

# MINUTES

## Oregon Life Safety Team

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, April 28, 2011

**Time:** 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Office of State Fire Marshal, 4760 Portland Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305, Mt. Hood conference room



### Members, Representing:

Bob Wright, OSFM  
Bryan Emmons, Public at Large  
Candice Clark, OSFM  
Chris Dugan, Clatsop Co.  
Cindy Kettering, Crook & Deschutes Co.  
Curtis Ryun, OBC  
Daniel Hammel, Wasco Co.  
Darrell King, OFDDA  
Debbie McDermott, OFMA  
Ginger Slavens, Tillamook Co.  
Helen Feroli, OSFM  
Jim Kusz, Lincoln Co.

Joanne Hatch, Clackamas Co.  
Judy Okulitch, OSFM  
Joe Burchyski, CPSC  
Kris Babbs, ODF via T/C  
Laura Houston, OFSOA  
Les Hallman, OFCA  
Scott Goetchius, Multnomah Co.  
Sean Barrett, Lane Co. via T/C  
Sean Condon, Polk Co.  
Stephanie Mills, CPSC  
Stephanie Stafford, OSFM  
Tim Birr OFSC

### Guest, Agency:

Crosby Grindle, NFPA  
Dennis Mathisen, NFPA  
Jim Stewart, Salem FD

Tatum Sparks, WVCS  
Teri Apodaca, McMinnville FD Intern

Stephanie called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m., April 28, 2011.

Stephanie is filling in for Claire who is unable to be here today because she is in Eugene with the blue Incident Management Team assisting with the memorial planning process for Chris Kilcullen, the Eugene police officer shot in the line of duty.

### Regional and County Fire Service Reports:

#### Clackamas County – Joanne Hatch

- Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R) conducted their *Stop Kids from Intoxicated Driving (S.K.I.D.)* program at Sunset High School. They reached over 400 students. It is live action drama where firefighters, LifeFlight and other first responders demonstrate the ramifications of drinking and driving, not wearing your seatbelt, texting while driving, etc. to local students.
- TVF&R collaborated with the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to conduct a side by side burn on April 27. One hundred students from two Sherwood middle schools participated after completing a four class series on fire awareness, behavior, prevention, and education. The series was instructed by TVF&R's Amber Cross, Deputy State Fire Marshal. HFSC and NFPA sponsored the students so they could attend, paid for the busses and lunches and are co-sponsoring four residential fire sprinkler billboards for the metropolitan area.
- TVF&R collaborated with Smokefree Housing, Portland F&R, and Clackamas County, etc. to conduct a statewide proper disposal cigarette campaign using traditional and social media put on by Brian Barker.
- TVF&R's recent landlord training had over 45 attendees from around the Metro area.
- This is TVF&R's sixth year providing the Multi-Family Housing Fire Reduction workshop.

- Clackamas County conducted a weeklong statewide *STOP at 4*” (Stop Window Falls) campaign. Joanne offered those interested in joining this campaign material to take back to their agencies and invited them to visit: [www.stopat4.com](http://www.stopat4.com). Sign up and let them know you are part of the OLST. Partners involved include Joanne, fire departments, the Children’s Hospital, and Adrienne Greene from Safe Kids are listed as resources on back of the brochure.

**Clatsop County** – Chris Dugan

- Clatsop County safety fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2011 at Seaside Fire & Rescue.

**Crook County & Deschutes County** – Cindy Kettering

- Delivering the team teaching program to Crook and Deschutes Counties.
- Preparing for the Deschutes County *FireFree Clean Up Event*.
- Bend Fire Department held their Firewise workshop on April 14. Crosby Grindle, NFPA, was one of their speakers. Bend FD are working with several subdivisions in the Bend area to have them recognized as Firewise Communities.
- Central Oregon Builders Association Spring Home & Garden Show is scheduled for May 6-8 at the Deschutes County Fair Grounds. Bend FD will have a display on the carbon monoxide alarm law.
- Colleen Olson delivered the Smoke Alarm/Carbon Monoxide Alarm Rules/Law workshop to 45 local realtor/property management companies and realtors in Deschutes County on April 26.

