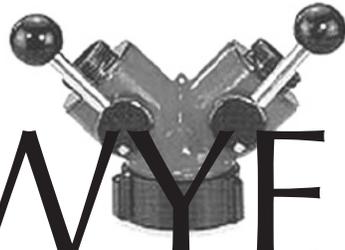


GATED WYE



October 2008 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 297

Conflagration declared for Royce Butte Fire

The Oregon State Fire Marshal Red Incident Management Team (IMT) and three task forces were deployed September 17 when Governor Kulongoski declared the Royce Butte fire near Crescent Lake Junction a conflagration.

Residents were evacuated from the Klamath County communities of Crescent Lake Junction, Diamond Peaks subdivision, and East Odell Lodge, as well as summer homes at Crescent and Odell Lakes.

Task forces from Klamath, Lane and Deschutes counties worked for two days protecting more than 200 structures from the fire that began on September 16.

By September 18, the immediate threat to structures was reduced enough to allow residents to return to their homes and the task forces and IMT to demobilize.

No structures were lost and there were no injuries; cause of the fire is under investigation.



DPSST Fire Training Coordinator John West (in vest), gives a training briefing to task force members at the Royce Butte conflagration



Flames came within yards of businesses and homes in Crescent Lake Junction

Central Oregon has new hazmat coverage plan

The Office of State Fire Marshal, central Oregon fire chiefs, and state regional hazardous materials response teams from Lane, Marion, and Multnomah counties have agreed on a new plan to provide hazardous materials incident coverage for Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties.

Beginning October 1, 2008, state regional hazardous materials response teams from Eugene, Salem, and Gresham are expanding their boundaries to cover incidents in central Oregon. Which team deploys depends on the location of the hazardous materials incident.

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire Chief Tay Robertson headed a central Oregon working group to develop the coverage plan in partnership with the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

A map of the expanded coverage areas may be viewed at http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/ERU_RHM_Teams.shtml#Hazardous_Materials_Team_Boundaries.

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



“We know fire prevention, mitigation, smoke alarms and fire sprinklers save the lives of those who live in homes – and the lives of firefighters who protect those homes.”

Sprinkler vote enhances our fire safety mission

Fire protection has come a long way since President Wilson issued the first National Fire Prevention Day proclamation in 1920.

In just the last 30 years, we’ve implemented ground-breaking smoke alarm legislation that has saved the lives of thousands of Oregonians. We’ve moved child-set fires from a top cause to a rare cause of Oregon fire fatalities.

Residential fire sprinklers have been a piece of the journey. Always progressive, we converted a surplus FEMA travel trailer to a fire sprinkler demonstrator in 1988. We produced television public service announcements featuring Tim Birr’s pre-school children to promote this new technology. Finally, next July, Oregon communities can ask permission of the Building Codes Division director to adopt a residential sprinkler ordinance.

It was great to hear on Sept. 21, 2008, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, a committed and determined fire service passed a proposal for the 2009 International Residential Code to require fire sprinklers in all one- and two-family homes and townhouses. President Larry Grorud, International Association of Fire Chiefs, said the vote “. . . will change the face of fire safety in America.”

This happened because fire chiefs and firefighters joined fire marshals as firm proponents of residential sprinklers.

Fire chiefs and firefighters are serious about firefighter safety. They understand their job is not fighting fires. Their job, our job, is protecting citizens and their property from fire, hazardous materials and other bad things.

It’s also our job to protect firefighters from the toxic chemicals produced by fire. It’s our job to stop crushing, suffocating and burning firefighters; to mitigate job stress that leads to heart disease; to end lingering death from the toxic stew of chemicals produced by fire.

see **Safety** page 3



**State Fire Marshal
Nancy Orr**

**Office of
State Fire Marshal**

**Oregon State Police
4760 Portland Rd. NE
Salem Oregon
97305-1760**

**www.sfm.state.or.us
503-373-1540**

Administration
ext. 211

Codes & Technical
Services
ext. 269

Community Education
ext. 273

Community
Right-to-Know
ext. 214

Data Services
ext. 244

Emergency Planning &
Response
ext. 227

Emergency Response
ext. 238

Fire & Life Safety
ext. 204

Firesetter Intervention
ext. 230

License & Permits
ext. 264

The *Gated Wye* is published monthly by the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal. For submissions or suggestions contact Rich Hoover at 503-373-1540 ext. 217 or email richard.hoover@state.or.us. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, alternative formats of this publication are available, contact 503-373-1540 ext. 228 or email colleen.olson@state.or.us.

We do both jobs, protecting citizens and firefighters, when we prevent a fire or a hazardous materials release. Failing that, we do both when there is built-in containment. We do both when there is built-in early warning; it's a lot less dangerous for firefighters to extinguish a room and contents fire than a fire extended into the attic. We do both when we strategically mitigate fuels in the interface; it's a lot less dangerous to put out a fire moving under the canopy than a fire crowning out of control.

