

# OSU ag chemist studies Harvey's impact

By ERIC MORTENSON  
EO Media Group

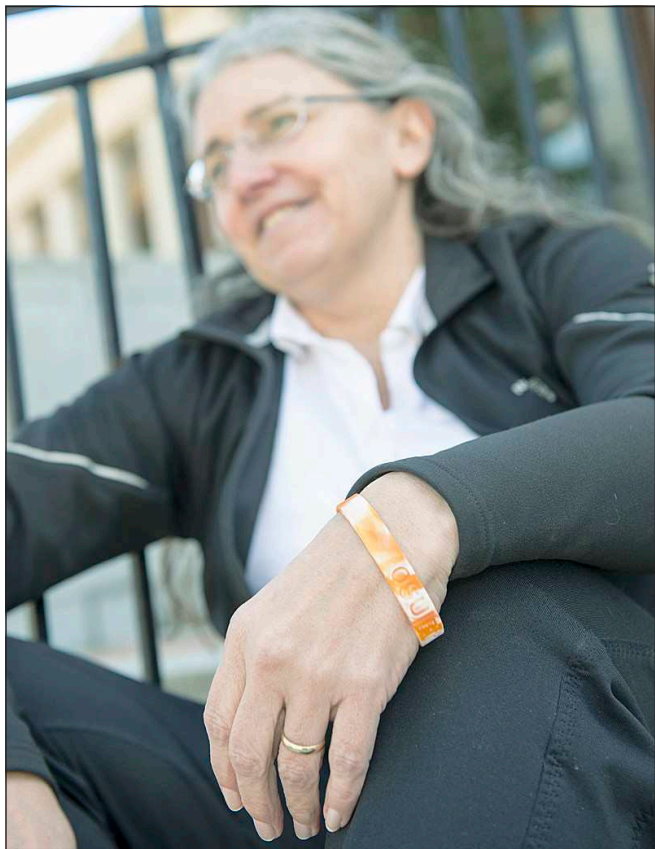
Oregon State University's College of Agricultural Sciences is working on a project that will help some Houston residents determine if they've been exposed to chemicals stirred up by Hurricane Harvey.

An OSU team traveled to Houston in mid-September and distributed three dozen silicone wristbands that absorb chemical molecules. Project volunteers were to wear them for seven days and then mail them back to OSU for analysis. They'll receive back an individualized chemical exposure report plus an aggregated report of the Houston results.

Kim Anderson, an OSU professor in the College of Ag's Environmental and Molecular Toxicology Department, cautioned against reading too much into the analysis.

"It's not a health report," she said. "It's a report of chemicals in the wristband."

The porous wristbands can sample more than 1,500 organic chemicals, including pesticides and hydrocarbon from wood or fossil fuel combustion, and benzene and toluene found in industrial solvents. They don't pick up inorganic material such as carbon monoxide, lead or



Oregon State University  
**Kim Anderson, an environmental chemist at OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences, wears a chemical-detecting silicone wristband in this 2014 photo.**

chromium, however.

In recent years, the wristbands have been used to study pesticide exposure among farmworkers and producers in the Southeast, California and Peru, Anderson said. Those studies are continuing. Hurricane Harvey,

however, provided a unique opportunity to measure chemical exposure. Houston has 13 "Superfund" cleanup sites, plus oil refineries and other industries that may have been swamped to some degree by the massive amount of rain dumped during the

storm. Residents may have been exposed to chemicals washed out by flooding or in the air, especially as people were involved in cleanup work. But the impact of that is unclear.

"We hear it's a toxic soup, but we don't have data to say it's a toxic soup," Anderson said. "What are the exposures?"

The public believes chemicals are all tested for toxicity, but most have never been tested, she said. Beyond pesticides, most chemicals don't have regulatory exposure limits assigned to them.

OSU's department of environmental and molecular toxicology is collaborating with Baylor College of Medicine, Texas A&M University and the University of Texas on the project.

"Community members were asking for some way to measure their chemical exposure after the flooding from Harvey," Anderson said in an OSU news release. "We were all geared up and ready to go, so we offered to come down, and they said, 'Yes, please.'"

Anderson and OSU colleagues Peter Hoffman, Lane Tidwell and Holly Dixon flew to Houston Sept. 19 and distributed wristbands after explaining the project at a community meeting held near some of the Superfund sites.

# Senators pitch bill for wildfire recovery

East Oregonian

A bipartisan group of Western senators has introduced a bill that would allow states affected by wildfire to tap into federal hazard recovery dollars, providing immediate assistance to help reduce the risk of flooding, erosion and future blazes.

As it stands, states can receive hazard mitigation funding only after the president declares a major disaster. However, unlike destructive hurricanes, floods or tornadoes, most fires do not typically receive a major disaster declaration.

The Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Act would treat fires the same as other disasters, allowing states access to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The proposal comes after nearly 8 million acres of forest were consumed by fire this summer, including 678,000 acres in Oregon.

