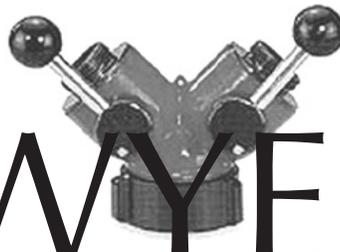


GATED WYE



March 2010 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 314

The OSFM offers a new mantra – Change your clock, CHECK your batteries

As Oregonians adjust their clocks to Daylight Savings Time, Sunday, March 14, the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is encouraging Oregon fire departments to recommend residents check their smoke alarms before automatically changing the batteries.

Because Oregon law requires solely battery-powered ionization-only alarms sold in the state to have a hush feature and come equipped with a 10-year battery, the national slogan to *Change your clock, Change your battery* doesn't apply to many Oregon residents who may have these alarms.

In addition, many other types of smoke alarms are now sold with the 10-year battery. This means if a household member follows the national slogan they could be removing a perfectly good battery and replacing it at extra expense.

"Fire safety products and manufacturing methods continue to evolve, and with the increased use of 10-year batteries it's time to encourage our citizens to get in the habit of checking their alarm and follow manufacturer's instructions when testing and maintaining their smoke and

carbon monoxide alarms," said State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson.

Oregonians are also encouraged to replace any smoke alarm 10-years-old or older because the sensing devices deteriorate over time.

"The bottom line is we should stress three main themes with residents," urged Simpson.

- Check smoke alarms before automatically changing the battery.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when testing and maintaining alarms.
- Replace all smoke alarms 10-years old or older.

The OSFM has a number of resources available to any Oregon fire department or district to enhance their public education efforts on smoke alarms and other home fire safety issues.

Click on the link to view, order, or download many of the [fire safety materials](#) from the OSFM website.

Oregon Special Session 2010

The Oregon Legislature adjourned its 2010 Special Session on February 25, by unanimously passing Senate Concurrent Resolution 19, first in the Senate, then in the House, ending the 75th Legislative Assembly.

For the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), the most significant bill was HB 3696. This 41-page bill transfers \$50 million in Other Funds to Oregon's General Fund to rebalance the state budget for the 2009-11 biennium. One portion of the bill allows the OSFM to resume fire and life safety inspections to ensure the safety of cardlock users by raising cardlock commercial fueling licensing fees, unchanged since the program's creation in 1991.

Other bills of interest to the OSFM and the Oregon fire service included HB 3617A on special districts, HB 3701 on open burning, SB 1031A on destination resorts, and SB 1036 on guest ranches.

For more information visit the [OSFM Legislative website](#) or contact OSFM Senior Operations and Policy Analyst Donna Disch-Curtis at 503-934-8275 or Donna.Disch@state.or.us.

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



“ This is your opportunity to learn more about the Mob Plan and comment on the changes . . . ”

The Mobilization Plan and you

Among the many duties of a county fire defense board chief (FDBC), two crucial ones are to know and understand the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan (Mob Plan), and to prepare their county (or counties as the case may be) for a mobilization response. When was the last time you looked at the Mob Plan? Do you know the recent changes?

The state mobilization plan is a dynamic document and the OSFM works with emergency responders statewide to update and revise the plan annually. Revisions reflect lessons learned, procedure improvements, and policy changes. Annual updates and revisions allows us to continue to improve best practices and the safety, readiness, mobilization, and de-mobilization processes during all-hazard incidents.

The key to continuously improving the Mob Plan is getting input. FDBCs carry a responsibility in providing a large part of this input and they have just such an opportunity during the annual fire defense board chiefs meeting at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond on April 13. This is the day prior to the start of the Oregon Fire Chiefs conference at the same location.

I encourage all FDBCs to attend the annual meeting. This is your opportunity to learn more about the Mob Plan and comment on the changes as suggested by the Mob Plan review committee based on input the committee received throughout the year.

As a final thought – something of particular importance for chiefs when reviewing the Mob Plan is to make sure all players (agencies) involved in a mobilization are aware of the Emergency and Audible Signaling/Terminology used in the plan. For example, does everyone in your county know the definition of Code Zero as described in the Terminology chapter in the Operations Division section?

Click the highlighted link to download the [Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan](#) on the OSFM website.



