

GATED WYE



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OSFM developing a free toolkit for Fire Prevention Week

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 6-12, 2013

Stay in the kitchen and watch. Keep your cooking area clean. Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop.

You CAN prevent kitchen fires.

The Office of State Fire Marshal is developing a toolkit to support education and outreach efforts for Fire Prevention Week 2013 – Prevent Kitchen Fires.

Elements of the toolkit focus on roles and responsibilities adults have in practicing fire safety. Toolkits will be available to any Oregon fire agency.

The toolkit should be ready by September 6, 2013, and fire agencies can request a CD or they can download the files from the OSFM website.

Planned components of the toolkit include:

- Cooking brochure (available to order)
- Cooking brochure PDF (printable and editable*)
- Cooking fire data charts

- Print ad (editable*)
- Copy of Oregon's proclamation
- Proclamation template for local use
- Radio public service announcements and script
- Safety tips for sending out via social media
- Sample press release – cooking fires
- Sample press release – holiday cooking fires
- Video public service announcement
- Website banner

**Ability to remove OSFM information and add fire agency information*

For more information on the items available for Fire Prevention Week, contact Joe Saltarello at 503-934-8366 or joe.saltarello@state.or.us.

After the Fire movie available for Campus Fire Safety Month

September is Campus Fire Safety Month and to help with your fire agency's education efforts, the OSFM has made available the documentary film, *After the Fire*.

The movie, inspired by the Pulitzer Prize story and New York Times bestseller, follows two of the most critically burned survivors of a dorm fire at Seton Hall University in January 2000. Arsonists set the fire killing three students, and injuring 58 others.

The story proceeds from the fire through the grueling medical treatment of two of the survivors, freshman roommates Shawn Simmons and Alvaro Llanos.

You can [view more information and a trailer on the movie's website](#).

If you are planning an education campaign for students, you can borrow the movie on DVD for free from the OSFM by filling out the [online request form](#).

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



The season of conflagrations

As expected prior to the beginning of this fire season, we have not escaped a second fire season without a conflagration declaration by Governor Kitzhaber.

As of August 26, five conflagrations have been declared, the Pacifica Fire near Williams, the Douglas Complex Fire near Glendale and Wolf Creek (one for Douglas County and one for Josephine County), the GC Complex Fire near John Day, and the Government Flats Complex south of The Dalles.

Elements of the Blue IMT responded to the Pacifica and GC Complex fires and the Green Team responded to the Douglas Complex and the Government Flats Complex.

So far, Task Forces or Strike Teams have been mobilized from the following counties:

- Baker/Union, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Douglas, Hood River/Wasco, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill

The Douglas Complex Fire was one of the most complex and technically challenging incidents OSFM resources have faced in recent memory. The Green Team's integration with the ODF IMT at the Douglas and Government Flats Complexes was highly successful and received high praise. Our personnel planned and facilitated a VIP briefing for the Governor, Oregon's two U.S. Senators, and many other state, county, and local dignitaries. The visit was a huge success.

For a time, the Douglas Complex Fire was #1 on the national priority list and resources flooded into Glendale from around the country as a result. At its height, there were more than 3,000 personnel on this fire alone. The Government Flats Complex had been as high as #4 nationally and had different, but nearly equal, challenges as the Douglas Complex.

see *SFM Wallace* page 3



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Everyone should
be proud of their
efforts, and you
have my thanks
for a job well
done.
- SFM Mark Wallace

The Pacifica Fire threatened about 150 primary residences, the Douglas Complex threatened 470 primary residences, the GC Complex threatened 210 residences, and the Government Flats Complex threatened 150 residences. Most residences had one or more outbuildings as well. At least four residences and numerous outbuildings have been consumed so far this season.

FEMA declarations have been received for the Pacifica Fire, the Douglas Complex, and the Government Flats Complex which will eventually result in 75% of the approved costs of the deployments being reimbursed by FEMA.

Fire fatalities seem to be up this year, looking at national trends. Firefighter safety must continue to be the number-one priority for all deployed firefighters. But we know that wildland firefighting is inherently dangerous. Injuries to OSFM mobilized personnel have been minimal, except to those injured. Still, everyone must remain diligent and situationally aware when on any fire line. The combination of steep slopes, intense fires, and gravity has made for some unwanted surprises rolling down the slope. Add poison oak and angry bees along the fire lines and the safety risks to our mobilized personnel increase. The incident safety officers were kept busy trying to stay ahead of the hazards.