The bill was announced Friday by Sens. Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), Michael Bennet (D-Colorado), Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), Jon Tester (D-Montana) and Jim Risch (R-Idaho).

"This is urgent business that requires an equally urgent and comprehensive response," Wyden said. "This bill marks a key piece of that response to help people recover from the devastation of wildfires by providing funding to local governments to reduce flooding and erosion after fires, monitor stream and habitat health and assist residents in clearing brush from around their homes and businesses."

Wyden and fellow Oregon Democrat Jeff Merkley are also behind a separate bill to permanently fix the way federal agencies

pay for fighting increasingly large fires. Chiefly, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2017 would put an end to the practice of "fire borrowing," where the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are forced to take money from fire prevention programs to pay for firefighting.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration asked Congress for \$29 billion in disaster aid on Wednesday, which included \$577 million to help replenish the agencies' firefighting accounts. Oregon's lone Republican congressman, Greg Walden, applauded the move, adding that it is past time to fix how the country pays for fires.

The Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Act drew support Friday from Roy Charles Brooks, president of the National Association of Counties, as well as Thomas Jenkins, president and chairman of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and Robie Robinson, former president of the U.S. Council of the International Association of Emergency Managers.

"As mitigation is the linchpin of emergency management, expanding hazard mitigation grant funding following a fire management assistance grant declaration will enable jurisdictions to implement programs that will effectively reduce risks and return benefits many fold," Robinson said.

The Forest Service estimates it has spent more than \$2 billion on wildfires in 2017, setting a new record for the agency. Fire managers and researchers warn that fire seasons are getting longer and hotter across the West, increasing the odds for more megafires into the future.

# Public meeting set for Tollgate forest project

East Oregonian

The Umatilla National Forest will host a public meeting Friday, Oct. 13 to update residents on the status of the ongoing Tollgate Fuels Reduction Project, which was approved in 2014 to treat about 4,300 acres of forest through thinning and prescribed burns.

Walla Walla District Ranger Mike Rassbach said the meeting will run from 1-3 p.m. at the Tollgate Trail Finders Club House, 62369 Highway 204, to discuss progress of fuels treatments and planned activities for 2018.

"The Tollgate area is one of the most utilized recreation areas on the forest," Rassbach said. "We know

there is a lot of interest in the success of implementing this project, and we hope Tollgate residents, as well as the weekend recreational land and cabin owners, will join us."

A representative from the Oregon Department of Forestry will also be on hand to discuss how the Tollgate project ties into treatment of private forestland, and provide information about the state's Cohesive Wildfire Strategy to strengthen the resiliency of communities surrounded by public land from wildfire.

In 2005, the Umatilla County Community Wildfire Protection Plan identified the Tollgate wildland-urban interface as a priority for fuels reduction to lessen

the impact of large fires on lives, property and the environment. The Tollgate Fuels Reduction Project was developed collaboratively out of that assessment.

For more information about the project, contact Joseph Sciarrino, Walla Walla District fuels management officer, at 509-522-6283. The project's environmental impact statement can also be found online at www.fs.usda.gov/umatilla.

As of Wednesday, all public use restrictions pertaining to recreational chainsaw use, smoking and motorized vehicle travel have been lifted on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Restrictions were also previously lifted last month on the Umatilla National

Forest. Seasonal campfire restrictions, however, remain in effect on all public lands through Oct. 31.

Campfires are allowed only in fire pits surrounded by dirt, rock or commercial rings, with all flammable material cleared within a 3-foot radius. Fires must be attended at all times, and put dead out prior to leaving.

For more information, call the forest office 541-523-6391.

## Corrections

Hermiston Mayor Dave Drotzmann was appointed to League of Oregon Cities board earlier this year and his term will expire in 2019. Incorrect information appeared in the article "Chalmers named to board for League of Oregon Cities" (Oct. 6, Page 3A) that only two members of the board — Paul Chalmers and Tessa Winebarger — represent cities from east of the Cascades. 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	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
64° 44°	61° 36°	65° 45°	66° 42°	60° 40°
67° 46°	66° 35°	68° 41°	67° 43°	64° 39°

### PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

Today	Sun.
64° 44°	60° 40°

### HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

Today	Sun.
67° 46°	64° 39°

### ALMANAC

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	76°	43°
Normals	68°	43°
Records	89° (1933)	24° (1916)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.05"  
Normal month to date 0.19"  
Year to date 12.34"  
Last year to date 8.14"  
Normal year to date 9.13"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	78°	35°
Normals	70°	41°
Records	88° (2014)	23° (2012)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"  
Month to date 0.03"  
Normal month to date 0.10"  
Year to date 7.04"  
Last year to date 5.45"  
Normal year to date 6.66"

### SUN AND MOON

	Last	New	First	Full
Sunrise today		7:01 a.m.		
Sunset tonight		6:24 p.m.		
Moonrise today		7:59 p.m.		
Moonset today		9:04 a.m.		