State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson

Office of
State Fire Marshal

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www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM
503-373-1540

Administration
ext. 211

Codes & Technical
Services
ext. 269

Community Education
ext. 273

Community
Right-to-Know
ext. 214

Data Services
ext. 236

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 503-934-8217 or e-mail richard.hoover@state.or.us. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, alternative formats of this publication are available.

Simpson photo courtesy of ODOT Photo and Video Services.

OSFM seeking Sparky award nominations

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is calling for nominations for the 2010 Golden and Silver Sparky awards.

The Golden Sparky recognizes a fire service member for outstanding achievement in fire prevention or public fire safety education. The Silver Sparky recognizes a civilian for outstanding achievement in prevention or public fire safety education.

The nomination deadline is April 19, 2010. Submit completed [nomination forms](#) with an explanation and examples of the nominee's achievements. Additional submission information is included on the nomination form.

Awards will be presented Saturday, May 22, 2010 during the Oregon Fire Service Meritorious Awards Banquet at the Salem Conference Center in Salem, Oregon.

For more information, contact Laura Drager at 503-934-8211 or laura.drager@state.or.us.

2010 HazMat conference

The 2010 Oregon Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference is set for April 27-29, 2010, at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, Oregon.

Classes offered include: Explosive Labs, Sampling, Radiation, Bulging Drums, Ammonia, Tank Truck Emergencies, Railroad Emergencies, HazMat Tactics, SensIR, Chemistry, Mercury, IED/CBRNE Awareness, and more.

[Registration](#) deadline is March 25, 2010. The \$325 fee includes breakfast and lunch April 27-29 and dinner April 27 & 28.

For more information, contact Jamie Kometz at 503-934-8280 or jamie.kometz@state.or.us.

Lending resources available

It's the time of year to reserve fire prevention teaching tools! The Office of State Fire Marshal has educational tools and displays available for loan to Oregon fire agencies at no cost. The resources are designed to provide fire prevention and life safety education and messages to the public. These resources allow opportunities to learn through visualization, information-sharing, demonstration and practice. The following resources are available:

- 9-1-1 Simulator
- Fire-Resistant Plant Display
- Flameless Candles
- Hazard House Tabletop Display
- Multi-Hazard House Trailer
- Smoke Alarm/Carbon Monoxide Mobile Billboard

Click the link for more information about [lending resources](#) or contact Candice Clark at 503-934-8266 or candice.clark@state.or.us.

NFIRS vendors require Oregon specific codes

The Office of State Fire Marshal's Data Unit has provided the schema and metadata for Oregon specific codes to National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) 5.0 vendors in Oregon.

Although the Oregon Fire Bridge™ incident reporting system currently accepts NFIRS 5.0 uploads directly from your vendor, there are additional Oregon system requirements your vendor needs to be aware of to modify their systems to meet the new standard.

You are encouraged to contact your vendor to ensure your NFIRS 5.0 system is compatible with these Oregon requirements.

If you have concerns about these requirements, your system modification, or would like a copy of the document sent to your vendor, contact Kurt Miller at 503-934-8296.

DATA Connection

News & technical tips from the Data Services Unit

Estimating Dollar Losses and Values

The most frequent data requested from the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Data Unit are: causes of fires, number of injuries and deaths, and dollar loss estimates. Of these, the dollar-loss information is the most elusive. All too often, incident reports are sent to us without dollar-loss estimates.

Reporting dollar losses from fires is a requirement of the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS). Dollar-loss data can have significant impact on how fires are perceived and boost fire education messages. To say there were 657 cooking-related fires in Oregon in 2009 is one point, but to state those fires resulted in more than \$4.6 million of property loss adds greater implication. Your attention to reporting dollar losses ensures we have a more accurate view of the impact of fires to Oregon citizens.

When we use your dollar value and loss data, we always indicate the estimates are provided by the firefighter on the scene and are not official insurance estimates.

Knowing the *pre-incident value* of the property and contents also serves an important purpose. Subtracting property and contents losses from the pre-incident values of the property and contents, gives us an estimate of property and contents *saved*. Such a measure helps justify the value of fire alarm systems, fire suppression systems, fire education programs, and fire department effectiveness.

We realize property and contents value can be difficult to estimate, so we would like to provide you with some tools to do this. A document titled *Standardized Fire Loss Reporting Best Practice Guideline* is available in the Data Unit's 'downloads' section on the OSFM website. In addition, here are some sources and tips:

- Contact the county assessor for the 'real market value' of the structure only.
- If the structure is insured, contact the insurance adjuster to obtain the insured value.