**Lane County** – Sean Barrett

- Delivering the team teaching program to Lane County.
- Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue is running wildfire awareness ads for Wildfire Awareness Week.
- Siuslaw Valley F&R reached approximately 25,000 kids with the *Firebusters* program.

**Lincoln County** – Jim Kusz

- Lincoln County has been conducting tsunami preparedness outreach.

**Multnomah County** – Scott Goetchius

- Scott provided an update on Portland Fire & Rescue’s fire safety poster campaign for October. They will target third graders in Portland and had decided on three safety messages: candle, matches not lighters/tools not toys, and escape plans with a focus on safe meeting places. They received feedback wanting illegal firework safety added. Scott asked if members have ideas on how to approach and what to tell third graders about illegal fireworks, please email Scott at [scott.goetchius@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:scott.goetchius@portlandoregon.gov) if you have any feedback.
- Don Porth and Scott attended their Bureau of Development Services Landlord training. It focuses on crime prevention and property security with a small amount information on fire safety and smoke alarms. Portland F&R’s will be working with the organization to help provide enhance the presentations focus points.
- At this time Portland Fire & Rescue will continue sending landlords to TVF&R’s Landlord training that Joanne instructs. Scott thanked Joanne.

**Polk County** – Sean Condon

- No Report

**Tillamook County** – Ginger Slavens

- Tillamook County conducted *Every 15 Minute* a mock drunk driving crash presentation. Ginger believes this is very powerful when using local people, funeral homes, and police from their own community.

- Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District hosted a Department of Geology and Mineral Industry (DOGAMI) tsunami training. Nestucca RFPD has received a lot of interest in this training because of the recent tsunami event.
- Nestucca RFPD will break ground in June to start building their new Administration Office in Hebo, Oregon.

#### **Wasco County** – Daniel Hammel

- Wasco County, in collaboration with Hood River and Sherman Counties, has finished delivering the team teaching program.
- Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue belongs to a task force that is involved with disaster preparedness for the senior population. Daniel is using this as an opportunity to include the *Take Steps to prevent Fires/Falls* brochures and anticipates visiting about 500 seniors with help from *Meals on Wheels* program.

#### **Washington County** – Dave Nemeyer, Joanne Hatch & Storm Smith

Dave Nemeyer (report by email)

- Dave reported that on March 28, Forest Grove experienced their first fatal fire in 13 years. A 76 year old wheelchair bound female was killed in a fire when she was not able to get out of her restroom while the house burned. The fire was caused by a space heater too close to a couch in the living room where she had been sleeping in a hospital bed. .
- Forest Grove Fire & Rescue recently purchased a full colored video capable electronic message board, it is now fully operational. They are running weekly fire safety messages in English and Spanish. Dave is using the Home Fire Safety rack cards for his Spanish translations. The feedback has been very positive.

Joanne Hatch

- Washington County Safe Kids Zoo Event is scheduled for the May 7, 2011. In past years they have had over 5,000 children attend from Head Start.
- TVF&R in collaboration with Hillsboro F&R and Forest Grove F&R are conducting their Washington County Adult Foster Care training. They take turns delivering three sessions to their adult foster home care providers in Washington County.

Storm Smith (report by email)

- Hillsboro Fire & Rescue is continuing their *Exit Drills in the Home (EDITH)* training for all Hillsboro elementary school third graders in using small group demonstrations in a mobile classroom. So far they have visited 14 out of 23 schools and reached 840 students.
- Hillsboro Fire & Rescue has another smoke alarm campaign scheduled for May 5. They will be targeting their high risk neighborhoods.
- Hillsboro Fire & Rescue had a significant school bathroom fire at Beaverton's Health and Science campus in Hillsboro. Three girls will be charged with arson in the first degree and criminal mischief and another girl has been expelled from school for her participation in the trashcan fire that caused \$20,000 in damages.