We also save a lot of money when we protect the public and firefighters in these ways, which the taxpayers appreciate.

The fire service can accomplish anything when we work together. We know fire prevention, mitigation, smoke alarms and fire sprinklers save the lives of those who live in homes – and the lives of firefighters who protect those homes.

There's still much work to be done here in Oregon, but the rate of progress leaped spectacularly with that vote in Minneapolis.

USFA Releases Annual Firefighter Fatality Report

The United States Fire Administration (USFA) has released its report Firefighter Fatalities in the United States in 2007. The report continues a series of annual studies by the USFA of on-duty firefighter fatalities in the United States.

During calendar year 2007, there were 118 firefighters who lost their lives while on duty across the United States.

The study also includes information on the hazards to firefighters presented by the lack of seatbelt use. In 2007, 27 firefighter fatalities resulted from vehicle-related incidents. In 19 of the 27 incidents where seatbelt status was known, 11 firefighters were confirmed as not wearing seatbelts at the time of the event.

To access the report, visit <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/fatalities/statistics/report.shtm>.

Oregon fallen firefighters remembered

Oregon fallen firefighters were remembered at a ceremony September 18 at the site of the memorial located on the grounds of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem.

During this year's ceremony, 21 names were added to the memorial wall. Nine Oregon firefighters were killed in the line of duty in 2008.

A Scappoose volunteer firefighter suffered a heart attack on his way home from a 12-hour shift

fighting a lightning-sparked fire, and seven privately-employed southern Oregon firefighters and their pilot died in a helicopter crash while fighting the Shasta-Trinity National Forest-Iron 44 Fire in California.



left to right: Rob Garrison, Portland Fire; Tim Craig, Newberg Fire; and Trevor Fosmark, Salem Fire, read the names of the fallen.

Another 12 Portland firefighters were added to the memorial after historical research found them to have met the requirements to be included.

Featured speakers included the governor's Senior Policy Advisor for Public Safety Joe



Jim Martin, Portland Fire Honor Guard sounds The Last Alarm.

O'Leary, Portland Fire and Rescue Chief John Klum, Tillamook Fire District Lieutenant Pat Kelly, Greyback Forestry representative Michael Wheelock, and Scappoose Rural Fire District Chief Michael Greisen.

Understanding the EMAC

by Jeff Johnson, Vice President
IAFC; Fire Chief, Tualatin Valley
Fire & Rescue



The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) continues to aggressively address the major issues affecting the movement of fire service assets within and between states. The IAFC knows the fire service is accustomed to, and expects a far more efficient system.

For example, although the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) has existed for more than 10 years, many local and state agencies still struggle with the complexities of the process. While researching the process is time well spent, the following overview will give you a head start.

In simple terms, the EMAC process functions like this:

1. A locality identifies a need that cannot be met locally and requests state assistance.
2. If the resources are not available within the state, they can be requested from another state (or states) if the governor already has declared a state of emergency.
3. The state's requests for assistance are identified and transmitted via a Request-A form (commonly called a Req-A). Any state may reply by identifying the resources to meet the need and tabulating the costs to complete the requested mission.
4. The requesting state reviews replies from the assisting states.
5. If the assisting states' offers are accepted, they receive a signed order and mission number from the requesting state.

This process becomes the basis for mobilization, operations, demobilization, and reimbursement.

While it seems straightforward on paper, it is certainly a complex process to work through. Myriad other issues affect the efficiency of the process and several common key issues have surfaced after every major disaster.

A core key issue is the need for every state to have a complete database of their fire assets and cost estimates. This allows for immediate access to better facilitate the rapid movement of resources within a state when a locality has an identified need.

Also, if resources are needed outside the state, this type of database allows for a more rapid response to the requesting state.

Another key issue is the knowledge of the EMAC system, or lack thereof. The IAFC has teamed with the National Emergency Management Association to develop a special course aimed at helping fire service leaders better understand how their state's fire assets are a part of the entire emergency operations plan, and how to more effectively request help or respond to requests for help. This course will be available in October 2008.

By far, the most complicated issue is reimbursement. Under the Stafford Act, FEMA, DHS, and Congress are significant players at the federal level. They establish pay rates for resources and reimburse 75% of the costs for federally-declared disasters. Many of these costs are outdated and are under review. The remaining 25% of a disaster's costs is the responsibility of the requesting state, which in many cases worsens their already financially strapped and devastated budgets.

The IAFC's Emergency Management Committee (EMC) and the Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS) project continue to work on the many variables that affect fire service resources on a local, state, and national level. Additional information is available at www.iafc.org/mutualaid.