- Visit www.zillow.com for free residential property value data. Look for assessor data that divides the building and land values.
- Visit www.saylor.com to purchase manuals on residential, commercial, and industrial construction costs.
- Use your local realtor as a resource.
- Remember to account for unique situations in your estimate, such as if a building is historical or has high-tech features.
- Pay attention to advertisements for the prices of furniture, electronics, and other personal property.
- Ask the building owner to identify affected antiques and their values.
- For vehicle values, visit Kelly Blue Book at www.kbb.com, or National Automobile Dealers Association at www.nada.com.

When it comes down to it, all we need is your best guess. The estimate is based on observation, experience, training, and professional judgment. Thank you for your attention to estimating dollar loss and values.

Fire Bridge™ Q&A

Q. What are the Training and Activities sections of Oregon Fire Bridge™ used for?

A. The purpose of these sections is to streamline scheduling and record keeping of your department's training and activities. When you schedule a training or activity, that information is immediately documented in the participants' individual records in Fire Bridge™. Administrators can create new training records based on more than 140 templates available in the system. For a step-by-step guide on creating a new training record, see page 17 of the User Guide, which is located on the front page of Fire Bridge™ after you log in.

Also on the front page is a 'Training/Activities Categories' document. You can print and use this as a reference of available templates. The Data Unit staff is available to answer your questions about entering training and activities.

Contact the Data Unit at OSFM.Data@state.or.us or 503-373-1540, extensions 234, 237, or 244, with any questions or to request the *Standardized Fire Loss Reporting Best Practice Guideline* be e-mailed to you.

A voice from the fire service

by Canby Fire District Division
Chief/Fire Marshal Troy Buzalsky



Warning - slick, fire safety marketing may be in your jurisdiction

Along with about 40 other Canby area residents, I recently attended a free dinner offered by Fire Safety Etc. (a dealer of Masterguard safety products) at a local restaurant. As part of the dinner offer, attendees were requested to listen to a sales presentation by company representatives about how Masterguard products and services would increase fire safety for the homeowners.

After introducing themselves, the speakers stated that nothing...repeat...nothing would be sold or available throughout the presentation. They also highlighted they were members of NFPA, ICC, and the BBB, as well as certified "Fire Safety Experts" with NFPA (Fire Alarm Fundamentals – 4 hr.).

The two-hour presentation was professional and informational, with well-articulated statistics regarding fire behavior and human reaction to fire. Key messages repeated often throughout the night were the frequency of home electrical fires and the inefficiency of most smoke alarms..." especially the cheap alarms installed by your builder or purchased at big, box stores." They also showed a professionally produced docudrama titled *When Seconds Count*.

The presenter also made sure to reinforce that most homes had an inadequate level of fire safety devices protecting their family.

A large part of the presentation focused on Masterguard's exclusive wind-up heat detector that installs in the attic space. Discussion on smoke alarms focused on technology, namely ionization detection. "Most homes have the cheapest smoke alarms the builder could purchase to meet code," emphasized the presenter. "These are usually ionization detectors, which don't work well for the most deadly fires; smoldering fires."

So what's the catch? As stated at the beginning of the presentation, there was nothing for sale at this free dinner. "So, here's the deal," explained the

presenter. "You can sign up tonight, and tonight only, for an in-the-home fire and life safety evaluation." To enhance the offering and lure prospective clients they promised to check every in-home electrical appliance against CPSC recalls and to service all in-home fire extinguishers...with no obligation to purchase anything. At least half of the attendees jumped at the chance to sign up for an in-home visit.

It was just days later when I received a call from 'Sandy,' a resident who wondered if she had received a good deal. Sandy initially assumed it was the fire district hosting this event but she learned differently that night. She walked me through the home visit (which did not include the CPSC recall check or fire extinguisher servicing).

By the end of the in-home evaluation, Sandy's family spent \$2,628.00 (36 payments at \$73.00) on a 'hybrid protection package' that included battery-operated photoelectric smoke alarms in all sleeping rooms and the main areas, plus wind-up heat detectors in the attic, garage, and kitchen. The initial price offering was nearly twice the final purchase price, but to 'close the deal' the salesman reduced the coverage and then threw in a fire extinguisher, a CO detector, and burn gel. Their family has no gas-fired appliances, so the CO detector seemed to me to be an unusual enhancement.

