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## **OBRC donates \$40,000 to help firefighters battling wildfires around Oregon**

*The co-op is also making it easier for customers to donate directly to the response efforts*

**Portland** — With wildfires burning across Oregon, the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative is lending a hand to support the efforts to bring the blazes under control.

This week, OBRC donated a total of \$40,000 to eight different organizations that support firefighting efforts and communities around the state. They include: Albany Firefighters Community Assistance Fund; Ashland Firefighters Charitable Fund; Hoodland Volunteer Firefighters Association; Rocky Point Fire and EMS; Salem Fire Foundation; Sheridan Volunteer Firefighters Association; Sutherlin Firefighters Association; and the Umatilla Volunteer Firefighters Association.

“Right now, we all need to pull together and do whatever we can to help the brave men and women out there working around the clock to keep us all safe,” said Jules Bailey, chief stewardship officer and director of external relations for OBRC. “As an organization with a presence in communities across Oregon, OBRC is committed to doing our part.”

In addition to OBRC’s donation, the cooperative has made it easy for Oregonians to support the above organizations by donating their can and bottle deposits to them. Customers can do so by bringing in loose containers to any BottleDrop Redemption Center or by donating directly from their BottleDrop accounts.

The donation from OBRC comes as part of an emergency fund the cooperative set up in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the fund, OBRC donated \$25,000 to the Oregon Food Bank in May, a contribution accompanied by \$75,000 in container deposits donated by OBRC customers.

OBRC itself has been impacted by the current wildfire emergency. Some employees in Southern Oregon have been evacuated, routes for drivers have been altered and the facility in White City has been closed temporarily. Bailey said OBRC is doing everything it can to continue providing its valuable services in a safe and timely manner during these challenging times.

“We are asking the public to bear with us as we do our best to serve everyone in the safest and most efficient way we can,” he said. “We’ve gotten through difficult times before, and by working together – and supporting each other – we will get through this one, too.”

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**For more information:** Visit [bottledropcenters.com](http://bottledropcenters.com)

**About OBRC:** *OBRC is the private, not-for-profit cooperative that runs Oregon's nationally recognized beverage container deposit program. Through our BottleDrop Redemption Centers and container pickup service for more than 2,500 retail partners, we recycle more than 1.8 billion beverage containers, protecting the Oregon we love, supporting the causes we cherish and inspiring innovation beyond our borders – all without a single penny of state funding.*

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