

MINUTES



Oregon Life Safety Team

Meeting Date: Thursday, July 21, 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
Claire McGrew, OSFM
Colleen Olson, OSFM
Darrell King, OFDDA
Dave Fields, OSFM
Dave Wheeler, Deschutes Co.
Debbie McDermott, OFMA
Ginger Slavens, Tillamook Co.

Jeff Cranford, Yamhill Co.
Jim Kusz, Lincoln Co.
Krista Fischer, OSFM
Laura Houston, OFSOA
Les Hallman, OFCA
Sean Condon, Polk Co.
Stephanie Mills, CPSC
Stephanie Stafford, OSFM
Storm Smith, Washington Co

Guest, Agency:

Renee Stryker, OSFM

Rich Hoover, OSFM

Claire called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., July 21, 2011.

Regional and County Fire Service Reports:

Deschutes County – Dave Wheeler

- Deschutes County is preparing for various events.

Lincoln County – Jim Kusz

- Jim represents North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District and Depoe Bay Fire District.
- *Lincoln County Fair* held July 8-10, 2011 in Newport featured McMinnville Fire Department's home fire sprinkler trailer. Jim collaborated with Crosby Grindle, regional director of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and firefighters from Newport and Siletz to conduct the side-by-side demonstration. Jim shared photos and a video of the demonstration.
- Jim asked members how many of us besides McMinnville, have used the side-by-side trailer.
 - Jeff and Debbie both said Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue and Bend Fire Department.
- Claire asked how long it takes to rebuild after a demonstration.
 - Debbie say McMinnville FD asks the borrower to return it the way it left and is ready to go out, they do not supply any furniture, and the borrower is responsible for transporting to and from. They suggest the borrower make the furniture coordinate as much as possible (they furnish it like a dorm room when they taking it to Linfield College). The burn side needs the sheetrock replaced after each demonstration and they can get several demonstrations out of the sprinkler side. The plexiglass costs \$200-\$300.
- Oregon Volunteer Firefighter Association (OVFA) annual conference was held June 22-25, 2011 in Lincoln City. OVFA will be displaying their mobile billboards throughout the Oregon coast, currently in Nestucca and Lincoln City. The mobile billboard in Lincoln City features volunteer firefighter recruitment banners.
- Jim displayed the Jeep *Rescue Willy* and the boat *Water Safety Billie* and created a *beach safety surfboard* with beach safety messages to display at the *Gleneden Fourth of July Parade* and the *Dory Days Parade*.
- Jim also conducted five beach safety and four fire safety presentations this month.

Polk County – Sean Condon

- Dallas Fire Department is currently undergoing seismic upgrades.
- Dallas Police and Fire Departments are conducting their annual *Junior Fire and Police Academy* on August 1-5, 2011. The event is offered to students in second through sixth grades.
- Dallas Fire Department will conduct hydro car racing during the *Dallas Summer Fest* on July 28-31, 2011. They propel three and four wheeled vehicles down the street using 2 ½ inch hose lines.

Tillamook County – Ginger Slavens

- No Report

Washington County – Storm Smith

- Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue has conducted over 350 events this year to date, 57 events in June which include the *Sherwood Safety Fair* held at Station 33 in Sherwood that reached 900 people.
- Washington County Fire District #2 conducted school safety fairs and delivered fire and life safety to the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts Summer Camp Programs in their district.
- Hillsboro Fire & Rescue is continuing their monthly smoke alarm campaigns. Two teams go out once a month installing on average nine smoke alarms and finding a 40% failure, misuse, or missing rate every time.
- Hillsboro Police and Hillsboro F&R completed their second session of *Safety Town* a safety camp for five and six year olds.
- Their Incident Management Team is preparing for the annual *Oregon International Air Show*. The air show will be held August 19-21-2011 at the Hillsboro Airport.

Yamhill County – Jeff Cranford & Debbie McDermott

Jeff Cranford

- McMinnville Fire Department had a booth and displayed the OFMA tabletop smoke alarm display at the annual *Turkey Rama* event, 300 to 500 people attended the event held on July 8-9, 2011 in McMinnville.
- They participated in the *McMinnville Sportsman Show* held on June 25, 2011 in McMinnville.
- McMinnville FD reached about 150 people during the safety fair held at Wal-Mart in McMinnville.

Debbie McDermott

- McMinnville Fire Department conducted a *Fill the Boot for Muscular Dystrophy Association* event that raised about \$15,000.
- Newberg Fire Department will be conducting *Safety Town* in August.

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

Consumer Product & Safety Commission (CPSC) – Stephanie Mills

- No Report

Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) – Claire McGrew, Colleen Olson, Krista Fischer, Renee Stryker, Rich Hoover & Stephanie Stafford

Claire McGrew – Fire and Life Safety Education Section

- Dave Fields and Claire meet with volunteers in Columbia County on July 20, 2011. They are interested in setting up a fire prevention cooperative.
- Office of State Fire Marshal is undergoing organizational changes.

Renee Stryker – Fire and Life Safety Education Section

- Renee is the new Administrative Assistant for Fire and Life Safety Education. She started July 6, 2011.

Rich Hoover – Administration

- Rich let Storm know he would like to run an article in the Gated Wye about their smoke alarm campaign and asked Storm if he would send him information and photos.

Stephanie Stafford – Fire and Life Safety Education Section

- Stephanie passed around the new cigarette postcard that is available for distribution. This was by the Smokefree fire safe partnership group that includes fire agencies and county health departments from Portland and the valley. Stephanie and Candice offered members the postcard to take to take back to their agencies.
 - There is space provided on back of the postcard to add their logo by stamping or labeling. For those that would like print their own postcards with their logo the original file it is available in Adobe InDesign format versions CS4 and CS5.
 - The postcard features a Quick Response (QR) code. For those that have a Smartphone you can download a QR reader application and use your Smartphone to go directly to a quite smoking website.
- OSFM received the new home escape planning banner for the two sided mobile billboard that is available for loan currently features smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm banners. Stephanie and Candice will swap the carbon monoxide banner with the new home escape planning banner on July 22, 2011.

