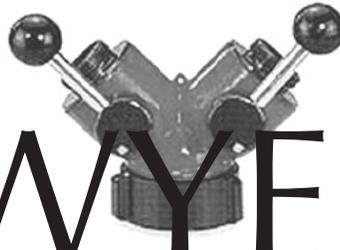


GATED WYE



December 2010 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 323

Fire and EMS join forces for statewide incident reporting

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and the Oregon Department of Human Services Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems (EMS/TS) are working together to streamline Oregon fire and EMS incident reporting. This collaboration has resulted in the creation of Oregon Fire & EMS Bridge™, a cutting-edge online reporting system provided free to Oregon's fire and EMS agencies.

Both state agencies collect incident data to submit to national databases. The OSFM sends statewide fire data to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), and EMS/TS supplies statewide EMS data to the National EMS Information System. Within the last two years, both the OSFM and EMS/TS introduced new advanced online reporting programs; namely the Oregon Fire Bridge and the Oregon EMS Bridge, products of Image Trend, Inc.

These reporting programs have proven to be invaluable, not only in facilitating fire incident and patient care reports, but also by offering agencies many more tools to streamline their administrative tasks.

A single reporting system for fire and EMS has important benefits. For the state, the consoli-

dation means that lower costs and fewer resources are needed to maintain one instead of two separate systems. For agencies providing both fire and EMS services, a single system eliminates redundancy in incident

Merging the two reporting programs into one comprehensive system demonstrates Oregon's commitment to providing premier services to fire and EMS agencies across the state.

**– State Fire Marshal
Randy Simpson**

reporting, saving time and costs associated with reporting. A shared reporting system also improves data analysis capabilities for trend studies and preparation of agency Standards of Cover.

Software developer Image Trend worked with the OSFM and EMS/TS for several months to ensure the merge to the single system would be efficient and smooth. The merge was completed November 15, 2010.

Under the consolidated Oregon Fire & EMS Bridge™:

- All user access, permissions, and functions remain the same as they were under the original independent systems.
- When users log in, they see a new home page that provides both fire and EMS information.
- For incidents where both fire and EMS services are provided, the report transitions directly from the EMS Patient Care Report to an NFIRS report. Pertinent information from the Patient Care Report automatically populates the NFIRS report with just one click, eliminating redundant data entry. Patient information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) will not transfer into NFIRS.

- For agencies that use both the fire and EMS components in the Oregon Fire & EMS Bridge™, the agency's service administrator will be able to restrict access to just fire or just EMS, or provide access to both as appropriate.

see **Fire and EMS** page 3

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



Being dynamic and flexible is the sign of a strong organization.

It's not the end, just a new chapter

This is my second to last column before retiring as your State Fire Marshal, so I want to be sure and thank all of you who have supported me and this agency over the years. Your partnership and positive feedback have gone a long way to help the many advances at the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

One of the things I am most proud of is creating a concentrated effort for continuous friendly and open-door policy with the Oregon fire service, Oregon State Police, and the OSFM staff.

In the past three years we have consolidated our emergency response resources (hazardous materials, urban search & rescue, and incident management teams) under the management of one unit. This has increased proficiency and improved communication among these resources.

We have also enhanced emergency preparedness by condensing the Oregon Mobilization Plan, launching statewide real-time incident and emergency medical system data collection through Fire and EMS Bridge,™ and initiating a program for trained chaplains to mobilize during emergencies.

The OSFM has also undergone internal upgrades. We made technical improvements by developing "smart" conference rooms with built-in Wi-Fi access, projectors, and sound systems. We also now provide uniforms for our compliance specialists and standardized all-weather gear for deputies and managers. To improve consistency and visibility we retooled agency vehicles with more visible graphics. All of this goes a long way to presenting a more professional and uniform image to the public and stakeholders.

Being dynamic and flexible is the sign of a strong organization. Our agency's commitment to the Oregon fire service is just as strong. I am sure the next state fire marshal will open a new chapter in the progress and growth of the OSFM.



State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson

**Office of
State Fire Marshal**

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

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

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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.

Fire and EMS

continued from front page

Agencies who use third-party software for fire and/or EMS reporting can continue to do so. Agencies are not required to use either component of the Oregon Fire & EMS Bridge™; however, use of any third-party reporting software must be compliant with applicable national and state standards. EMS agencies are encouraged to adopt national standard compliant software.