#### **Yamhill County** – Debbie McDermott & Teri Apodaca

Debbie McDermott

- Amity Fire District conducted *Every 15 Minutes* where they have simulated accidents occurring throughout the day.
- Yamhill County had a county-wide community event focused on homeless or low income residents could obtain community services. McMinnville Fire Department participated in the six hour long event that reached 2,000 people.
- The Cruikshank Woodland Tour, an outdoor education event for Yamhill County fifth grade students, is scheduled for May 11-12.

Teri Apodaca

- Terri is a Chemeketa Community College student studying for her Fire Protection degree and interning at McMinnville Fire Department.

### **Federal, State, County, City and Private Agency Reports:**

#### **Consumer Product & Safety Commission (CPSC) – Joe Burchyski & Stephanie Mills**

Joe Burchyski

- CPSC's new incident reporting database is up and running. The public can report unsafe products or search for recalls & reports involving unsafe products by visiting: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) and clicking their hotlink to Safer Products or [www.saferproducts.gov](http://www.saferproducts.gov).

Stephanie Mills

- No Report

#### **Nation Fire Protection Association (NFPA) – Crosby Grindle & Dennis Mathisen**

Crosby Grindle

- Crosby is the northwest Regional Director for NFPA. He represents NFPA on a state and local level for his region (Alaska to Nebraska) His home office is in Bend, Oregon.

Dennis Mathisen

- Dennis is the new western Regional Fire Sprinkler Specialist, NFPA. His area covers 17 states and six time zones. Dennis has 26 years in the fire service, the last 14 years as a Division Chief/Fire Marshal for the Roseville Fire Department.
- He applauded and thanked TVF&R for their efforts on the April 27 side by side sprinkler burn demo, he believes the video is already on YouTube, and will be on 60 Minutes.

#### **Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) – Anita Phillips & Judy Okulitch**

Anita Phillips – License & Permits

- Anita provided a brief update on the fireworks bill SB 69. This bill revises provisions regulating sale, possession, use and explosion of fireworks. The bill will assist industry, businesses that need agricultural fireworks, and is a tool to help law enforcement to enforce illegal fireworks. The bill is up for the third reading and she believes all the questions are answered for when it moves to the house.

Judy Okulitch

- Helen Feroli and Judy have been busy traveling across the state delivering the new fire and burn prevention program for preschoolers in collaboration with the Safe Kids Coalition, statewide Head Start program and the Oregon Burn Center. They have conducted training for 75 people in Clatsop County, Coos Bay, Milton-Freewater, and Hermiston. They have upcoming training scheduled in Woodburn and Corvallis.
- Helen and Judy have presented a *Guide to Station Tours*, a new resource to complement what is being done in the classrooms. They hope to pick up their elementary and middle school curriculums from the printers in May.

#### **Oregon Burn Center (OBC) – Curtis Ryun**

- OBC is in the process of installing a new computer system.
- Seven OBC staff attended the National American Burn Association (ABA) convention in Chicago in March. Dr. Kamali conducted a pros and cons discussion panel, Helen Christian an Occupational Therapist conducted a presentation on mapping scars and skin color over a two year period with digital camera and Global Positioning System (GPS), and Curtis presented telephotography. In October OBC will host the Western Region ABA conference in Portland. Curtis will send Candice the dates.

**Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) – Rod Nichols & Kris Babbs**

Rod Nichols (report by email)

- Rod wanted members to know that ODF's Annual Pre-Season Fire Information Officers meeting is scheduled for May 25th, at ODF Headquarters in Salem. He invited those interested in becoming a Wildland Fire Public Information Officer to attend. For details, please contact Rod at 503-945-7425 or [rmichols@odf.state.or.us](mailto:rmichols@odf.state.or.us).

