

TITLE 38

PROTECTION FROM FIRE

- Chapter 476. State Fire Marshal; Protection from Fire Generally
477. Protection of Forests and Inflammable Vegetation from Fire
478. Rural Fire Protection Districts
479. Protection of Buildings from Fire; Electrical Code
480. Explosive and Inflammable Materials

Chapter 476

1955 REPLACEMENT PART

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DEFINITIONS; STATE FIRE MARSHAL, POWERS AND DUTIES

476.010 Definitions. As used in ORS 476.010 to 476.110 and 476.210 to 476.270, "alterations," "construction," "family," "hospital," "occupancy," and "private residence" shall have the same meanings as are provided for such terms in ORS 479.010.

476.020 State Fire Marshal; State Insurance Commissioner as ex officio marshal. The office of State Fire Marshal is established. The State Insurance Commissioner shall be ex officio State Fire Marshal, with no additional compensation.

476.030 Duties and powers of marshal and deputies generally. (1) The State Fire Marshal shall enforce all laws and all lawful ordinances, and make rules and regulations relating to:

- (a) The prevention of fires.
- (b) The storage and use of combustibles and explosives.
- (c) The construction, maintenance and regulation of fire escapes.
- (d) Overseeing the safety of and directing the means and adequacy of exit in case of fire from factories, asylums, hospitals, churches, schools, halls, theatres, amphitheaters, all buildings, except private residences, which are occupied for sleeping purposes, and all other places where large numbers of persons work, live or congregate from time to time for any purpose.
- (e) The suppression and punishment of arson and fraudulent claims or practices in connection with fire losses.

(2) The State Fire Marshal and his deputies shall have such powers and perform such other duties as are prescribed by law.

476.040 Deputies and assistants. The State Fire Marshal shall appoint a chief deputy state fire marshal and deputy state fire marshals whose duties shall be to assist him in carrying into effect the provisions of ORS 476.010 to 476.100, 476.210 to 476.270, 479.140 and 479.170 to 479.190. He may also employ such other assistants and incur such other expenses as he may deem necessary in carrying into effect these provisions. The authority to employ persons is subject to the limitations imposed by ORS 476.110. The State Fire Marshal may remove any deputies or assistants for cause.

476.050 Payment of salaries and expenses. The salary of the chief deputy state fire marshal, deputy state fire marshals, compensation of clerks and other assistants and other expenses of the department of the State Fire Marshal necessary in the performance of the duties imposed upon him shall be paid in the same manner as are other state officers and the expenses of other state departments, and shall not exceed the amount paid to the State Treasurer for the maintenance of this department. [Amended by 1953 c.93 §1]

476.055 Gross premium tax on fire insurance premiums for support of fire marshal department. For the purpose of maintaining the department of the State Fire Marshal and paying all expenses incident thereto every insurer transacting fire and automobile fire and theft insurance within the state shall pay the State Insurance Commissioner on or before April 1 annually, a tax upon its premiums received from such business transacted in this state as follows: A sum equal to one-half of one percent of the gross premiums or assessments, or both, less the return premium or assessments and dividends paid to policyholders, received by it or its agents on such direct business transacted by it in this state during the preceding calendar year, as shown by its statement on file in the insurance department. The money so received by the commissioner shall be turned over to the State Treasurer and shall be placed in the State Fire Marshal Fund and, except as otherwise provided by this section, shall be available and constitute a perpetual appropriation for the payment of any and all expenses of the fire marshal's department. The State Fire Marshal shall keep on file in his office an itemized statement of all expenses incurred by his department and shall approve all vouchers therefor before the same are submitted to the Secretary of State for payment. The vouchers shall be allowed and paid in the same manner as other claims presented by the insurance department but no greater sum shall be paid out for salaries, expenses or otherwise than is collected under the provisions of this section. Any balance of any appropriation made from said fund unexpended during the period for which such appropriation was made shall be returned and credited to the State Fire Marshal Fund; provided, however, that on June 30, 1953, and on June 30 of each second year thereafter, all moneys then remaining unexpended

ed in the State Fire Marshal Fund in excess of \$200,000 as shown by the records of the Secretary of State shall be transferred to the General Fund. The tax upon premiums imposed by this section shall be in lieu of any and all franchise, privilege and other licenses and taxes of whatever kind or character, imposed by the state or any subdivision thereof, on or measured by gross or net income, or on or measured by gross receipts, derived or earned from insurance premiums or any investment thereof by any domestic insurance company upon which said taxes are imposed. [1953 c.93 §2; amended by 1953 c.199 §2]