The Oregon Fire & EMS Bridge™ is available free to Oregon fire and EMS agencies.

If your agency would like to take advantage of this online reporting tool, please contact OSFM Data Unit Manager Dave Gullede at 503-934-8273, dave.e.gullede@state.or.us.

For assistance with EMS questions, contact EMS Compliance Specialist Donna Wilson at 503-807-5850, donna.r.wilson@state.or.us.

Open recruitment for incident management team positions

The Office of State Fire Marshal is accepting applications for open positions on its incident management teams (IMT). Openings include incident information officer, two division/group supervisors, and pool and trainee positions for logistics section chiefs and facilities unit leaders.

IMT members are expected to make a three year commitment to participate on the team, and their employer must provide an agency vehicle for IMT deployments. Position information may be found in the [National Interagency Incident Management System Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide](#).

Application deadline is December 20, 2010. Applicants who are qualified and accepted, but no team opening exists, may be placed in a pool. Applicants lacking the minimal requirements and/or task book may be accepted as trainees.

Visit the [IMT recruitment page](#) for applications and more information, or contact Alan McMahan at 503-934-8297 or email alan.mcmahan@state.or.us.

Departments needed to participate in Start Safe

The Home Safety Council has invited the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to serve as a train-the-trainer for their Start Safe program – a fire and burn safety program for preschool children and their families. In addition to OSFM staff attending a national training conference for the program, the agency will receive 100 training kits and 50 smoke alarms to be distributed to communities that are prepared to support Start Safe.

The OSFM's commitment to the program is to deliver Start Safe training to at least three communities between January and March 2011. Community trainings should have participation from no less than five fire department personnel who conduct public education for their department. Participating departments must agree to support implementation of Start Safe in preschool classrooms in their community.

If your department and community preschools are interested, contact Judy Okulitch at 503-934-8230, judy.okulitch@state.or.us or Helen Feroli at 503-934-8240, helen.feroli@state.or.us.

OSFM new employee



Dave Gullede
Data Unit Manager

Dave grew up in North Carolina where he worked his way up through the fire service ultimately working as a training officer and captain for a municipal fire department. He also worked in the EMS field as a paramedic in the Charlotte area. After moving to Oregon, Dave served as a firefighter with the Turner Fire District.

Dave has been married for 13 years and has a daughter attending UNC-Greensboro, a son in the US Army, and two other daughters in elementary school.

"I am excited to be a part of OSFM," says Gullede. "It's a real privilege to expand my fire service experience to the state level."

LEPC Highlights

by Community Planning Coordinator Bill Brauer

Clatsop County LEPC

The Clatsop County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) officially formed in December 2008, however, the core participants began meeting much earlier. The early group, known as the Clatsop County Emergency Preparedness Committee or "E-Prep," was facilitated by county emergency management representatives and had been conducting all-hazard emergency planning for many years. E-Prep had a good representation of first response organizations and emergency planners so it was an easy step to include representatives of facilities with extremely hazardous substances (EHS) and form a recognized LEPC. The Clatsop County LEPC now has 30 registered members including representatives from 20 EHS facilities.

In June 2007, they completed the Community Capability Assessment Process (CCAP). This is a multi-phase capability assessment to evaluate emergency plans related to hazardous materials incidents. Emergency plans were reviewed from the first responders out through the county and state level.

In November 2007, they conducted a county-wide hazardous materials exercise involving a simulated release of anhydrous ammonia from a facility along the Astoria waterfront. Exercise participants included mutual aid fire departments, police, EMS, state regional HazMat Team #11 (Astoria), and emergency operations centers.

"This was a terrific experience for everyone involved," said Astoria Fire & Rescue Chief Lenard Hansen. "We made significant strides in communication and coordination between the public and private agencies responding to such a large scale incident. The skills everyone learned in this exercise will apply not just to a hazardous materials event, but any large-scale emergency."

Improvements made as a result of the exercise proved to be valuable during a severe winter storm that hit the Oregon Coast a short time afterward.

[More information on Oregon's LEPC program here](#), or contact Terry Wolfe at 503-934-8219, terry.wolfe@state.or.us.

New hazardous substance information tool available for Oregon departments

The OSFM Community Right to Know (CR2K) program announces the availability of a new web-based hazardous substance planning and response tool called E-Plan. This web-based tool is available through a joint effort of the US Department of Homeland Security, US Environmental Protection Agency, and University of Texas-Dallas.