Oct 12 Oct 19 Oct 27 Nov 3

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

### REGIONAL FORECAST

**Coastal Oregon:** A brief shower or two today, in the morning in central parts, any time across the north.

**Eastern and Central Oregon:** Partly sunny today. Cooler; a morning shower in spots across the north.

**Western Washington:** Some sun today with a shower in places. Partly cloudy tonight with spotty showers.

**Eastern Washington:** A shower today, except a shower near the Idaho border; sunny in central sections.

**Cascades:** Cooler today; a shower or two, except a couple of rain or snow showers in the south.

**Northern California:** Areas of low clouds early today; otherwise, sunny at the coast. Sunny elsewhere.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	61	48	sh	63	42	pc
Baker City	58	32	pc	56	22	s
Bend	58	34	pc	54	27	s
Brookings	63	49	s	66	51	s
Burns	62	30	s	54	19	s
Enterprise	55	37	pc	51	28	pc
Eugene	64	43	pc	65	36	pc
Heppner	62	43	s	58	34	s
Hermiston	67	46	s	66	35	s
John Day	58	40	pc	52	30	s
Klamath Falls	66	29	s	58	30	s
La Grande	57	39	pc	54	28	pc
Meacham	54	37	r	51	27	pc
Medford	71	42	s	66	38	s
Newport	60	47	pc	60	44	pc
North Bend	64	47	s	64	44	s
Ontario	67	42	s	61	32	pc
Pasco	68	43	s	68	35	s
Pendleton	64	44	pc	61	36	s
Portland	63	48	pc	65	42	pc
Redmond	58	30	pc	58	23	s
Salem	65	46	pc	67	39	pc
Spokane	59	40	pc	58	36	s
Ukiah	53	36	pc	49	25	s
Vancouver	62	49	pc	64	40	pc
Walla Walla	65	46	pc	63	41	s
Yakima	67	37	s	68	32	s

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	67	56	sh	65	57	pc
Hong Kong	92	82	t	92	82	pc
Jerusalem	77	64	s	78	62	s
London	64	50	r	63	51	pc
Mexico City	75	54	pc	75	54	pc
Moscow	50	39	c	53	45	s
Paris	60	51	pc	63	48	c
Rome	72	48	s	72	58	pc
Seoul	78	62	pc	77	61	pc
Sydney	69	56	c	73	63	sh
Tokyo	72	66	r	76	66	pc

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Sunday
Boardman	WSW 10-20	NW 4-8
Pendleton	W 10-20	WNW 6-12

### UV INDEX TODAY

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.

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### NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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

**National Summary:** Rain, wind and seas will increase along the central Gulf coast as Nate approaches later today. Rain and storms will affect the Midwest. Showers will accompany a push of chilly air in the Northwest.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 99° in Chino, Calif. Low 9° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sun.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	71	48	s	77	49	s
Atlanta	81	73	c	78	72	r
Atlanta City	79	69	pc	77	70	r
Baltimore	84	68	pc	82	68	r
Billings	65	40	pc	52	31	r
Birmingham	86	73	t	78	73	r
Boise	67	41	s	58	33	pc
Boston	75	65	pc	77	65	c
Charleston, SC	85	73	sh	87	75	c
Chicago, IL	90	67	pc	77	66	r
Chicago	79	56	t	78	55	s
Cleveland	84	62	pc	79	63	s
Dallas	85	60	pc	89	67	pc
Denver	77	46	s	72	31	pc
Detroit	83	61	c	77	59	s
El Paso	84	55	s	90	63	s
Fairbanks	47	36	r	46	34	r
Fargo	72	46	s	65	40	pc
Honolulu	86	73	pc	87	74	pc
Houston	89	71	pc	91	70	pc
Indianapolis	84	57	t	79	62	pc
Jacksonville	88	78	pc	87	76	pc
Kansas City	70	53	s	80	53	s
Las Vegas	88	64	s	91	60	pc
Little Rock	87	66	pc	85	66	sh
Los Angeles	92	63	s	80	61	pc
Louisville	86	66	sh	77	67	r
Memphis	87	73	t	84	70	sh
Miami	89	81	t	90	78	c
Millwaukee	76	56	r	76	56	s
Minneapolis	66	50	r	68	45	pc
Nashville	86	71	sh	79	70	r
New Orleans	84	76	r	88	75	r
New York City	80	68	pc	80	70	sh
Oklahoma City	78	53	pc	81	58	s
Omaha	70	51	r	75	50	s
Philadelphia	85	70	pc	81	71	r
Phoenix	96	65	s	96	68	s
Portland, ME	71	60	c	75	56	sh
Providence	84	64	pc	74	67	c
Raleigh	78	69	t	84	70	sh
Rapid City	75	43	pc	54	34	sh
Reno	83	44	s	63	35	s
Sacramento	87	56	t	82	54	s
St. Louis	81	52	t	83	60	s