476.060 Municipal officers and constables as assistants to State Fire Marshal. All municipal fire marshals in those municipalities having such officers, and where no such officer exists, the chief of the fire department of every city or village in which a fire department is established, the marshal or chief of police, officer of any city or town in which no fire department exists, and the constables within their districts outside of cities and towns shall be, by virtue of the offices held by them, assistants to the State Fire Marshal without additional recompense, and subject to the duties and obligations imposed by law, and shall be subject to the direction of the State Fire Marshal in the execution of the provisions of this section and ORS 476.210.

476.070 Entering buildings and premises. The State Fire Marshal, his deputies or assistants, or any of them, may:

(1) At all reasonable hours, in performance of the duties imposed by the provisions of ORS 476.030, enter upon and examine any building or premises wherein fire has occurred, and other buildings or premises adjoining or near the same.

(2) For just cause and for the purpose of examination, enter, at all reasonable hours, in and upon all buildings and premises within their jurisdiction.

476.080 Entry and inspection of premises; interfering with or preventing entry prohibited. (1) The State Fire Marshal and his deputies, at all reasonable hours, may enter into all buildings and upon all premises, except private residences, for the purpose of inspection to ascertain if fire hazards exist therein or thereon.

(2) No person shall interfere with or prevent any such inspection by such officers.

(3) When any person interferes with or prevents the State Fire Marshal or his deputies from making the inspection mentioned herein, the officer shall apply to the district attorney of the county wherein the inspection was made or attempted to be made, for a warrant for the arrest of the offending person, and it shall be the duty of such district attorney forthwith to prosecute such offending person.

476.090 Records as to fires. The State Fire Marshal shall keep in his office a record of all fires occurring in this state and of all facts concerning the same, including statistics as to the extent of such fires and the damage caused, whether such losses were covered by insurance, and if so, in what amount. The record shall be made daily from the reports made to him by his assistants. All such records shall be public, except any testimony taken in an investigation under the provisions of ORS 476.010 to 476.100, 476.210 to 476.270 and 479.180, which the State Fire Marshal, in his discretion, may withhold from the public.

476.100 Report and recommendations to Governor. The State Fire Marshal shall annually transmit to the Governor a full report of his proceedings under ORS 476.010 to 476.100, 476.210 to 476.270, 479.140 and 479.170 to 479.190 and such statistics as he may wish to include therein. He shall also recommend any amendments to the law which, in his judgment, are desirable.

476.110 State Fire Marshal's and warden's duties transferred to State Police; employment of deputy state fire marshals or fire wardens. The Department of State Police shall employ a sufficient number of state police to perform the duties performed before August 1, 1931, by the State Fire Marshal and deputy state fire marshals and fire wardens concerning the enforcement of criminal laws and lawful ordinances, as provided in ORS 476.030, and other statutes of Oregon with reference to fires, combustibles and explosives and to the suppression and punishment of arson and fraudulent claims and practices in connection with fire laws. The State Police shall have all the powers with reference to the enforcement of the criminal laws vested as of August 1, 1931, in the State Fire Marshal and deputy state fire marshals. However, the State Fire Marshal, with the approval of the Governor and Superintendent of State Police, may employ

such additional persons, whose services and expenses shall be payable out of the moneys paid into the State Treasury and now provided for the payment of the salaries and expenses of deputy state fire marshals, who shall be known as deputy state fire marshals, as the State Fire Marshal, Governor and Superintendent of State Police shall deem necessary and expedient, it being the intention of this section that the State Fire Marshal shall employ only such deputy state fire marshals or fire wardens as shall be agreed upon by him, the Governor and Superintendent of State Police. The duties of law enforcement vested before August 1, 1931, in deputy state fire marshals shall, so far as is economical and practicable, be performed by the Department of State Police.