Although final numbers are not yet complete, the assessed value of property saved far exceeds the cost of the deployments.

Everyone involved with the Task Forces, Strike Teams, IMTs, Fire Defense Boards, and the AOC for these incidents should be proud of their efforts, and you have my thanks for jobs well done.

Free incident commander course in October

Oregon Emergency Management and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training will host an EMI sponsored regional offering of a L-950: ICS Position Specific All Hazards Incident Commander course, October 21-25, 2013, at the Public Safety Academy in Salem, Oregon. Visit the [DPSST training webpage](#) for more information.

Two more Oregon wildland firefighter line of duty deaths

In less than a week's span, two Oregon firefighters died while on duty helping to battle two different Oregon wildfires.

- On August 1, **John Hammack**, 58, of Madras was killed while taking out trees at a fire line in the Mt. Washington Wilderness in the Sisters Ranger District.

The injuries occurred as the tree fallers worked to suppress a fire caused by a lightning storm which began the day before. The partner working with Hammack suffered non-fatal injuries. The pair worked for R&K Water Services out of Bonney Lake, Washington.

Hammack was born and raised in Sisters. According to his obituary, he was considered one of the best bareback riders in the Northwest and won rodeos across the country.

- On August 6, **Jesse Trader**, 19, was killed when the water tanker he was driving rolled down an embankment as he was returning from night shift work on the Big Windy Complex about 25 miles north west of Grants Pass.

Trader was working this summer for his uncle's fire suppression company out of Merlin called County Fire and Rescue.

He had just been accepted to Chemeketa Community College to study to be an emergency medical technician.

Annual fallen firefighter memorial

The 2013 Oregon Fallen Firefighters Memorial ceremony is scheduled for 1 p.m., Thursday, September 19, 2013, at the Oregon Public Safety Academy, 4190 Aumsville Highway SE, Salem.

The memorial honors all Oregon firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the line of duty.

Uniform protocol: Class A preferred. Memorial bands should be worn over badges. For more information, contact Julie Olsen-Fink at 503-378-2297 or Julie.olsen-fink@state.or.us.

SERC/LEPC update

by State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace

One of the statutory responsibilities of the State Fire Marshal is to undertake all duties of a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) as required by the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986 (EPCRA), (ORS 453.520 and 42 USC Chapter 116). In many states, the SERC is located within the state Office of Emergency Management, but that's not the case in Oregon.

OSFM's Sue Otjen serves as the SERC coordinator and Terry Wolfe supports the local community emergency response planning efforts as described by Section 11003 of EPCRA.

There are four main SERC duties:

- Designating Emergency Planning Districts (EPDs) throughout Oregon,
- Establishing local emergency planning committees (LEPCs) within each EPD,
- Appointing members to each LEPC, and
- Providing comments on local community emergency response plans.

Recently, the SERC held an advisory committee meeting to get stakeholder input about the re-designation of Emergency Planning Districts. When the statute was originally enacted, there was one LEPC for the entire state. Over time, ten LEPCs were developed following the standard county model for LEPCs used nationwide. In some cases there are counties that have worked together to form a single LEPC. Because of the existing ten LEPCs (basically by county), there was a need to revisit and re-designate emergency planning districts across Oregon. Counties desiring to combine LEPC efforts with another county can do this through an MOU or MOA process filed with the SERC. This will document the status of two or more EPDs for LEPC purposes.

Based on the input of meeting attendees, the consensus was to continue the county model and allow counties to form an LEPC, or to continue combined LEPC efforts. This designation will be forthcoming with a scheduled public hearing (TBD) prior to a formal determination and designation of EPDs. For comments or questions contact Sue Otjen (see end of article).

The SERC also must maintain a membership list for each LEPC, as well as a list of LEPCs with a community emergency response plan that meets the nine required components as described in Section 11003 of EPCRA. This list will contain LEPCs that have submitted response plans to the SERC and whether their plan is compliant. Terry Wolfe can assist with planning efforts, and will review submitted plans to determine if they meet the components of EPCRA using the newly designed cross-walk.

