

Police/Fire PERS, who's in...  
why or why not?

Oregon State Fire  
Fighter Council  
2026 Educational Seminar

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## Definitions ORS 238.005



“Firefighter” means:

- (a)A person employed by a local government, as defined in ORS 174.116 (“Local government” and “local service district” defined), whose primary job duties include the fighting of fires;
- (b)The State Fire Marshal, chief deputy state fire marshals and deputy state fire marshals;
- (c)An employee of the State Fire Marshal whose primary duties include fire investigation, fire prevention, fire safety, fire control or fire suppression;
- (d)An employee of the State Forestry Department who is certified by the State Forester as a professional wildland firefighter and whose primary duties include the abatement of uncontrolled fires as described in ORS 477.064 (Uncontrolled fire declared nuisance); and
- (e)An employee of the Oregon Military Department whose primary duties include fighting structural, aircraft, wildland or other fires.

## Fire Marshals and Training Officers?



## ORS 181.181.355a (11)

“Fire service professional” means a paid or volunteer firefighter, an officer or a member of a public or private fire protection agency that is engaged primarily in fire investigation, fire prevention, fire safety, fire control or fire suppression or providing emergency medical services, light and heavy rescue services, search and rescue services or hazardous materials incident response. “Fire service professional” does not mean forest fire protection agency personnel.

What about Single Role Paramedics?



Locals have approached Single Role Paramedics differently

Some are in P/F OPSRP, while Others are in General Service

Don't forget about FLSA 7K Exemption (OT for all hours over 40 in a 7 day)

Workweeks differ for Locals across the State

## Example of one Locals Paramedic MOU



- Medic units will only independently respond to EMS call types (no fire alarms, spills, MVAs, nuisance fires, etc). They may respond to Fires to support fire suppression companies for rehab, medical, and may participate in picking up hose, tools, etc at a fire scene. Paramedics will not pull hose for fire attack or deploy ladders. They may stage tools and equipment for Firefighting operations, and assist with alternate water supply operations (ie fill site, dump site, etc)
- Paramedics will receive training on fire extinguishers and vehicle extrication (may be placed inside a vehicle but will not run extrication equipment) as well as nomenclature of the fire service.
- Paramedics will be issued a “light” complement of PPE (similar to wildland PPE), but will not be issued turnouts or trained in SCBAs



What about the new Hazardous Job Classification from HB 4045?

Oregon House Bill 4045, effective January 1, 2025, establishes a new "Hazardous Position" classification under the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) and allows certain public safety employees to retire earlier with enhanced benefits.

### **Key Provisions of HB 4045:**

**New Classification:** HB 4045 creates a "Hazardous Position" classification for members of the Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP). This classification is designed for employees whose jobs involve high risks, such as those working with emergency or traumatic events. The multiplier will be changed to **1.8% x years of service**.

**Implementation Timeline:** The new classification will be operational starting **January 1, 2030**, giving PERS time to prepare for the changes and determine which positions qualify as hazardous.

# Cancer Presumption



## Oregon Firefighter Cancer Presumption

- In Oregon, firefighters are eligible for workers' compensation for cancer caused by their job if it meets the criteria of an "occupational disease."
- The following Cancers are included:
- Brain, colon, stomach, testicular, prostate, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, cancer of the throat or mouth, rectal, breast, leukemia, bladder, and gynecologic cancers of the uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries, cervix, vagina, or vulva.
- The firefighter must have completed five or more years of employment as a nonvolunteer firefighter. The presumption applies to nonvolunteer firefighters, but not to volunteer firefighters.
- The presumption can be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence.

Peter St. John Bill



Isaac to fill in

