha	84	62	s	81	64	s
Cleveland	72	56	pc	71	52	s	Philadelphia	84	57	pc	89	57	pc
Dallas	73	53	pc	68	54	pc	Phoenix	109	85	pc	109	84	pc
Dallas	89	69	pc	91	71	pc	Portland, ME	77	47	c	68	44	pc
Denver	88	59	t	85	59	pc	Providence	83	52	pc	70	49	s
Detroit	71	51	pc	66	52	pc	Raleigh	79	69	t	79	67	t
El Paso	90	66	s	91	66	s	Rapid City	88	60	t	91	57	s