The Oregon CR2K program has cooperated with this project by providing information collected from the annual Hazardous Substance Information Surveys of Oregon facilities that possess hazardous substances. The E-Plan tool allows responders and planners secure internet access to view information about these reporting facilities. E-Plan contains a mapping function that can display information about facilities in a geographic area and plot locations of nearby schools and hospitals.

[Register for an E-Plan account here](#). If you have questions about OSFM's involvement in this project, please contact Chris Kuenzi at (503) 934-8214, or chris.kuenzi@state.or.us.

OFIA 2011 Firefighter Safety Symposium

The 2011 Firefighter Safety Symposium, hosted by the Oregon Fire Instructors Association, is scheduled for January 14-15, 2011 at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem. Friday events are scheduled from 1-5 p.m. Saturday's classes are scheduled 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The \$149 fee includes all classes and lunch on both days.

Classes include: Lifetime Health and Fitness; Firefighter Rehabilitation and Medical Monitoring; Wind Driven Structure Fires and Firefighter Safety; Emergency Responder Exhaustion; Storm King Mountain, Surviving the Storm; Water Rescue Incident Command; and Tactical PPV.

[Register online](#) or call 541-791-6342 or email oregonfireinstructors@gmail.com.

DATA Connection

News & technical tips from the Data Unit

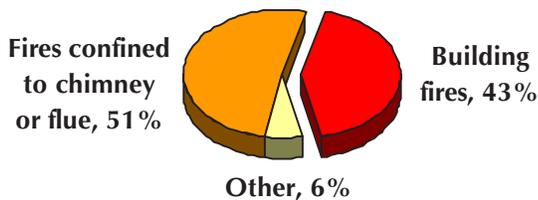
The season of home heating fires

As temperatures drop this winter and Oregonians start using their fireplaces, woodstoves, space heaters, and other appliances to stay warm, fire agencies will find themselves responding to more home heating-related fire incidents. During December, January, and February, one out of four Oregon house and apartment fires involves home heating equipment.

From 2005 through 2009 in Oregon, there were 2,323 home heating-related fires resulting in eight deaths, 70 injuries, and more than \$37 million in property loss. Oregon fire agencies have already responded to several home heating-related fires this fall. In October 2010, near Milton-Freewater, a six-year-old child died in a fire involving a woodstove.

By understanding the prevalence and causes of home heating-related fires in their jurisdictions, fire agencies can lead public education campaigns to help prevent those types of fires.

House & Apartment Fires Involving Heating Equipment



More than half of all home heating fires are fires confined to the chimney or flue (see graph above). These confined fires rarely result in serious injury or large property or content losses. However, chimney fires sometimes spread to become building fires. Last month, a fire started in the fireplace of a Hillsboro home and spread to the wood structure surrounding the metal chimney and the exterior wall. The home's working smoke alarms did not sound since the fire was predominantly on the

home's exterior. Fortunately, the family escaped unharmed.

Forty-three percent of home heating fires are building fires. Building fires are responsible for all the deaths and a majority of the injuries and property loss in home heating fires. The top causes of these building fires are:

- **30%** are caused by a misuse of material or product. Most often these are fires where combustibles were too close to the heating equipment.
- **29%** are caused by a mechanical failure or malfunction. This is typically electrical failure or part failure due to age or lack of maintenance.
- **18%** are due to a human-caused operational deficiency. This includes failure to clean equipment, improper operation of equipment, or leaving equipment unattended.

Reminding homeowners to have chimney and woodstove flues inspected and cleaned each year by a qualified chimney sweep can help prevent fires. In addition, educating homeowners about safe practices, such as using a fireplace screen, keeping combustibles away from heaters, and properly disposing of ashes, will translate to fewer home heating fires.

January 31st deadline

We need your data for the Office of State Fire Marshal's 2010 Annual Report. For your agency's incident data to be included in the analysis for this report:

- ➔ **Make sure you have reported all your fire incidents for the year 2010 in your Oregon Fire & EMS Bridge™ account by January 31, 2011.**
- ➔ **If you use other reporting software, you must import your reports into Oregon Fire & EMS Bridge™ (or e-mail us your .txt files to import for you) by January 31, 2011.**

Remember, all incident reports must be 100% valid with no errors or warnings in order to be accepted by the National Fire Incident Reporting System database.

