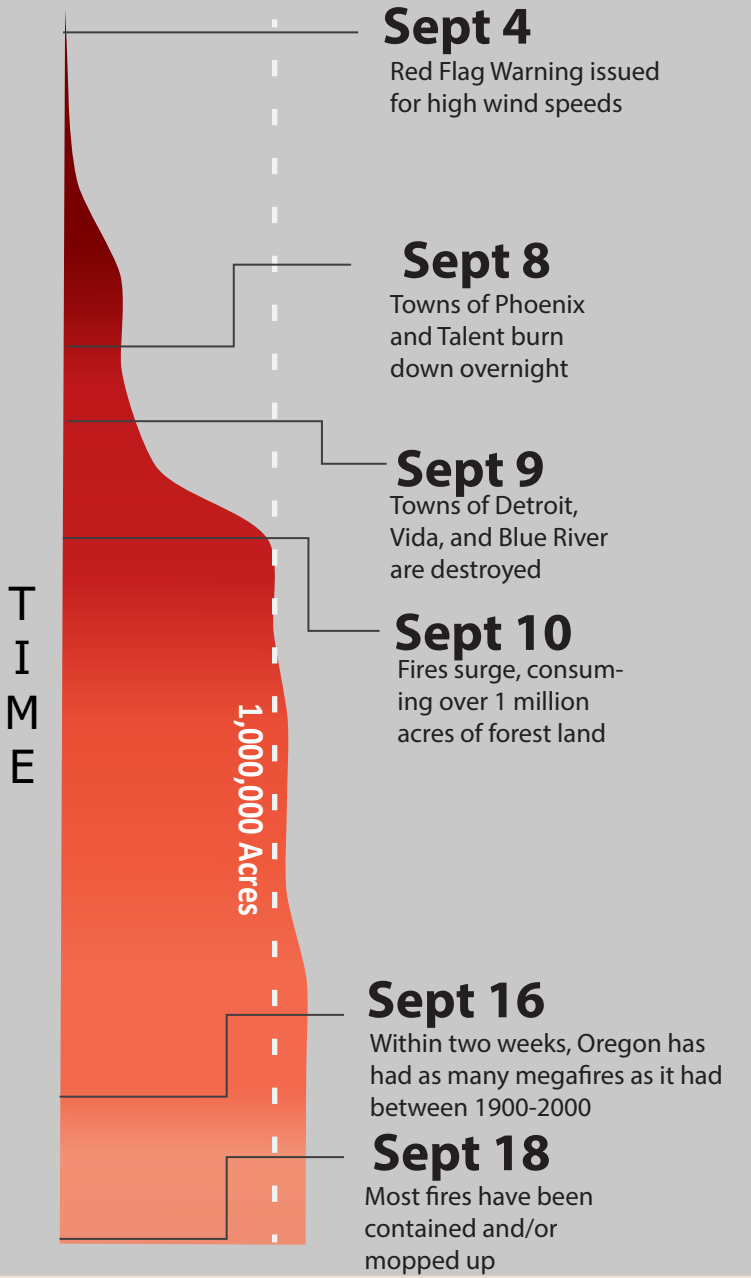


Oregon's Fires 2020

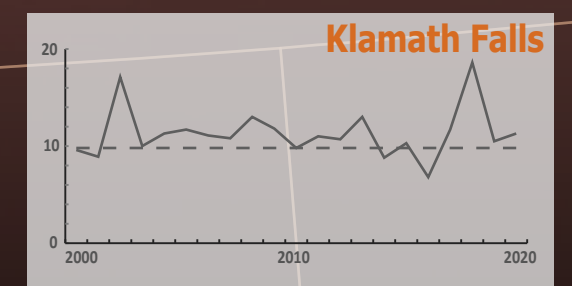
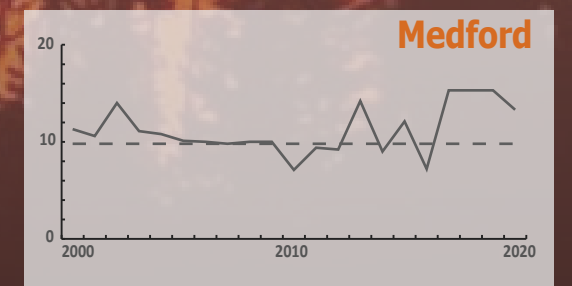
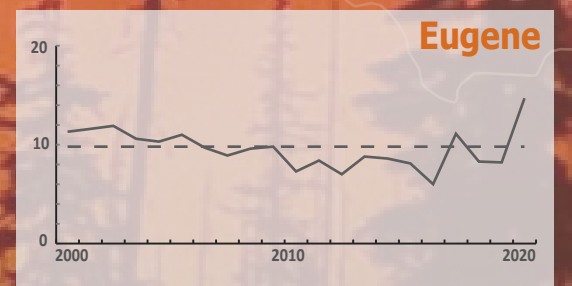
Lucy Roberts
Oregon Statewide Lambert
National Interagency Fire Center
Environmental Protection Agency
Oregon DEQ
Oregon Geospatial Library

On September 4th, 2020, a red-flag warning was issued for much of Oregon as high wind gusts threatened to spark, and carry, fires for miles. The resulting fires burned 1,000,000 acres of land; razed 5 towns; destroyed 3,000 buildings, including several trailer homes; and killed 11 civilians and firefighters. Throughout the next 2 weeks, over 13% of Oregonians would be put under some kind of evacuation order in a catastrophe that put more carbon into the air than the state's annual power usage. The repercussions of the Labor Day Fires were felt in every corner of the state, but for many regions, the process of rebuilding is just beginning.

Cumulative Acres Burned



Weighted Annual Mean Air Quality Index by City



One of the least well understood ramifications of the forest fires is how exposure to particulate matter, such as smoke, can impact public health. While all Oregon cities have experienced grotesquely polluted air quality in the last decade, cities in Southern Oregon typically experience these events more regularly and with more intensity, due to their proximity to large swathes of forest.