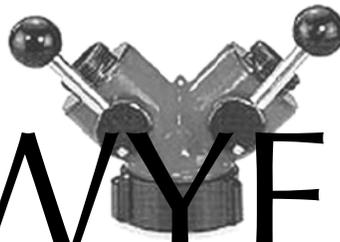


# GATED WYE



March 2014 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 362

## March 9th time change is a chance to update your smoke alarm message - Test Batteries Before Replacing Them

Since 2002, Oregon law has required all ionization-only smoke alarms that are solely battery powered to come equipped with a 10-year battery and a hush feature. Some alarms with 10-year batteries are also made to be tamper proof. Because of these requirements the historical national slogan “Change your clock, change your battery,” may not apply to many Oregon households who have alarms with 10-year batteries.

The OSFM and the Oregon Life Safety Team are encouraging all Oregon fire agencies to update their smoke alarm safety messages to reflect this difference in Oregon law.

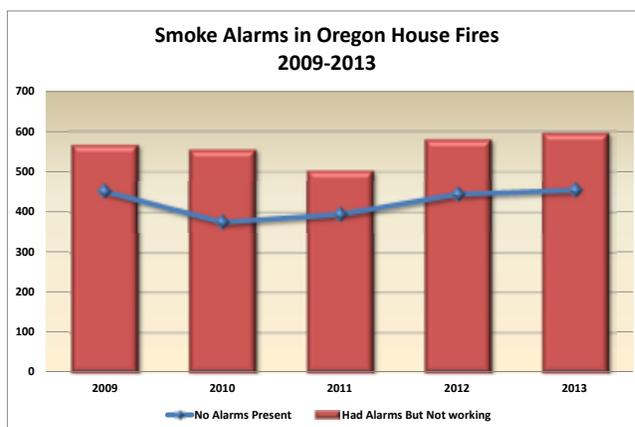
“It’s time for all fire agencies in Oregon to change their message to better reflect Oregon statute,” said State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace.

“Departments need to encourage their constituents to be more knowledgeable about the type of alarms and batteries they have and the correct way to maintain them.”

“We would like to see all Oregon fire agencies stress at least the following three main themes with their smoke alarm education,” said Wallace.

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

The OSFM has several resources available free to any Oregon fire agency to enhance their smoke alarm public education efforts. Visit the [OSFM Fire and Life Safety Education program webpage](#) to view, order, or download fire safety materials.



Data submitted to the OSFM shows that over the past five years, there has been a slight increase in Oregon homes without working smoke alarms or any alarms at all.



The OSFM urges fire agencies to encourage residents to test their smoke alarm batteries before automatically replacing them. For questions, contact Stephanie Stafford at [stephanie.stafford@state.or.us](mailto:stephanie.stafford@state.or.us) or 503-934-8219.

## From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



**A fire department dinner or breakfast is always more than just a fund raiser.”**

– SFM Mark Wallace

### You leave a legacy with your community

**M**y attendance at recent volunteer appreciation events, recent retirements, and the dedication of a new firefighter statue at the Scotts Mills Fire Station got me thinking about the legacy of long-term firefighters and the effect they, and all firefighters, have on the spirit of a community.

The fire service was a lot different 30, 40, or 50 years ago when some of our recently (or soon to be) retired firefighters began their fire service journey. The significant changes these folks encountered and then overcame are impressive, but also mind-boggling are the ways they adapted to the new realities of their communities. If you doubt this, just sit down with one of these amazing individuals and ask them about their career. Some have three or four generations of firefighters in the family; all have great stories. Through all the stories however, the thing that never changes is their commitment to helping neighbors and being an integral part of a fire service family.

In many Oregon communities, the local fire department is at the forefront of nearly every event with firefighters in a prominent place, playing essential roles in just about everything. A fire department dinner or breakfast is always more than just a fund raiser.

