

285 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Phone 503.714.5499  
Fax 615.628.0321

# Press Release

Contact: Sarah Back  
Phone: (503)714.5499  
[sarah.back@bolante.net](mailto:sarah.back@bolante.net)

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## **Linn County Health Services Selected [Bolante.NET](#) To Provide Valuable Training To Wildfire Volunteers and Staff**

Linn County, OR - Who is supporting the frontline workers? This is a question that Linn County Health Services and Bolante.NET are answering by partnering together amidst the battle against wildfires that continue to burn. The Salem-based organization provided relief training and support to staff and volunteers and surrounding areas including Douglas, Linn, Lincoln, and Marion Counties. Using the form of a remote, interactive session, over 60 participants attended the online training session on Sept. 18, 2020. The live webinar lasted two hours and taught individuals about handling compassion fatigue and self-care during stressful events.

"I want to personally say how grateful we are to partner with Linn County Health Services to assist the hardworking volunteers and staff members during this challenging time," states Managing Director of Bolante.NET, Dr. Rebecca Bolante.

The focus of this remote-session is on compassion fatigue and self-care. Bolante.NET's specialists provided a self-assessment for participants to help them gauge their stress levels. "This is a session that doesn't go deep into theory or the academics but rather takes a more practical approach." Bolante explains, "It allows the participant to walk away with a self-care plan

and additional tools and resources they can continue to use." Instructing this course is Bolante.NET's own, Mandie Pritchard, MA, Director of Diverse Communities & Tribal Liaison, and Steve Sanchez, MS, LSC, Schools & Resiliency Specialist.

"Compassion fatigue, as well as vicarious and secondary trauma, PTSD, and burnout are all conditions that can result from short or long-term exposure to disastrous events," Sanchez states. "Knowledge of symptoms and understanding healthy interventions allows those responding to disasters to maintain or build the resiliency needed to provide effective service for prolonged periods while staying physically and emotionally healthy."

"Having an awareness of our own compassion fatigue and attending to our self-care are two vital steps we can take to help maintain balance and well-being," says Pritchard. "This is a timely webinar for volunteers and staff that have responded to our Oregon communities to help support their self-care."

Linn County and Bolante.NET developed an on-site relationship between the County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Neva Anderson, MSW and Emergency Preparedness Planner, Erik Anderson, EMT.

"After attending the annual Disaster Behavioral Health Conference & being a social/emergency service professional, myself the Bolante.NET team has always been my number one go-to," says Neva. "I knew immediately that a disaster of this magnitude in our own backyard, that the Bolante.NET team could handle the challenge with grace, professionalism, expertise, and leadership to serve our local communities."

One of the participants commented, "[This] topic is more than timely, given [the] multiple high risk stressors." A Linn County Medical Reserve Corp volunteer and other first responders expressed their gratitude for the event. "Thank [you] for reaching out to the Linn County Medical Reserve Corps

volunteers and other First-Responders who are involved with the recovery from these devastating wildfires.” said Mark Dodge.

Bolante.NET and Linn County were especially focused supporting those on the front-lines who needed help themselves. This event was a starting point to bring the much needed support as recovery efforts continue.

ABOUT [BOLANTE.NET](#): Based in Salem, Oregon, with connections around the world, [Bolante.NET](#) emphasizes the importance of training people to prepare, prevent, respond, and recover after critical events. With a team of experts, [Bolante.NET](#) provides training and consulting for professionals worldwide with strategic and innovative training solutions, equipping clients on how to have plans, teams (Behavioral Threat Assessment), and resources in place for both natural and human-induced disasters.

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*For more information, or to schedule a meeting with Rebecca Bolante,PhD., Managing Director of Bolante.NET, Mandie Pritchard,MA, Director of Diverse Communities Tribal Liaison, or Steve Sanchez,MS,LSC, Schools & Resiliency Specialist, contact Sarah Back at (503)714.5499 by phone, or at [sarah.back@bolante.net](mailto:sarah.back@bolante.net) by email.*