Oregon and Washington to streamline EMAC

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and the Washington Office of State Fire Marshal are meeting October 6, 2008 to streamline procedures for the Emergency Management Assistance Compact to more easily move fire service resources between the two states using the Oregon Conflagration Act and Washington Mobilization.

For more information, contact Randy Simpson 503-934-8216.

Fire act grant update

by Hines Firefighter/Grant Writer Jonathan Manski

One Oregon fire department received a funding award during Round 9 of the 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. Awards are scheduled to be released weekly throughout the program period, however there were no announcements during the 2nd and 3rd weeks of September.

The fire act grant process is competitive. The first phase is a computerized evaluation of grant scores. Nationwide, 8,400 applications did not pass this level in 2008. Oregon departments who have not received a grant rejection notice dated August 27 or September 5 can assume they have made it past phase one and are likely to make it to the second level, known as peer review. Peer review panels include members and representatives of the fire service and fire service organizations, including the:

- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- National Fire Protection Association
- National Association of State Fire Marshals
- National Association of Arson Investigators
- International Society of Fire Service Instructors
- North American Fire Training Directors
- Congressional Fire Service Institute

In the peer review process, application narratives are assessed and evaluated based on the guidance and priorities of the grant program. For applications that don't score highest in this phase, another set of rejections will be sent out in late fall or early winter. Remaining applications are awarded grants beginning with the highest scoring ones until the program funds are exhausted. Applications remaining after funding is gone will receive the very last notice.

For the 2008 program, 11 Oregon fire departments have received \$1,428,551 in AFG funding, including three vehicle awards. This year, 231 AFG applications were filed by Oregon fire departments and unaffiliated EMS organizations.

Within the last 30 days, four Oregon departments received awards valued at \$1,212,897 from the remaining Operations and Safety funds portion of the 2007 AFG program. Two organizations have received \$786,850 under the 2007 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response program and one organization was awarded \$245,000 under the 2007 Fire Prevention and Safety Grants. Patience does have its virtues.

For more grant information visit the FEMA fire grant website: <http://www.firegrantsupport.com>.

Fireworks enforcement increases

According to the OSFM License and Permit Services unit the past few years have seen an increase in comments from citizens, law enforcement representatives and fire personnel about the use of illegal fireworks around the state.

In response, many law enforcement agencies have increased enforcement efforts. Some partner with local fire departments for enforcement ride-alongs. Cities have also passed ordinances giving fire department personnel authority to issue citations. The OSFM applauds these efforts.

Agencies looking for assistance with their fireworks enforcement are encouraged to contact the OSFM. The state fire marshal has materials available to help enforcement and education efforts, including materials to help with identification of legal and illegal fireworks.

The OSFM can also help departments dispose of confiscated fireworks through our partnership with the Oregon State Police Bomb Unit. The bomb unit will pick up fireworks from your location and take them to the OSFM storage facility until they are disposed.

Every year the OSFM encourages law enforcement agencies and fire departments around the state to step-up their illegal fireworks enforcement efforts. For a list of departments conducting enforcement and education activities visit http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Licensing_permits/fireworks/FireworksEnforcementList.pdf. If your department should be included in this list, contact Sharon Kraw at 503-934-285 or email sharon.kraw@state.or.us.

Baker County receives funds to conduct hazardous materials exercise

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal in partnership with the Fire Division of the Baker County Office of Emergency Management, the Randall E. Carpenter Foundation, and more than seventeen local, state and federal agencies conducted a railroad hazardous materials response training and exercise September 12 and 13 in Baker County.

"This training is a good example of local leaders coming together to increase the skills and knowledge emergency responders need to keep their communities safe," said State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr.

Funds for the training and exercise came from a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grant administered by the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal. The Randall E. Carpenter Foundation also provided needed funding for fuel, allowing departments in outlying areas of Baker County to participate in the exercise.

"While the training had a railroad focus, the information and hands-on exercise will apply to a variety of hazardous materials incidents the fire service might encounter," said Baker County Emergency Management, Fire Division Manager Gary Timm.



photo by Tanya Galiszewski
Baker County Emergency Management/Fire Division Manager Gary Timm, LaGrande Fire Captain Corkey Gillies, and Critical Solutions representative Steve Hausotter conduct scenario evaluations.

photo by Tanya Galiszewski



Haines Fire Protection District evaluate a tank car value during the Baker County hazardous materials exercise.

Measure 63 exempts construction permits under \$35,000

The upcoming November 4 elections hold interest for everyone, but the Oregon fire service is particularly interested in Measure 63. The measure would waive permits for residential construction and remodeling valued under \$35,000, including building, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical permits, inspections, and other approval requirements.

The State Firefighters Council, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, and Oregon Fire Marshals Association have taken official stands against Measure 63. Former firefighters Tim Birr, Tom Whelan, and Randy Leonard have ensured their opposing arguments will be printed in the voter's pamphlet.