If anyone doesn't know who to call to get some needed assistance, they call their friend and neighbor who is a member of the fire department. When a community needs something done that they think is too difficult or complex, more often than not the local firefighters come up with a solution. Tell the firefighters that a needed fire station remodel costs more money than available in the budget and pretty soon the firefighters will figure out how to build it themselves.

I recently saw several examples of this that resulted in excellent, high-quality projects completed under-budget, because the firefighters took



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& Intervention  
503-934-8240



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## **SFM Wallace**

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on the effort. Their quality work was obvious, as was their enormous pride when showing off their work. In many communities the list of innovative, creative, and self-directed successes will be long and on-going.

It would be great if a community always had the money necessary when it had an important need. In reality, it's simply not the case. Although this is nothing new we, the members of the fire service, often find ways to achieve our goals and complete needed projects. It's been that way throughout my career and it's a common trait of firefighters everywhere. It's these types of efforts that are a large part of your lasting legacy.

As your state fire marshal, I am fortunate to have opportunities to travel around the state and visit many Oregon fire departments and meet with fire service personnel. The commitment, dedication, and pride that I constantly see among Oregon firefighters is heartwarming. Oregon is a better place because of its fire departments and the people that choose to serve. Thank you!

## **OFSOA Spring Workshop**

The Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators is hosting their 2014 spring workshop April 17 & 18 at the North Lincoln Fire and Rescue Taft Fire Station in Lincoln City.

Workshop topics include Public Education & Information, Accreditation Information, Communicating with your Chief, Front Office Safety & Violence in the Workplace, Self-Defense, How to Respond to a Crisis in the Workplace, and more.

The workshop fee for OFSOA members is \$60, non-members are \$75.

The host hotel is the Best Western Plus-Landmark Inn. Register before March 31, to receive a discounted room rate.

For more information visit the OFSOA website or contact Lois Smith at [lsmith@nlfr.org](mailto:lsmith@nlfr.org) or 541-996-2233.

## **Free NFA training in Salem**

The Office of State Fire Marshal and Department of Public Safety Standards and Training are hosting two National Fire Academy courses in June 2014. Both trainings will be held at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem, Oregon.

### **Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention: Level II, June 5-6, 2014**

The Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention: Level II training is a two-day course based on the requirements of NFPA Standard 1035 pertaining to the Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention Specialist Level II. The course is designed for the person who is responsible or will be responsible for managing, developing, leading, and evaluating the youth firesetting prevention and intervention program.

### **Politics and the White Helmet June 3-4, 2014**

Politics and the White Helmet is a two-day course aimed at providing chief officers in fire and EMS agencies with an overview of ways to succeed and work within multiple levels of the political system. The training will look at the importance of a department's culture of power, influence, negotiation, and coalition building to be successful in gaining the support and understanding of citizens and others in the needs of the fire service.

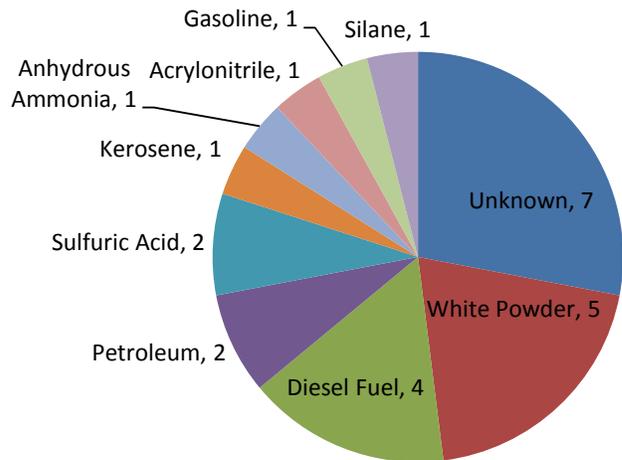
Dorm room lodging and meals are available at the Public Safety Academy for those traveling more than 75 miles one-way. For more information or to register for either course visit the [DPSST Fire Training webpage](#) or contact Thelma Denney at 503-378-2408 or [thelma.denney@state.or.us](mailto:thelma.denney@state.or.us).