476.120 to 476.200 [Reserved for expansion]

INVESTIGATION OF FIRES; REPORTS

476.210 Investigation of fires by municipal officers and constables. (1) The municipal fire marshals, fire department chiefs, constables and other officers referred to in ORS 476.060 shall investigate the cause, origin and circumstances of each fire occurring in their respective cities, villages or townships, by which property has been destroyed or damaged, and shall make an investigation to determine whether the fire was the result of carelessness or design. The investigation shall be commenced immediately after the occurrence of the fire. The State Fire Marshal may superintend and direct the investigation if he deems it necessary.

(2) The State Fire Marshal shall request a report from the fire chief of every city, town or village of every fire. Whenever any such fire chief believes that a fire is of suspicious origin, he shall report immediately all the facts and circumstances tending to establish the origin of the fire.

476.220 Report by officer investigating fire. The officer making an investigation of a fire occurring in a city, village or township shall forthwith notify the State Fire Marshal and, within one week of the occurrence of the fire, shall furnish him a written statement of all facts relating to its cause and origin, and such other information as is required by forms provided by the State Fire Marshal.

476.230 Taking statements of persons knowing facts. If in his opinion further in-

vestigation is necessary, the State Fire Marshal or deputy state fire marshal, with the assistance of the district attorney, shall then proceed to take or have taken the statements of all persons supposed to be cognizant of any facts or who have means of knowledge in relation to the matter concerning which the examination is required and have such statements reduced to writing.

476.240 Supplying information to and requesting action by district attorney. If the State Fire Marshal or deputy state fire marshals are of the opinion that there is evidence sufficient to charge a person with arson, burning with intent to defraud or prejudice the insurer, or a similar crime, they shall furnish the district attorney with such evidence, with the names of witnesses and a copy of material testimony taken in the case, and request the district attorney to cause his arrest or take such other action as he deems necessary or advisable.

476.250 District attorney summoning witnesses and requiring production of documents. The district attorney may at his discretion, upon the application of the State Fire Marshal or chief deputy state fire marshal, summon the attendance of witnesses before him to testify in relation to any matter which by law is a subject of inquiry and investigation, and require the production of any books, papers or documents he deems pertinent to an investigation of or relating to evidence pertaining to fires where arson or a similar crime is suspected.

476.260 District attorney assisting investigation of fires. The district attorney of any county in this state, upon request of the State Fire Marshal, his deputies or assistants, shall assist such officers upon investigation of any fire which in their opinion is of suspicious origin.

476.270 Insurance company reports of fire losses and suspicious fires; reports of adjustments of fire losses. (1) Every fire insurance company transacting business in this state must file with the State Fire Marshal, through the actuarial bureau of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, or through the secretary or officer of the insurance company, on forms furnished or approved by the State Fire Marshal, a monthly record of fire losses showing the name of the assured, location of the property burned, and the probable cause of fire, the name of the

insurer, the name of the adjuster, the date and time of the fire, the occupancy of property burned, construction of building or structure burned, sound value of property involved, actual loss, insurance carried, insurance paid, apportionment of loss where more than one company was on the risk, and, where an automotive vehicle is involved in any fire loss, a description of such machine and, where applicable, like information required as in the case of fires in buildings. In case of a fire of suspicious origin, a preliminary report shall be made immediately through some officer or representative of the insurance company, showing the name of the assured, the date of fire, location, occupancy and facts and circumstances coming to their knowledge tending to establish the cause or origin of the fire.

(2) All persons making an adjustment occasioned by any fire loss in this state shall send to the State Fire Marshal a copy of the final adjustment, immediately after the same has been made, signed by the person making such adjustment, and on a form prescribed by the State Fire Marshal.