There has been confusion about the planning piece. There is no requirement to change or reformat existing plans. Although there is an OPTIONAL planning template and a cross-walk to assist LEPCs in ensuring their plans are compliant, there is no state requirement to use either. Existing county emergency plans will more than likely meet or exceed the nine EPCRA planning components (using their basic plan combined with their hazardous materials annex). The SERC will compare submitted plans to the requirements using the cross-walk. Plans with all nine components and a completed cross-walk will be on file at the SERC. If any of the plan components are missing, the SERC will notify the LEPC and, using the cross-walk, indicate the missing component(s).

EPCRA stipulates that LEPCs review their community emergency response plans annually. Any time plans are revised, updated, or changed, a copy of the plan should be sent to the SERC for a new review, using the same cross-walk.

The planning template is simply a resource for new or existing LEPCs without an emergency response plan. However, ALL LEPC plans should be compliant and coordinated with their county disaster plan, emergency management plan, or emergency operations plan (all three titles are used, depending upon the local preference of a county's emergency management office). County emergency management offices have jurisdictional authority over county emergency planning, NOT the SERC. The SERC only deals with hazardous materials issues according to the requirements of the Community Right-to-Know program. All-hazard or all-risk planning is the purview of the Oregon Office of Emergency Management.

The West, Texas explosions are one of the latest examples of why LEPCs need to exist and operate effectively. The aftermath of this incident provides

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DATA Connection

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*News from the Data Collection & Research Unit
by Program Coordinator Dave Gullledge*

The life of an incident report

Have you ever wondered what happens to an incident report once it gets completed, or why the state even requires them to begin with? We will explore those questions in this edition.

An incident report begins at the local fire department, where it is created in an electronic format by someone in the department. This report provides details such as where and when the incident occurred, who was involved, and if it was a fire, what caused it, where it started, and many other important details.

Once the report is complete, some departments have one or more senior staff members review it for accuracy and completeness. Reviews of reports are not required, but are based on the preference or standard operating guidelines of each department. This is where incorrect information is edited, or missing information is added.

How the report gets to the OSFM depends on what software the department uses. Most departments in Oregon use the free reporting software provided by the state called Fire Bridge™, while other departments use independently purchased software.

Departments using Fire Bridge™ automatically submit their reports to the state when they click the “Save” button after filling out the report. Any reviews, edits, or changes can still be made to the report after it is sent. Once reviews are done and changes made, the department doesn’t need to do anything else.

Departments that do not use Fire Bridge™ for incident reporting, compile their reports over a certain period (usually a week or a month), then submit them to the state all at once; this is after the department has done a review and made necessary changes.

So why does the state require incident reports to be submitted? Certainly not to simply give local fire departments something to do; the state requires all fire departments to submit incident reports to the state primarily to get an understanding of the fire problem and determine how to best address it.

What is causing fires in Oregon to start? Where are they starting? Why do some fires spread while others don’t? Is there a certain type of appliance causing fires? These are all questions requiring us to compile specific information in order to come up with answers.

That is where the state comes in. Once we receive an incident report, it becomes part of an ongoing analysis conducted on the various incidents that fire departments respond to. It helps us answer those and many other questions. It also enables us to identify trends that may not be evident at a local level. For instance, a defective toaster that starts a fire in one town may not draw much attention. However, when that same brand of toaster has started dozens of fires across the state, timely reporting from local departments allows us to quickly identify the problem and take appropriate action.

In addition to conducting ongoing analysis of incident reports, every month the state sends incident reports that are fully complete to the U.S. Fire Administration where they undergo more comprehensive analysis. Other organizations and agencies such as the National Fire Protection Association and the Consumer Product Safety Commission also use incident reports from the national database for analysis, research, and improving safety.

After making the trek from the local to the federal level, incident reports are warehoused as legal documents of record. In Oregon, they are required to be retained for 10 years at the local level and 15 years at the state level. Any reports involving a loss of life must be retained for 75 years.

The aim of the fire service is to protect and save lives. So, as you can see, one incident report can go a long way to contributing a wealth of information towards this end.

The best way to protect something is to prevent it from being in harm’s way. Identifying and understanding what causes these incidents is the best way to prevent them from happening.