## Summary of 2013 hazmat team activity

During 2013, Oregon Hazardous Materials Response Teams responded to more than 55 hazardous materials incidents meeting state criteria. Following is a list of teams and the number of incidents responded to for each.

Team	# of Incidents
Team 1 Roseburg	3
Team 2 Eugene	3
Team 3 Gresham/Mult Co	8
Team 4 Klamath Falls	4
Team 5 Linn/Benton	3
Team 7 Portland	11
Team 8 Medford	0
Team 9 TVF&R	5
Team 10 Hermiston	6
Team 11 Astoria	0
Team 13 Salem	7
Team 14 Ontario	5
Team 15 Coos Bay	0

Collectively, more than 39 different types of chemicals were identified by the Regional HazMat Emergency Response Teams. Here is a look at the top 10 chemicals involved in hazmat incidents during 2013:



Team members maintain a high level of knowledge and proficiency through training and experience. These skills are apparent in Oregon's success rate of mitigating hazardous materials incidents. The Oregon Hazardous Materials Response Teams provide an indispensable service to their communities by keeping the citizens of Oregon, their property, and the environment safe from hazardous materials.

## Registration opens March 10th for the 2014 hazmat conference

Oregon Hazardous  
Materials Response Teams  
Conference



May 13-15, 2014  
Seaside, OR

# HazMat Response: Geared up and On the Move



Click here to visit the  
webpage for more info

## DATA Connection

.....  
News from the Data Collection & Research Unit  
by Program Coordinator Dave Gullede

### 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 provided.

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 that there were 910 cooking fires in Oregon in 2011 is one point, but to state that those fires resulted in over \$11.1 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 the Oregon citizens.

***When we use your dollar value and loss data, we always indicate that the estimates are provided by on-scene firefighters 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 arm you with some tools to do this. A document titled *Standardized Fire Loss Reporting Best Practice Guideline* is available in the Data Unit's Reference Materials and Forms section on the [OSFM website](#).

In addition, here are some other 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](http://www.zillow.com) for free residential property value data. Look for assessor data that breaks down the building and land values.
- Visit [www.saylor.com](http://www.saylor.com) to purchase manuals on residential, commercial, and industrial construction costs.
- Your local realtor can be a helpful 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](http://www.kbb.com), or National Automobile Dealers Association at [www.nada.com](http://www.nada.com).

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

### Free OSFM training available

The OSFM Data Unit offers free training to any Oregon fire service agency on NFIRS incident reporting and the use of Oregon Fire Bridge.™ Training can be provided on-site and customized to meet the needs of your agency.

Ongoing NFIRS classes are also held the last Tuesday of every month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the OSFM headquarters in Salem and are available via webinar for those that cannot attend in person. Each monthly class covers the use and application of one of the eleven NFIRS modules, followed by a question & answer period. Contact the OSFM Data Unit to register for these monthly classes.

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](mailto:osfm.data@state.or.us).

## Window falls are a crucial education topic

by Portland Firefighter Jason Cunningham

What would your response be if a member of the public asks: Can screens keep kids from falling? What kind of window guard should I get for a three-year-old who likes to climb? We have to keep his bed near the window, but we don't want to nail the window shut; what do we do? Do you know? Like with car seats you need experts. After my son fell two stories and landed on concrete, I got to meet some of them.

Window falls turned out to be such a common problem there was a task force. In addition to the need for public awareness, there has been increasing media attention on children falling from windows. Are you or your department ready for that interview? Portland Fire Bureau and the Oregon Window Safety Task Force have collaborated to make [a six-minute training video](#) to improve the accuracy (and reduce liability) of information requested of fire resources after a high profile window fall.

The [stopat4 website](#) is also a good resource for window safety information.