My answer to Sandy was tricky. Yes, in my opinion she overpaid for the system from the in-home salesman, but then again, she now had an adequate level of smoke detection in her home. I told her that I agreed fully with the smoke alarms in the bedrooms and the main hallway, and also shared that the heat detectors in the garage, kitchen, and attic detector would not hurt anything, I just doubted the necessity.

Sandy said, "The salesman was very nice, but put a great deal of pressure on us to make the sale. He told us that procrastination was the leading cause of fire deaths, and he could not come back and make her the same deal." She knew she was not purchasing at rock bottom prices, but feels paying 10 times the price really frustrated her and her husband.

***Footnote: Masterguard smoke alarms are not dual technology, but photoelectric only. They are made by Gentex, and although proprietary, they are identical to the Gentex 9120/9123, which retail for about \$40.00 per unit. These units can be installed as stand alone, hard-wired, or into an integrated fire detection system.**

Older adult safety brochures available

The Office of State Fire Marshal's Community Education Section, in partnership with the Oregon Life Safety Team, has new brochures available on fire and fall safety for older adults, aimed at reducing fire and fall injuries and fatalities in Oregon's older adult population.

According to Portland State University Population Research Center, more than 30% of Oregon's population is age 50 and over. And in the five-year period from 2005-2009, this age group accounted for 60% of fire fatalities in Oregon. In addition, falls are also the leading cause of hip fractures and traumatic brain injuries among Oregon's older adults.

You can view the new brochures by clicking the underlined text or the image.

[Take Steps to Prevent Fires](#)



[Take Steps to Prevent Falls](#)

Use the [online order form](#) for these and many other fire prevention and safety education materials.

For more information contact Candice Clark at 503-934-8266 or candice.clark@state.or.us.

Fire grant update

by Hines Firefighter/Grant Writer
Jonathan Manski



Two additional Oregon departments were awarded nice grant projects during the second round of the Station Construction Grant program. Only 14 awards were made in Round Two. Congratulations to Gates RFPD and Klamath County Fire Dist. #1. There should only be one more round of awards for this 2009 program with just a small handful of awardees.

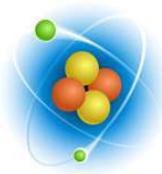
It seems there has been some movement in the 2009 Fire Prevention & Safety program as some 1199a's were issued during the 2nd week of February, so awards should be starting soon.

Oregon has done pretty well so far in the AFG program with 27 awards valued at more than \$2.7 million near the end of last month. Very shortly, we will see the dreaded release of the computer generated denial letters. The computer denials are the bulk of the bad news followed by peer review denials later in the process. There are still 3000+ awards to be issued so hang in there if you haven't heard anything yet.

One positive accomplishment worth noting is there have already been four Oregon departments joining in the success of many others by securing their first AFG award. Congratulations to Clatskanie, Enterprise, Lakeside, and Scottsburg departments. Even though the Fire Act grants have been in place since 2001, there are still about 70 Oregon fire departments yet to take advantage of the program or receive an award. I encourage any department that has not been successful or has not yet gotten involved to contact your neighbors or me for help jump-starting your entry into the process. It is time and energy well spent. You can e-mail me at jmanski@blm.gov.

The start of the 2010 AFG program should only be a few months away. I hope folks are revising their narratives and identifying program shortages to address. If you have struggled with being awarded in the past, spending effort up front can make a major difference in the outcome. Unfortunately, funding for many of Oregon's departments has become reliant on grant success.

[Click here for the latest information on FEMA grants.](#)



Chemical of the month by Alec Carte

Aluminum Phosphide AIP



Image of an aluminum container commonly used to store aluminum phosphide

Description:

- Active ingredient in pesticides Phostoxin, Fumitoxin, Celphos, Quickphos, Weevil-cide, Gastoxin and Phosfume
- Restricted use pesticide
- Dark gray or yellow solid
- Commonly comes in an aluminum flask/canister about 10" tall
- The phosphine gas produced by reaction has an odor similar to garlic or decaying fish
- CAS No.: 20859-73-8
- DOT: Water reactive/Dangerous when wet Class 4.3; UN/NA: 1397
- EPA section 302 EHS, TPQ: 500 lbs