The Secretary of State posts information on the 2008 Ballot Measures as well as public employee restrictions on them as outlined in ORS 260.432. A guide to ORS 260.432 is on http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/publications/260.432_quickref.pdf.

Measure 63 summary from the Secretary of State:

Current law requires owners of residential real property or farm property to comply with applicable state and local building permit requirements when making improvements to real property. Measure creates exemptions for residential real property and farm property owners from applicable state and local building permit requirements for improvements when the total value of improvements made within a calendar year does not exceed \$35,000. Measure requires improvements to comply with setback requirements and height limitations. Requires property owners to disclose improvements made without building permits to prospective buyers. Requires electrical wiring made to improvement covered by measure to be performed or approved by licensed electrical contractor. Amount of exemption increases annually to adjust for inflation. Measure supersedes conflicting state and local laws.

Estimated financial impact, local government revenue reductions between \$4 and \$8 million per year, state government revenue reductions between \$450,000 and \$750,000 per year. More information is available at: <http://www.sos.state.or.us/elections/nov42008/meas.html>.



Toluene $C_6H_5CH_3$

Description:

- Synonyms: Methlybenzene; toluol; phenylmethane
- Clear colorless liquid with an aromatic benzene-like odor
CAS No.: 108-88-3
- Acute and chronic Health Hazard; Flammable Liquid
- Flash Point: 45° F; Boiling Point: 232° F
- Flammable Limits: LEL: 1.1; UEL: 7.1
- DOT Hazard Class: 3; UN/NA: 1294

NFPA Information:

- Health: 2
- Flammability: 3
- Reactivity: 0
- Special: None

Uses and Occurrences:

- Occurs naturally in crude oil
- Usually produced in the process of making gasoline or coke
- Frequently used as a solvent in industry
- Reagent in laboratories

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Flammable liquid insoluble in water
- Vapors can flow along surfaces to a distant ignition source and flash back
- Contact with strong oxidizers may cause fire or explosion
- Stable under normal conditions of use and storage
- Incompatibles include: Strong oxidizing agents, nitric acid, sulfuric acid; will attack some plastics, rubber

Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: 200 ppm (TWA)
- Causes severe eye irritation with redness and pain
- Causes skin irritation and may be absorbed through the skin
- Inhalation may result in headache and dizziness; if exposure is high enough it can be fatal
- Repeated exposure may result in liver and kidney damage
- Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) 2000 ppm (from NIOSH)

Personal Protective Equipment:

- Emergency responders should use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and full protective equipment
- Use local exhaust ventilation or other engineering controls to stay within PELs
- Wear chemical resistant gloves, apron, splash goggles
- Use an approved respirator if appropriate

Inspection and Storage Tips:

- Containers should be bonded and grounded for transfer
- Keep container in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area
- Protect against physical damage
- Store away from incompatibles and sources of ignition

2007 Oregon Fire Code Information:

- Flammable Liquid Class IB
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per S occupancy control area:
- Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 120 gallons
- In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 240 gallons
- In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 240 gallons
- In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 480 gallons
- For storage of quantities exceeding the MAQ for S occupancy, the storage facility must conform to H-2 or H-3 occupancy requirements

Incident Reporting and Information:

- There are 129 facilities in Oregon currently reporting toluene (124) or toluol (5) on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- There have been 14 hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986 involving toluene

For questions or suggestions contact HazMat Information Specialist Alec Carte at 503-934-8262, or email aleta.carte@state.or.us

Training available for community door-to-door smoke alarm program

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is hosting a workshop October 16, 2008, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on conducting community door-to-door smoke alarm campaigns. The workshop will be at the OSFM office in Salem. Training covers implementation of all phases of the model community door-to-door smoke alarm campaign kit developed by OSFM in partnership with the Oregon Life Safety Team.

The workshop is free. Each attending organization committing to conducting a community campaign can receive 50 free smoke alarms from OSFM.

To register or for more information, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Training.shtml> or contact Colleen Olson at 503-373-1540 ext. 228 or email colleen.olson@state.or.us.



Office of State Fire Marshal
4760 Portland Road N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97305-1760

Retirement

Ashland Fire & Rescue announces the retirement of Fire Chief Keith E. Woodley effective January 1, 2009. Chief Woodley has after 38 years of fire service.



Woodley began his fire service career in 1971 as a volunteer with the Woodburn Fire Department. He went on to earn associate and bachelor degrees from Chemeketa Community College and Oregon College of Education (WOU), respectively. In 1985, he was hired as Fire Prevention Officer with the Beaverton Fire Department, where he served until becoming Chief of the Woodburn Fire District.

Woodley went on to earn a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Portland State University. In 1991, he accepted the position of Fire Chief for the City of Ashland, Oregon, where he has served for nearly 18 years. Chief Woodley looks forward to spending more time with his wife, Kriss, their six children, and 11 grandchildren.