Questions? Please contact the Data Unit at 503-373-1540, extensions 234, 244, or 237.

¹ All statistics in this article are based on 2005-2009 incidents reported by Oregon fire agencies to the Office of State Fire Marshal.

Training - save the date

The Office of State Fire Marshal and Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) will be hosting two National Fire Academy courses during March 2011.

- **Fire Prevention for First Responders & Small Departments, March 7– 8**
- **Community Risk Issues & Prevention Intervention, March 9 – 10**

Classes, along with meals and lodging at DPSST will be free to all Oregon fire agencies.

Fire Prevention for First Responders & Small Departments is recommended for current and future leaders in smaller departments (typically less than 25,000 population). The course is open to all emergency services personnel including volunteer, career, and allied professionals. This class is primarily for those with operations backgrounds and who want to learn more effective ways of combating the fire problem.

The course stresses the awareness, advocacy, and motivational content needed by those who traditionally have been focused on operations. Focus is on identifying exciting and highly successful tools and approaches for addressing the total fire protection challenge via lessons learned in other communities, available resources, and the means and value of building partnerships and coalitions.

Community Risk Issues & Prevention Intervention is recommended for prevention personnel in local organizations, state prevention committees, fire marshals, inspectors, public educators, career and volunteer firefighters with prevention responsibilities, and emergency medical services personnel who coordinate community life-support programs.

Students learn a basic overview of the “three E’s” of prevention: education, engineering, and enforcement. The course is designed to provide the motivation and leadership for local organizations to enhance their prevention efforts. Content includes: evaluation of the types and levels of community prevention; how injuries, fires, and burns can be prevented; prevention approaches, behavior changes, legislation, enforcement, and engineering.

More information will be released as it becomes available.

Fire grant update

by Hines Lieutenant/Grant Writer Jonathan Manski

The beginning of October brought tears and hope for Oregon fire departments. If your fiscal year 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant application did not score in the competitive range, you should have received the turndown notice via e-mail indicating your project did not get past the computer scoring. So, by now you have likely discussed (and cursed) the virtues of being turned down for some very needed projects.

On the other hand, if you have not received a turndown letter, your department made it through to the next step in the program which was peer review, held during late June & early August. The earliest of the 10 questions were also sent out at the beginning of last month. Surprisingly, first round awards have been announced and I hope to be congratulating several Oregon departments this week. There could be some hang-ups on exactly when award funds may be released, which may not happen until the beginning of the new year. Good luck and keep your fingers crossed!

For other grant opportunities, I encourage you to check out the [Fireman’s Fund Heritage Program](#). This is just one of many corporations providing grants to the fire service.

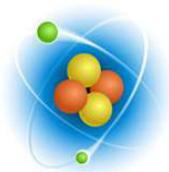
[Visit the FEMA website](#) for the latest federal grant information.

2011 fire prevention workshop

The 2011 Pacific Northwest Fire Prevention Training Workshop is scheduled for February 14-18, 2011 at Salishan Lodge in Gleneden Beach, Oregon.

Cost is \$571.20 for the complete workshop package which includes a single room (from Monday-Thursday), and all meals from Monday dinner through Friday breakfast. Registration deadline is January 7, 2011.

[Registration available online](#). For questions, email Bolaconsultants@earthlink.net.



Difluoroethane CH_3CHF_2

Description:

- Synonyms: 1,1-Difluoroethane, HFC 152a, R-152a, Ethylidene fluoride
- Clear, colorless gas with a faint ethereal odor
- CAS No.: 75-37-6
- EPA Section 112R 57,400 cu ft/10,000 lbs

NFPA 704 Information: Not provided

Uses:

- Refrigerant authorized by the EPA for use in new home refrigerator/freezers and new automobile air conditioners as an alternative to chlorofluorocarbons

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Flammable gas at ambient temperatures
- Flash Point: Less than -58°F
- LEL: 3.9%; UEL 16.9%
- Auto-ignition temperature: 849°F
- Vapor density (air=1) 2.4
- Boiling point: -13°F
- Material is stable
- Avoid open flames and high temperatures
- Will form explosive mixtures with air
- Incompatible with alkali or alkaline earth metals such as powdered aluminum, zinc, and beryllium

Health Hazards:

- Contact with liquid may cause frostbite
- Inhalation may cause nausea, headache, weakness, nervous system depression, confusion, unconsciousness, extreme overexposure may result in death
- Eye contact may result in irritation and blurred vision

Fire Fighting Measures:

- Isolate hazard area, deny entry
- Extinguishing media: Water spray, alcohol foam, dry chemical, or carbon dioxide
- Do not attempt to extinguish fire unless flow of material can be stopped first
- Containers may rupture or explode if exposed to heat
- Cool fire exposed containers with water spray
- Vapors are initially heavier than air and spread along the ground

- Vapors or gas may ignite at distant ignition source and flash back
- Withdraw immediately in case of rising sound from venting safety device

2008 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- DOT Flammable gas, Hazard Class 2.1
- UN/NA: 1030; Guide # 115
- Spill: Initially isolate 330 feet in all directions
- Large spill: Consider downwind evacuation of at least $\frac{1}{2}$ mile

2010 Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(1)

- Flammable gas
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
 - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 150 pounds/1000 ft^3
 - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 300 lbs/2000 ft^3
 - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 300 lbs/2000 ft^3
 - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 600 lbs/4000 ft^3
- Occupancy Group when the maximum allowable quantity is exceeded: H-2

Incident Reporting and Information:

- Facilities currently reporting difluoroethane on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey: None
- Hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: None

References and resources:

- Specialty Gases of America MSDS 1,1-difluoroethane
- National refrigerants, Inc. MSDS R-152a
- Tulstar Products, Inc. MSDS HFC 152a
- EPA List of Lists October 2006
- EPA Significant New Alternatives Policy (SNAP)
- [Program main website](#)

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

Fire & life safety recognition



Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Fields (right), presents Forest Grove Firefighter Matt Johnston with his Fire and Life Safety Specialist 1 certificate at a ceremony in November.



photo by Steve McAdoo

In November, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Jones (with beard), presents Clackamas County Fire District #1 Fire Inspector Valere McIntosh (above) with her Fire and Life Safety Specialist II w/ Fire Plans Examiner certificate. Below he presents Clackamas County Fire District #1 Fire Inspector Nick Kelsey with his Oregon Fire Marshal certificate.

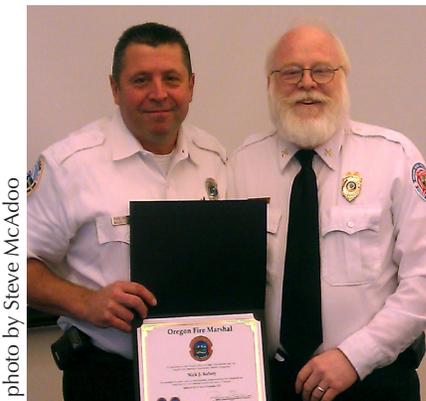


photo by Steve McAdoo

In memoriam

Jerry Heater 1944 – 2010

Jerald Raymond Heater passed away November 14, 2010.



Heater began his 52 years in the fire service with Corvallis Fire, then worked for Jefferson Fire District and Tualatin Rural Fire District (now Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue). He began volunteering for Sublimity Fire District in 1978 and served as fire chief from 1991-1995. He was also a tireless fund raiser for the Oregon Fire Service Museum.

Heater served on the board of directors of many organizations including the Northwest Fire Equipment Dealers Association, Oregon Fire Chiefs Foundation, and the Oregon Fire Museum and Learning Center. He was also the founder/show manager and board member of the annual Northwest Fire Expo held in Portland.

Donations may be made in his name to any of the following: Oregon Fire Museum and Learning Center, 1284 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301; Peoples Church, 4500 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem, OR, 97305; or Sublimity Volunteer Firefighters Association, P.O. Box 911, Sublimity, OR. 97385.

Kintzlaw "Jim" Owens Wilson 1933 – 2010

Wilson grew up in North Bend, Oregon. After high school he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served in Korea. After his military service, Wilson was a firefighter/assistant chief in North Bend. In 1968 he became civilian fire chief for the U.S. Army 1st Division in Vietnam. Upon returning from Vietnam, Wilson became the fire chief for Roseburg Rural Fire District. He also served as president of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association.

After retiring from the fire service, Jim and his wife Ann moved to Kingston, Washington where they operated the Y not stop & shop until 1994 when they moved to Port Orchard, Washington.

Wilson is survived by his wife of 59 years, Ann, one brother, one sister, four children, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.