NFPA Information: Placard storage area with:

- Health: 4
- Flammability: 4
- Reactivity: 2
- Special: water reactive

Uses and Occurrences:

- Used as a fumigant for stored cereal grains
- Pesticide action depends on release of phosphine gas (hydrogen phosphide)
- Found on farms, nurseries, grain elevators and agricultural chemical dealers
- For use in grain bins, compressed hay containers, flat storage structures and railcars

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Reacts with acids, bases, moist air and water to form highly toxic phosphine gas
- Phosphine gas LEL: 1.8%
- Phosphine gas may ignite spontaneously in air at concentrations above the LEL
- Aluminum phosphide in contact with metals may produce flammable hydrogen gas
- Partially spent, confined material can explode
- Incompatibles include: moist air, acids, bases, water and oxidizing agents

Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: 0.3 skin TWA (phosphine)
- Aluminum phosphide may irritate skin, eyes and mucous membranes. Main health hazards are from phosphine gas.
- Inhalation, ingestion or absorption through skin may cause: weakness, vomiting, difficulty

breathing; severe exposure may cause pulmonary edema, unconsciousness and death. Symptoms may be delayed.

- Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH): 50 ppm phosphine (from MSDS)

Fire Service Information:

- Emergency responders should use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and appropriate chemical protective clothing
- Emergency responders should look for signage and canisters
- Fumigation management plans are required for every use of this product. Notification to the closest fire department is required when fumigation occurs in structures

2007 Oregon Fire Code:

- Highly toxic material, solid
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per S occupancy control area:
 - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 10 pounds
 - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 20 pounds
 - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 20 pounds
 - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 40 pounds

Incident Reporting and Information:

- There are two facilities in Oregon currently reporting aluminum phosphide, 16 reporting Fumitoxin, eight reporting Phostoxin and six reporting Weevil-cide on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- There have been at least three incidents in Oregon involving aluminum phosphide including two explosions resulting in serious injury.

Thanks to Oregon OSHA Pesticide Coordinator Garnet R. Cooke, for contributing to this article. She may be contacted at 503-378-3274 or garnet.r.cooke@state.or.us.

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

Fire & life safety recognition



State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson presents Deputy State Fire Marshal Chris Lyman (left) with his Fire Marshal recognition with Plan Review Endorsement, February 8th.



Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Jones presents Hillsboro Fire Marshal John Rinier (right) with his Oregon Fire Marshal recognition with Fire Plans Examiner Endorsement, February 10th.

Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Jones presented six certificates of recognition to members of Clackamas Fire District # 1, February 4th.

Receiving certificates were:

- Fred Carlton & Steve McAdoo, Fire & Life Safety Awareness I & II
- Valere McIntosh and Shawn Olson, Fire and Life Safety Specialist I
- Nick Kelsey & Kari Shanklin, Fire and Life Safety Specialist II



Left to right: Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal Kari Shanklin, Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Fred Charlton, Fire Inspector Nick Kelsey, Public Information Officer Steve McAdoo, SDSFM Jones, and Fire Inspectors Shawn Olson and Valere McIntosh.

Unclassifieds

For sale

1992 Pierce Tender-Pumper 146 (Pierce refurbished in 1992 on a 1982 chassis): 3,000 gallon tank capacity with 1,500 GPM pump, 450 HP Detroit Allison automatic. Slightly more than 30,000 miles and 2,109 hours on the engine.

Chains on the automatic chaining system will stay with the rig, all other equipment to be removed. Maintenance and test records are available.

Priced to sell at \$80,000, is negotiable as is the equipment on board. [Click here for more photos and information.](#)

Contact Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District Secretary Bob Conder at 541-602-0217.

Recalls

Sagittarius Sporting Goods Inc. is recalling about 10,000 Master Forge five-burner gas grills.

The flexible rubber hose on the LP-gas tank can contact the burner box, causing the hose to melt and rupture when the grill is lighted.

For more information and remedy, [visit the CPSC website](#) or call the manufacturer at 800-444-6742.

GE Infrastructure Sensing Inc. is recalling about 9,400 Telaire Airestat and Carrier Single Beam Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and Temperature Sensors. The sensors are sold for commercial use and are wall-mounted.

The CO₂ and temperature sensors can overheat, posing a fire hazard.

For more information and remedy, [visit the company website](#) or call the company at 877-243-5086.