476.280 to 476.300 [Reserved for expansion]

FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL ON CERTAIN LANDS NOT OTHERWISE PROTECTED

476.310 Zoning and rezoning of certain lands; hearing on petition of owners in non-zoned territory. (1) The county court or board of county commissioners of each county may, in cooperation with the State Board of Forestry, zone and, as often as necessary, rezone all lands within the county lying outside the boundaries of incorporated cities, organized rural fire protection districts, federal and state-owned lands and lands protected under ORS chapter 477. Such lands shall be divided into two zones as follows:

(a) Zone 1 shall be composed of forest lands intermingled with grazing and agricultural lands and lands assessed by the State Tax Commission, or any of them;

(b) Zone 2 shall be composed of rural lands not included in zone 1.

(2) Nothing contained in ORS 476.310 to 476.340 shall prevent interested property owners in any nonzoned territory as described above from petitioning the county court or board of county commissioners and State Board of Forestry to hold a hearing on

the matter of zoning the territory if 50 landowners within the territory file such petition. The county court or board of county commissioners, cooperating with the State Board of Forestry, shall give full consideration to the wishes of the landowners as shown by the hearing.

476.320 Determination of form of fire protection for lands in zone 1; costs. The form of fire protection for lands lying in zone 1 shall be determined jointly by the county court or board of county commissioners of the county, the State Fire Marshal and the State Board of Forestry, which determination shall be reduced to writing, signed by the officers of the agencies and entered in the journal of the county court or board of county commissioners of the county. The authority of the State Board of Forestry may be extended to include the establishment of fire patrol districts and fire protection on lands lying within zone 1. For such purposes the board of forestry may contract with individuals, associations, corporations, rural fire protection districts, counties, cities, federal agencies, or any of them. The cost of protection in zone 1 shall be assessed and collected in the same manner as protection costs for lands protected under ORS chapter 477, except that in no case shall the pro rata per acre of such protection exceed five cents per annum.

476.330 Prevention and control of fires in zone 2; tax levy. The county court or board of county commissioners of any county may prevent and control fire occurring within the limits of zone 2 in such county, and may for such purposes establish and maintain fire fighting and fire control facilities and contract with existing fire control agencies, either individuals, associations, corporations, cities or rural fire protection districts. The State Fire Marshal, upon the request of any county court or board of county commissioners, shall meet with and advise such county court or board of county commissioners as to the establishment and maintenance of fire fighting and fire protection equipment and facilities. The county court or board of county commissioners of any county may levy a tax upon the taxable property lying within zone 2 in the county, not to exceed four mills upon the dollar of the assessed value of all taxable property lying within the zone, for the purpose of furnishing fire protection to such property. [Amended by 1955 c.262 §1]

476.340 Establishment of rural fire protection districts in zones; exemption from taxation of property included in district. Nothing contained in the provisions of ORS 476.310 to 476.330 shall be construed to prohibit the establishment of rural fire protection districts as provided by law within the boundaries of zones 1 and 2 as the same may be established in any county. In event of the organization of a rural fire protection district comprising lands in either zone, property included within such fire protection districts shall not thereafter be taxed or assessed under the provisions of ORS 476.320 or 476.330. [Amended by 1955 c.262 §2]

476.350 to 476.400 [Reserved for expansion]

STANDARDIZATION OF FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

476.410 Standard thread hose couplings and hydrant fittings required. After May 24, 1923, all equipment for fire protection purposes purchased by state and municipal authorities, or any other authorities having charge of public property, shall be equipped with the standard thread for fire hose couplings and hydrant fittings designated as the national standard, as adopted by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, which standard is designated as the standard for such equipment in Oregon.

476.420 Standardization of existing fire protection equipment. The standardization of existing fire protection equipment in this state shall be arranged for and carried out by or under the direction of the State Fire Marshal who may proceed to make the changes necessary to standardize all existing fire protection equipment in this state. He shall provide the appliances necessary for carrying on this work and shall proceed with such standardization as rapidly as possible and complete such work at the earliest date circumstances will permit.

476.430 Changing private equipment. The State Fire Marshal shall notify industrial establishments and property owners having equipment for fire protection purposes, which may be necessary for a fire department to use in protecting the property or putting out fire, of the changes necessary to bring their equipment up to the requirements of the standard established and shall render them such assistance as may be avail-

able in converting their defective equipment to standard requirements.