Kris Babbs

- Kris is the National Fire Plan Coordinator based out of Salem and the FireWise state liaison.

**Public at Large – Bryan Emmons**

- No Report

**Willamette Valley Christian School – Tatum Sparks**

- Tatum is the 2009 Silver Sparky Award Winner for helping to get the toylike lighter law passed in Oregon.

**Fire Service Association Reports:**

**Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) – Chief Les Hallman**

- No Report

**Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA) – Darrell King**

- Darrell provided legislative status updates:
  - SB 640 – establish fire service facilities that provide rural fire protection services to farm use zone. No problems so far.
  - SB 106 – modifying terminology relating to emergency medical services. The bill is dead until February.
  - HB 2075 – requiring prepaid cell phone users to pay the same tax as other phone users to support 9-1-1 emergency system. The bill is dead until February.
  - HB 2564 – adds Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association to list of entities eligible for individual income tax return check off contribution. The bill is dead until February.
  - HB 3038 – prohibits assessment of system development charge or standby charge for water meter of higher capacity installed to accommodate fire sprinkler system in one or two family dwelling. The bill is unknown at this time.
    - Dennis Mathisen informed members that HB 3038 has moved forward to the House Representatives Committee.
  - HB 5529 – appropriates moneys from General Fund to Oregon Health Authority for certain biennial expenses. This bill is dead.

**Oregon Fire Marshals Association (OFMA) – Debbie McDermott**

- No Report

**Oregon Fire Safety Coalition (OFSC) – Tim Birr**

- No Report

**Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators (OFSOA) – Laura Houston**

- No Report

**Agenda Items:**

**Residential Fire Sprinklers – Crosby Grindle/Dennis Mathisen**

Crosby gave a presentation on Residential Fire Sprinklers. This is NFPA's main focus and number one advocacy campaign. They are involved with the advocacy, education, legislative initiatives, and supporting statewide fire sprinkler coalitions. The Oregon Fire Sprinkler Coalition has a Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oregon-Fire-Sprinkler-Coalition/135922889757422>. Those that want to participate locally or would like a speaker from NFPA, contact Crosby.

#### The Fire Problem:

- According to the 2009 fire loss data 78% of structure fires are in homes, 76% of reported civilian fire injuries occurred in residential fires, 85% of civilian fire deaths occurred in the home, and 62% of property loss occurs in home structure fires.
- According to the 2009 smoke alarm report data 40% of home fire deaths occurred where no smoke alarms were available, 23% of home fire deaths occurred where smoke alarms were present but failed to operate, and 37% of home fire deaths occurred where smoke alarms were present and operating.
- The three groups that are at the highest risk and may not be able to exit on their own even with working smoke alarms are children under five, adults over 65, and persons with disabilities (this includes non permanent disabilities. Example: broken leg).
- Crosby shared a video of a side by side burn involving home furnishings by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) University. This video can be viewed at: [https://www.ul.com/room\\_fire/room\\_fire.html](https://www.ul.com/room_fire/room_fire.html). According to a UL Legacy study, modern home furnishings are burning hotter and faster than Legacy (70s era) home furnishings. The flashover for modern furnishings is 3:40 minutes vs. 29:25 minutes for legacy furnishings and escape time is decreasing from 17:00 minutes in 1975 to 3:00 minutes in 2006. Response times are based on resource availability.
- Home density is increasing and is causing fire from one home to affect neighboring homes.

#### The Solution:

- 13D home (residential) fire sprinklers they save lives and property. 13D residential fire sprinklers were designed for 1 & 2 family dwellings, they are life safety systems, required only in living areas, designed to prevent flashover, manage a single ignition source, and require no maintenance.
- Modern residential sprinklers are inconspicuous and can be mounted flush with walls or ceilings.