Questions? Please contact the Data Collection & Research Unit at 503-934-8250, toll free at 877-588-8787, or email osfm.data@state.or.us.

SERC/LEPC update

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some lessons learned. Each designated emergency planning district in the state should have an LEPC. Each EPCRA compliant LEPC needs the following:

- A chairperson,
- Rules or bylaws that stipulate the number of LEPC members it takes to have a quorum,
- The date of official meetings (only an annual meeting is required, but most meet more often than once per year),
- To invite a list of potential members to the LEPC using the categories for membership listed in EPCRA (42 USC Chapter 116) [invited to participate, but not required to participate],
- To request appointment of LEPC members to the SERC (by name and who they represent), and
- To have and use a community emergency response plan.

After the West, Texas explosion, the news media focused on several questions:

- Did the first responders know what the hazard was at the facility?
- Did the West Fire Department, the West LEPC, or the county have a pre-incident plan for this facility? If so, had they visited the site and trained their response people according to their plan? And did they follow the plan during initial response prior to the explosion?
- Did West, Texas have a Local Emergency Planning Committee?
- Did the facility provide the required hazardous substance information to the fire department, the LEPC, and the SERC as required by EPCRA?
- Where else in the U.S. are the same chemicals stored, and
- Are we prepared for a similar incident in Oregon?

The SERC serves as a record keeper, facilitator, and coordinator for hazardous materials emergency planning within Oregon. It does not replace

the need for an LEPC in each emergency planning district, or for the locally developed and maintained community emergency response plans that deal with the hazards and risks associated with facilities that store and use hazardous materials. The SERC has no oversight of OEM generally, and no enforcement authority over LEPC or community emergency response plans.

We are available to advise, assist, coordinate, and collaborate with LEPCs, facilities storing hazard substances, fire departments, and other first responders. However, once the Emergency Planning Districts are designated, the responsibilities fall on those within that EPD to comply or not comply with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986.

It must be noted that the Office of State Marshal does have mandates and enforcement authority concerning facilities that must report their storage of hazardous substances according to the State's Community Right-to-Know (CR2K) program. This program is located within the Emergency Response Branch of OSFM and is under the direction of Assistant Chief Deputy Mariana Ruiz-Temple.

For SERC, LEPC, and community emergency response plan questions contact Sue Otjen at 503-934-8227 or sue.otjen@state.or.us, or contact SERC Plans Analyst Terry Wolfe at 503-934-8245 or terry.wolfe@state.or.us. CR2K questions can be directed to CR2K staff at 503-934-8353 or sfm.cr2k@state.or.us.

Ethanol safety seminar September 16

The Renewable Fuels Association in partnership with the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal is hosting two free ethanol safety seminars September 16, 2013, in Boardman, Oregon. First seminar is 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., second is 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Attendance is free, but limited to 100 people per seminar. Register at www.rfa.traincaster.com. For questions, contact 402-391-1930 or email safety@ethanolrfa.org. This training is funded by the Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness grant program administered through the OSFM.



Tungsten Hexafluoride WF_6

Description:

- Synonyms: Tungsten (VI) fluoride
- Odorless, colorless or yellow gas or liquid
- CAS No.: 7783-82-6
- EPA Section 302 EHS: Not listed
- EPA Section 112, : Not listed
- EPA Section 304 EHS: Not listed
- OSHA PSM: Not listed

NFPA 704 Information:

- Health: 3 - 4
- Flammability: 0
- Reactivity: 2
- Special: water reactive

Uses and Occurrences:

- Synthesized, not naturally occurring
- Used in semiconductor circuits

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Negligible fire hazard
- Vapor density (air = 1): 10.6
- Boiling point: 63-68° F
- Oxidizer
- Decomposes in water forming corrosive hydrofluoric acid
- May ignite or explode on contact with combustible materials
- Reacts violently with tetramethoxysilane
- Incompatibles include combustible materials, reducing agents, acids, metals, and moisture

Health Hazards:

- IDLH: 250 mg/m³
- LC₅₀ (inhalation rat): 1430 mg/m³
- OSHA PEL (TWA): 2.5 mg/m³
- Highly toxic by inhalation
- Corrosive to all tissues
- Ingestion causes burns, paralysis, convulsions, coma

Fire Fighting Measures:

- Extinguishing media: regular foam, dry powder, carbon dioxide, water spray or fog
- Use extinguishing agents appropriate for surrounding fire
- Cool containers with water spray
- Do not get water inside containers

- Withdraw immediately in case of rising sound from venting safety devices or discoloration of tank
- Stay upwind and keep out of low areas

2008 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- Shipping name: Tungsten hexafluoride
- Hazard Classes: Toxic gases (2.3); Corrosive (8)
- UN/NA: 2196; Guide #125 Gases – Corrosive
- Spill: Initially isolate 330 feet in all directions
- Table 1: Large spill first isolate 500 feet in all directions

2010 Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(2)

- Corrosive Gas (MAQs are for liquefied state)
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
 - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 150 pounds
 - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 300 pounds
 - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 150 lbs (note e only)
 - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 300 pounds

Incident Reporting and Information:

- Facilities reporting Tungsten hexafluoride on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey: eight
- Hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: one

References include:

- [NOAA Cameo Chemicals – Tungsten hexafluoride](#)
- [Airgas, Inc., MSDS Tungsten hexafluoride](#)
- [Matheson Tri-Gas, Inc, MSDS Tungsten hexafluoride](#)
- [Specialty Gases of America, Inc., Tungsten hexafluoride](#)
- [EPA List of Lists, October 2012](#)

For questions or suggestions, contact Aleta Carte at 503-934-8262 or aleta.carte@state.or.us.

Working together to improve Oregon's fire safety

by retired firefighter Tim Birr

Oregon's fire service has come a long way since I donned my first set of cotton canvas turnouts nearly 40 years ago. Improvements in equipment, formal incident command protocols, increased use of technology, and better protective apparel are just some examples of the progress we've made.

But equally important is the progress we've made in managing our state's fire problem. Fires are not a series of random, unconnected events. Fire is a recurring, predictable social phenomenon. With the passage of time and enhancements in information technology, the Office of State Fire Marshal's Data Unit has become increasingly sophisticated at identifying patterns and trends.

Since 2009, these efforts have been further enhanced by the formation of the [Oregon Fire Casualty Review Committee \(OFCRC\)](#), a group that reviews all Oregon fires involving deaths or serious injuries and issues periodic reports on factors common to these most tragic incidents.

A key part of managing the fire problem is focused, targeted public awareness and education; giving people the information they need to avoid being victimized. And, since 2000, the statewide focal point for this activity has been the [Oregon Life Safety Team \(OLST\)](#).

Formed as one of the recommendations of Life Safety 2000, a model plan to reduce risks statewide from fire and related emergencies, the OLST is staffed by representatives from Oregon counties, liaisons from various state fire service associations, the Oregon Burn Center, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, to name a few.

Team members bring their own experience from respective corners of the state, review data from the OFCRC, and collectively make important decisions about informational priorities, messages,



and campaigns. Many Oregon fire agencies lack the resources to produce high quality educational materials, such as brochures, DVDs, and CDs. With the support of the OSFM, the OLST team creates materials local agencies can use to educate their communities.

I've enjoyed my service with the OLST, and highly recommend it. You don't need to be a public educator or prevention specialist; just someone with creativity and a desire to make Oregon a safer place.

For more information on joining the Oregon Fire Casualty Review Committee, contact Dave Gullledge at 503-934-8273 or dave.gullledge@state.or.us. For more information on joining the Oregon Life Safety Team, contact Stephanie Stafford at 503-934-8219 or stephanie.stafford@state.or.us.

Positive action awards

The OSFM Positive Action Committee, represented by Manager Mariana Ruiz-Temple, recently recognized two employees.

Community Right-to-Know Compliance Specialist Gordon Simeral was recognized for "exemplifying leadership and teamwork. He has a positive attitude and has taken on projects and other duties that have helped improve our office. His leadership in the Community Right-to-Know unit over the past year has been outstanding."



Community Liaison Rich Hoover was recognized for "demonstrating a positive approach when assisting others and readily making himself available for others. He is approachable, reliable, and a valuable team member. His proficient skills and attention to detail ensure the OSFM provides professional reports to its customers."



Anyone in or outside the OSFM may nominate an employee for recognition by [using our online form](#) or those available at the reception desk at the Salem office.