476.440 Sale of nonstandard equipment prohibited. No person shall sell or offer for sale in Oregon any fire hose, hydrant, fire engine or other equipment for fire protection purposes unless the same is fitted and equipped with the standard thread for fire hose couplings and hydrant fittings designated as the national standard, as the same has been adopted by the National Board of Fire Underwriters and has been designated by law as the standard for such equipment in Oregon.

476.450 to 476.500 [Reserved for expansion]

PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

476.510 Short title. ORS 476.510 to 476.610 and subsection (3) of 476.990 shall be known as the Emergency Conflagration Act.

476.520 Governor authorized to assign fire fighting forces and equipment. In order to protect life and property against the dangers of fire, the Governor may assign and make available for use and duty in any county, city or district, under the direction and command of such officer as he may designate for the purpose, any part of the fire fighting forces and equipment of any fire fighting organization in this state other than one possessing but one pumping unit movable under its own power.

476.530 Chief executive of political subdivision to assign forces and equipment; federal equipment. The chief executive of any county, city or fire protection district or the head of any fire department of any political subdivision of this state, if so ordered by the Governor, after the Governor has declared martial law as provided in ORS 397.040, shall assign and make available for duty and use in any county, city or fire district under the direction and command of such officer as may be designated by the Governor for the purpose, any part of the fire fighting forces and equipment under his control, provided that any equipment made available by loan, or otherwise, to any county, city or fire district by the United States or any agency thereof, shall at all times be subject to the order of the United States or such agency in accordance with the terms

and conditions upon which the equipment is made available.

476.540 Powers and duties of fire fighting forces. Whenever the fire fighting forces of any county, city or fire district are rendering outside aid pursuant to ORS 476.520 or 476.530, the officers and members of such fire fighting forces shall have the same powers, duties, rights, privileges and immunities as though they were performing their duties in the political subdivision in which they are normally employed.

476.550 Loss or damage to equipment. When any equipment is used pursuant to ORS 476.520 or 476.530 the state shall be liable for any loss thereof or damage thereto and shall pay any expense incurred in the operation or maintenance thereof. No claim for any such loss, damage or expense shall be allowed unless, within 60 days after it has been sustained or incurred, or within such extension of such time as may have been obtained from the Board of Control, an itemized notice of such claim, under oath, is served by mail or personally upon the Board of Control and such loss, damage or expense shall be payable from the emergency fund of the state.

476.560 Reimbursement for aid. Whenever aid is supplied pursuant to ORS 476.520 to 476.590, the state shall reimburse the political subdivision supplying such aid for the compensation paid to employes supplied under ORS 476.520 to 476.590 during the time the rendition of such aid prevents them from performing their duties in the political subdivision by which they are employed and shall defray the actual traveling and maintenance expenses of such employes while they are rendering such aid. "Employe" as used herein means, and the provisions of ORS 476.520 to 476.610 apply with equal effect to, all firemen, whether paid, volunteer or call.

476.570 Appointment of substitute firemen. Substitute firemen within any county, city or fire district from which regular firemen are taken under the provisions of ORS 476.530, not exceeding the number of regular firemen, may be appointed by the same persons authorized by law to appoint regular firemen, provided that such appointments shall not be subject to the requirements of the civil service law or rules and that such substitute firemen shall not be entitled to

any pension or retirement rights or privileges. The substitute firemen appointed under this section shall have the powers, functions and duties of regular firemen. Their compensation shall not be greater than the lowest rate of pay for regular firemen. Persons appointed as substitute firemen shall exercise their powers, functions and duties only when called upon, during the period all, or any part, of the regular fire fighting forces of any county, city or fire district are rendering outside aid pursuant to ORS 476.520 or 476.530, and for no longer than two days after the return to duty of the part of the regular fire fighting forces for which they are substituting. Their compensation and any allowable expense necessarily incurred by them in the performance of their duties shall be charged against the county, city or fire district for which they were appointed and shall be audited, allowed and paid as other charges against it are audited, allowed and paid, and shall be subject to reimbursement by the state as provided in ORS 476.550 and 476.560.