I'm a Firefighter with Portland and a member of the task force. If you should have any questions please email [jasoncunningham@hotmail.com](mailto:jasoncunningham@hotmail.com) or call 360-828-4676. If a mailed DVD is necessary, we have them available at no charge.

After my own son fell out of a window three years ago, he is doing well and is indistinguishable from other first graders. Many aren't so lucky.

## Fire grant update

by Hines Asst. Chief/Grant Writer Jonathan Manski

The 2013 Assistance to Firefighter Grant peer panel reviews have been completed; expect to see the beginning of awards announcements at the end of this month. In my mind, there is a sense of urgency to get things moving and completed as quickly as possible in an effort to return to a more normal grant schedule. This means a mid/late summer 2014 AFG program release. That is optimistic, but not impossible.

The 2013 SAFER hiring grant program has been kind to Oregon departments in 2013... *very kind*. As this year's funding dwindles down, we stand at 10 awards for a whopping average award of over \$1 million. Compare that to the previous seven years' average award of just \$360 thousand in funding. Eighty percent of Oregon awards were in the Hiring category. This temporary good news likely indicates the tough economic shape many departments are in.

The 2013 fire prevention grants program is now open through March 21. Don't let frustration over past funding results impact your need to get help with your prevention program. Funding doesn't go far, but it does get passed around. The peer review panel for this grant has been set for the end of March and beginning of April.

For latest grant information, visit the [FEMA grants webpage](#).

## ODE releases radioactive transport report

The Oregon Department of Energy has released its summary on transportation of radioactive material in or through the state during 2013. ODE reports 554 shipments of radioactive materials entered or traveled in Oregon under the authority of the state's Radioactive Material Transport Permit Program. This compares to a similar number of shipments in recent years and represents a wide range of materials and hazards.

ODE also reported there were no transport accidents in Oregon resulting in spillage or injury from radioactive material. You can read the full report on the [ODE website](#).

For more information or to request a copy of the report, contact ODE Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness Division Administrator Ken Niles at 800-221-8035 or [ken.niles@state.or.us](mailto:ken.niles@state.or.us).



## Crude Oil (Bakken Crude)

### Description:

- A naturally occurring mixture of aromatic hydrocarbons and small amounts of sulfur and nitrogen compounds
- Dark brown liquid with a hydrocarbon-like odor
- Hazardous ingredient: Petroleum crude oil
- CAS No.: 8002-05-9
- EPA Section 302 EHS, 112<sub>R</sub>, and 304 EHS: Not listed

### NFPA 704 Information:

- Health: 3
- Flammability: 4
- Reactivity: 0
- Special: None

### Uses and Occurrences:

- Removed from shale rock by hydraulic fracturing

### Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Stable
- Highly flammable
- Flash point: -31° F
- LEL: 0.8%; UEL: 8% (estimated)
- Autoignition temperature: 482° F (estimated)
- Vapor density (air = 1): 2.5 – 5.0 (estimated)
- Sensitive to static discharge at normal temp.
- Specific gravity (water = 1): 0.7 - 0.8
- Boiling point: -40 to 986° F
- Percent volatiles, (v/v): 15 – 30 (estimated)
- Incompatible with strong oxidizing agents such as nitric acid, chlorine, and peroxide.
- Not affected by aqueous solutions of acids, alkalis, most oxidizing and reducing agents

### Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL, and IDLH: Not provided
- Liquid and vapor may cause irritation or burns to eyes, nose, and throat

### Fire Fighting Measures:

- Insoluble in water
- Extinguishing media: Appropriate foam, dry chemical, carbon dioxide
- Use of water spray may be inefficient
- Vapors may travel to a source of ignition and flash back

- Vapors are heavier than air and may spread along the ground and collect in low areas
- Withdraw immediately in case of rising sound from venting safety devices or discoloration of tank
- Fight fire from maximum distance or use unmanned hose holders or monitor nozzles. If not possible withdraw and let fire burn