#### Sprinkler Benefits:

- Homes with fire sprinklers, compared to homes without sprinklers:
  - The death rate per fire in homes with sprinklers is lowered by 80%.
  - Property damage per fire is lowered by up to 97% (per the recent environmental study done by FM Global)
  - 90% of fires are contained by just one sprinkler head. This uses less water and means less water damage than would be caused by fire hose streams.
- A Scottsdale 15 year case study report showed zero fire deaths in homes with home fire sprinklers and 13 fire deaths in homes without sprinklers. Their average fire loss per incident with home fire sprinklers was \$2,166 and without home fire sprinklers was \$45,019.
- There are lower insurance rates for homes with home fire sprinklers.
- Prevents flashover which creates a safer environment for occupants and improves firefighter safety.
- Crosby showed the Time vs. Products of Combustion screen shot from the Home Fire Sprinkler banner provided to OSFM from Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, and offered members sprinkler education handouts.

#### Statewide Requirements:

- He provided a legislative update on other states which are mandating residential sprinklers. California tried to challenge this mandate and failed because of Dennis, Pennsylvania failed to mandate residential sprinklers, Maryland's statewide requirement is being adopted (locality based), South Carolina has delayed enforcement until January 2014, Arizona passed the sprinkler prohibition legislation (they can no longer require fire sprinklers), Montana tried to ban home fire sprinklers and failed, and Washington is having a positive outcome that hopefully spills over to Oregon.

Concern (myths & lack of awareness):

- The entire system will activate – no.
- They are activated by smoke – no, they are activated by heat.
- They are too expensive – no, the average cost is \$1.61 a square foot and the permit, water service, and connection fees are included.

Analysis/Studies:

- NIST *Benefit-Cost Analysis of Residential Fire Sprinklers* study showed a reduction in homeowner insurance premiums, uninsured direct and indirect property losses, and present value of new benefits (dollar figure for the value of the home).
- *Incentives for use of Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems in the US* study showed financial trade-offs, design flexibility and in general about a third of the cost offsets for builder.
- *Comparative Analysis of Housing Cost and Supply Impacts of Sprinkler Ordinances at the Community Level*. Reviews different sets of communities (four communities' total), very similar in demographics and geography. One had a sprinkler ordinance and one didn't. The analysis revealed no detrimental effects and a small increase in the sale of homes with sprinklers. The realtors reported they marketed it as selling the safest homes in the area.

Concern (should be a matter of choice):

- It is only a matter of choice for first time buyer of a custom home that hasn't been built yet. Sometimes you don't have a choice because the builder does not offer sprinklers as a choice or the house was already built when you bought it and would be too costly to retro fit.

Resources:

- Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) has educational resources available [www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org).
- Fire sprinkler Initiative is a coordinated effort to provide resources for the fire service and other sprinkler advocates [www.firesprinklerinitiative.org](http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org).
- Faces of Fire is an fire is a grant funded program designed to put a face on the issue of home fires it includes video and written interviews by people impacted by fire: victims, families and survivors of victims, fire chiefs, firefighters, etc. [www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/faces](http://www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/faces).
- Common Voices they have videos and PSAs available [www.fireadvocates.org](http://www.fireadvocates.org).
- Crosby Grindle at 541-948-3146 or [cgrindle@nfpa.org](mailto:cgrindle@nfpa.org).

Discussion:

- Dan H. – The local water department asked wants to know what potential liabilities they would have if they shut a customer's water off for failure to pay.
  - Crosby said HB 3038 attempts to alleviate their concern there is an element that removes liability from water providers due to water supply shut off.
  - Dan said the local water department would like to see sprinklers have a dedicated line so if they could shut the water off and it would not affect the sprinkler system.
- Jim K. asked what the resistances that insurance companies have are.
  - Crosby said they have found that agents who are educated are not resistant and are active supporters of and push for sprinklers.
- Jim K. is trying to get a hold of the producers of Myth Busters to see if they will do a segment to show that not all the sprinkler heads go off and bust other myths associated with sprinklers.
  - Members think this is a good idea.
- Stephanie asked Crosby to give a status on what the Oregon Fire Sprinkler Coalition is working on.
  - Crosby said right now in Oregon we have the ability to do a local adoption, nothing is preventing us, no localities have done a full adoption, and we have to get approval from building codes.
  - Legislation and HB 3038 water barrier elimination/water meter up charge bill is designed to limit the amount that water providers can charge for increasing the meter size due to the installation of residential fire sprinklers.