476.580 Orders, rules and regulations. The Governor may make, amend and rescind such orders, rules and regulations as are necessary or advisable to carry out the provisions of ORS 476.530 and 476.540. Any order issued by the Governor in relation to carrying out the provisions of ORS 476.520 to 476.610 may be either written or oral. If written, a copy thereof shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State and another copy dispatched forthwith to the chief executive of any county, city or fire protection district affected. Immediately thereafter such order, rule or regulation shall be in effect. Oral orders may be made by the Governor when in his opinion the emergency is such that delay in issuing a written order would be dangerous to the welfare of the people of the state. However, written copies of such oral order shall be filed and dispatched as soon after issuing such oral order as is conveniently possible in the manner above provided for written orders.

476.590 Preparation of plans by State Fire Marshal; advice and counsel to Governor. The State Fire Marshal shall prepare plans for the effective carrying out of the provisions of ORS 476.520 to 476.610 and provide advice and counsel to the Governor for the most practical utilization of the fire fighting resources of this state in time of grave fire emergency.

476.600 Liability for injury to person or property. Neither the state nor any county, city or fire district or other political subdivision nor any fireman acting as the agent of any of the foregoing shall be liable for any injury to person or property resulting from the performance of any duty imposed by the authority of ORS 476.520 to 476.590. In carrying out the provisions of ORS 476.520 to 476.590 or while acting within the scope of any duty imposed by authority of those provisions, no person shall incur civil liability; provided that no person shall escape full liability for injury to person or property resulting from his wilful misconduct or gross negligence.

476.610 Payment of claims by Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall audit all duly approved claims lawfully incurred in pursuance of ORS 476.520 to 476.600 and draw his warrants on the State Treasurer for the payment thereof.

476.620 to 476.700 [Reserved for expansion]

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

476.710 Setting fires adjacent to structure or timber on ocean shore prohibited. No person shall set or permit any fire on the Pacific Ocean shore, declared to be a public highway under ORS 274.070, adjacent to any structure or any timber or forest area except pursuant to rule, regulation or permit of or from the State Highway Commission.

476.715 Throwing away of lighted matches, cigarettes and other materials prohibited; posting copy of section in public conveyances. No one shall, at any time, throw away any lighted tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, matches or other lighted material, on any forest land, private road, public high-

way or railroad right of way within this state. Everyone operating a public conveyance shall post a copy of this section in a conspicuous place within the smoking compartments of such conveyance. [Formerly 477.164]

476.720 Certain remedial statutes to be construed liberally. ORS 476.010 to 476.100, 476.210 to 476.270, subsection (1) of 476.990, ORS 479.140 and 479.170 to 479.190 are remedial in nature and shall be construed liberally.

476.730 to 476.980 [Reserved for expansion]

PENALTIES

476.990 Penalties. (1) Violation of subsection (2) of ORS 476.080 is a misdemeanor. All penalties, fees or forfeitures collected under the provisions of this subsection, ORS 476.010 to 476.100 and 476.210 to 476.270 shall be paid into the State Treasury.

(2) Violation of ORS 476.410 to 476.440 is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$250, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not less than 10 or more than 60 days, or both. Justices of the peace and district judges shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts over prosecutions for such violations.

(3) Violation of any provision of ORS 476.510 to 476.610 is a misdemeanor.

(4) Violation of ORS 476.710 or of any rule or regulation of the State Highway Commission promulgated thereunder is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, or both.

(5) Violation of the provisions of ORS 476.715 is punishable, upon conviction, by a fine of not more than \$75. [Subsection (5) was formerly 477.990 (5)]

CERTIFICATE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Pursuant to ORS 173.170, I, Sam R. Haley, Legislative Counsel, do hereby certify that I have compared each section printed in this chapter with the original section in the enrolled bill, and that the sections in this chapter are correct copies of the enrolled sections, with the exception of the changes in form permitted by ORS 173.160 and other changes specifically authorized by law.
Done at Salem, Oregon,
on October 15, 1955.

Sam R. Haley
Legislative Counsel