### 2012 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- Shipping name: Petroleum Crude Oil
- Hazard Classes: Flammable Liquids (3)
- UN/NA: 1267; Guide # 128 Flammable Liquids (Non-Polar/Water Immiscible)
- Spill: Initially isolate 150 feet in all directions
- Large spill: Consider evacuating 1,000 feet
- If tank, rail car or tank truck is involved In a fire, isolate for ½ mile in all directions; consider evacuating ½ mile in all directions

### 2010 Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(1)

- Flammable liquid Class IA
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
  - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 30 gallons
  - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 60 gallons
  - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 60 gallons
  - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 120 gallons
  - Group when MAQ exceeded: H-2 or H-3

### Incident Reporting and Information:

- Facilities reporting crude oil on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey: three (one has Bakken crude oil)
- Hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: two

### References include:

- [Cameo chemicals – Crude Oil, Petroleum](#)
- [Cenovus Energy, Inc. – MSDS Light Crude Oil](#)
- [EPA List of Lists, October 2012](#)

**For questions or suggestions, contact Aleta Carte at 503-934-8262 or [aleta.cart@state.or.us](mailto:aleta.cart@state.or.us).**

## HFSC has new online consumer guide

The nonprofit Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) has launched new online content designed to help consumers learn about the life-saving benefits of fire sprinklers.

Available at no cost on [HFSC's website](#), the new Ask for Them! interactive guide provides consumers with easy to understand information in a fast-paced and entertaining format. Watch any or all of the 11 brief video segments in the menu that answer common questions about home fire sprinklers. Consumers can click through to direct links for more details about the technology and to watch additional videos online.

"If there's one thing we hear over and over from consumers, it's that they wish they'd known they could have asked their home builder for home fire sprinklers," says HFSC President Lorraine Carli.

A Harris Interactive® Survey commissioned by HFSC showed that 69 percent of U.S. homeowners say having fire sprinklers increases a home's value; 45 percent say a sprinklered home is more desirable.

"It is clear, our national fire problem is a *home* problem, with 92% of all structure fire deaths occurring in one- and two-family homes (NFPA)," Carli explains. "When a house is built with sprinklers, that means that many generations of families will be protected by the ultimate fire safety technology. If we are ever going to see an appreciable decrease in home fire injuries and deaths, we must increase fire sprinkler installations in our communities."

Improved public awareness is the key to that increase, says HFSC. Consumers who are thinking of building, buying, renting, or renovating a home will find useful answers to important questions about home fire safety in HFSC's new Ask for Them! online guide. The information is easy to understand and covers water supply, installation, how fire sprinklers work, simple maintenance, and much more. The interactive guide also addresses the most common myths about home fire sprinklers.

"Misinformation is our biggest communications challenge at HFSC, but more importantly, when it goes unchecked it undermines progressive home-building practice and the inclusion of fire sprinklers," Carli says. "Consumers in every community need access to the facts about home fire dangers as well as the many benefits of fire sprinkler protection. We are hopeful this new guide will help more consumers end up living in a fire-safe dream home."

Ask for Them! was funded in part by a U.S. FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant.

## Fire sprinkler system saves Ashland residents

Ashland Fire & Rescue responded to the report of a fire sprinkler activation at the Snowberry Brook Apartments on February 25, just after 1:00 p.m. Upon arrival, firefighters found that a kitchen fire had been controlled by an automatic fire sprinkler system.

The fire appeared to have started near a small kitchen appliance. There was no one home at the time of the fire, but the fire sprinkler system kept the fire from spreading beyond the kitchen. There are eight units in the building, and residents were able to return to their undamaged apartments after the incident.

In homes and apartments with residential fire sprinkler systems and working smoke alarms, the chance of surviving a fire is increased by 80%. Fire sprinklers even reduce firefighter injuries by 60%. (NFPA).

Fires in apartments without a residential fire sprinkler system commonly involve an entire room or more, most belongings are not salvageable, and frequently the fire displaces other residents in the complex.