## **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Update – Stephanie Stafford**

Stephanie provided a brief update on the new CO Law. As of April 1, 2011 Oregon law requires CO alarms to be installed by landlords in all rentals and seller of home and new construction if containing a CO source.

- Stephanie shared a photo of a billboard by First Alert that read “Breathe Easy, Oregon, carbon monoxide alarms now required by law”, Claire and Stephanie heard radio ads stating “most homes require carbon monoxide alarms”, and Candice received a CO alarm brochure at a Lowe’s Build & Grow Clinic.

### **Discussion:**

- Some of the questions fire agencies are receiving are in regards to what are CO sources and where do they install CO alarms.
  - Install alarms according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
  - For more information and recommendations visit Office of State Fire Marshal’s Carbon Monoxide web page at [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/CommEd\\_CO\\_Program.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/CommEd_CO_Program.shtml).
  - If you have questions, contact Colleen Olson at 503-934-8228 or [colleen.olson@state.or.us](mailto:colleen.olson@state.or.us).

## **Subcommittees – Stephanie Stafford**

Stephanie passed the subcommittee sign up list around to members and offered them the opportunity to join, switch, or remove themselves from subcommittees.

- The subcommittees we had included: Campus (College/University) Fire Safety, Water Safety was formerly known as Beach Safety, Home Fire Safety, and Smoke Alarms. The Seniors (Older Adults) is now closed.
- We have added a new subcommittee on Educational Messages this group will work on creating standard messaging for Oregon so we can have a published unified document for public educators to use as a resource when creating a brochure, etc.
- We received a suggestion to consider Social Media Context.
- The next OLST meeting is May 19, 2011 and will be subcommittees meeting only.
- Joanne asked if we could start a CO subcommittee or add it to the Smoke Alarms subcommittee.
  - Stephanie said CO Alarms could be added to the Smoke Alarms subcommittee.

## **Other Business:**

Anita Phillips reported that OSFM in collaboration with the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) is developing a billboard, posters, and flyers to talk about fireworks are prohibited on beaches, in parks, campgrounds, and possibly forests. They collaborated with OPRD on this in the past. These materials will be available and can be tailored to individual fire agencies that include a place for an agency logo.

- They are trying to get a real short message on the materials and asked if members have any messaging to share, please contact Anita at 503-934-8264 or [anita.phillips@state.or.us](mailto:anita.phillips@state.or.us).
- They are collaborating with Coos County Sheriffs Office, Coos Bay Fire Department, and Hauser Rural Fire Protection District to have a billboard in Coos Bay because we have received several complaints regarding illegal fireworks there.
- Jim K. asked if there is an interest in putting a billboard in the north coast area.
  - Anita did not no there was a problem there and will ask if they can expand.

Judy Okulitch wanted members to know that Helen and Judy are working with *Inclusive Preparedness Center* on escape planning for children with special needs (examples: Asperger’s syndrome, autism, in a wheelchair).

- Judy invited members to take the *Emergency Preparedness for people with Disabilities and Other Vulnerable Populations* materials back to their agencies and communities.

Stephanie presented Candice with a gift basket from Colleen and Stephanie for Administrative Professionals Day. Candice has taken the OLST minutes for the past three years and is responsible for packaging, distributing and keeping inventory of fire prevention and safety materials, smoke alarms, etc.

**Adjournment:** 3:40 p.m.