Public at Large – Bryan Emmons

- No Report

Fire Service Association Reports:

Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) – Les Hallman

- OFCA swore in Doug Branch, Fire Chief of Boring Fire District as President on July 1, 2011.
- Newberg hosted the *Special Olympics Oregon* event on July 15-17, 2011. The event will be held July in Newberg for the next four years and funded by the *Austin Dental Equipment Company*.

Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA) – Darrell King

- Darrell provided legislative updates on bills that have passed as of Thursday July 21, 2011:
 - HB 2073 – Directs State Forester to serve as the Governor’s authorized representative for Federal Fire Management Assistance Grants. Effective January 1, 2012.
 - HB 2078 – Repeals certain statutes in ORS chapter 479 regarding fire escapes and other fire safety requirements. Effective January 1, 2012.
 - HB 2123 – Authorizes State Forester to authorize payment of costs and reasonable attorney fees of firefighter alleged to have committed misdemeanor or felony in course of fire suppression activities. Effective January 1, 2012.
 - HB 2183 – Creates offense of making a false report of child abuse. Effective January 1, 2012.
 - HB 2726 – Modifies definitions of “cigar bar” and “smoke shop” for purposes of Oregon Indoor Clean Air Act and directs Oregon Health Authority to establish certification system for smoke shops. Effective June 30, 2011.
 - HB 3466 – Finds that communications infrastructure of State Forestry Department is compatible with communications infrastructure of primary partners in responding to wildland fire emergencies and meets mandate of Federal Communications Commission. Effective January 1, 2012.
 - HB 3490 – Clarifies responsibility of counties to provide workers' compensation coverage to qualified search and rescue volunteers. Effective June 17, 2011.
 - HJR 7 – Proposes revision of Oregon Constitution to authorize Governor and Legislative Assembly to take specified actions in case of catastrophic disaster. Passed - Filed with Secretary of State.
 - SB 68 – Updates language in statutes to reflect current organization and operation of Department of State Police. Effective June 28, 2011.
 - SB234 – Modifies terminology relating to emergency medical services providers. Passed - Awaiting signature.

- SB372 – Removes ambulance services from list of services for which fee schedules are used to calculate charges for personal injury protection benefits. Passed - Awaiting signature.
- SB 415 – Modifies information to be included in citation for offense of careless driving. Effective January 1, 2012.
- SB 424 – Clarifies that pedestrian is crossing roadway in crosswalk when any part or extension of pedestrian's body moves onto roadway with intent to proceed. Effective June 23, 2011.
- The OFDDA/OFCA 2011 Joint Conference will be held November 3-5, 2011 in Seaside. Darrell will bring flyers to the August 18, 2011 OLST meeting.

Oregon Fire Marshals Association (OFMA) – Debbie McDermott

- OFMA has a tabletop display that features various types of functioning smoke alarms. The display created by Michael Silva and Troy Buzalsky will be loaned to agencies for educational purpose and may be stored at the Office of State Fire Marshal. OFMA will be creating a PowerPoint video presentation on smoke alarms in August for loaning to agencies.

Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators (OFSOA) – Laura Houston

- No Report

Agenda Items:

Smoke Alarm Subcommittee Update – Colleen Olson

- Colleen reported that the Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms subcommittee reviewed and will update components of the new door-to-door smoke alarm program.

Fire Prevention Week (FPW) Update – Stephanie Stafford & Rich Hoover

Materials – Stephanie

- The theme of FPW 2011 is *Protect Your Family From Fire*. The three main components of the theme are home fire sprinklers, smoke alarms, and escape planning.
- We will use the current home escape plan and smoke alarm brochure.
- Stephanie is creating two 4" X 9" folders that will contain three shingled inserts on home fire sprinklers, smoke alarms, and home escape planning, fire loss clock, place for a business card, and customizable. The first folder will be a non dated FPW *Protect Your Family From Fire* folder and the second will be a general home fire safety. Members like the folder.
 - For those that would like print their own, the original file will be available in Adobe InDesign format.
 - Stephanie thanked Rich for the idea and Keizer Fire Department for the sample. She will send members a draft when available and ask for feedback.

Media Campaign - Rich

- Rich, Claire, and Stephanie discussed having a media event on Tuesday or Wednesday of FPW in the Portland area. He gave the examples: firework media event with displays, etc. and holiday house at a holiday safety media event.
- The media event would focus on elements for that years FPW focus. This year we could have:
 - House with fire sprinklers to conduct a sprinkler burn demonstration.
 - Smoke alarm demonstration showing the different types available.
 - Volunteer family with children to practice mock home escape planning.
 - Adult fire safety.
- We would need a FPW subcommittee to find a location and a house with fire sprinklers for the media event.

Discussion:

- Rich asked what the regulations are for using the side-by-side fire sprinkler trailer.
 - Jim said we could come up with some safety guidelines.

- Jim suggested having a mock house with sprinklers built for the event instead of using a real house.
- Stephanie Mills suggested contacting real estate agents and construction companies to have a house built.
- Storm suggested we hold the event the week before FPW.
- Rich asked members if they thought we had enough time to plan a 2011 FPW media event.
 - Stephanie M. says we would need to start now.
 - Claire says we could also start planning now for next year.
- Stephanie M. says TVF&R hosted the holiday media event in the past. They received the best media coverage when it was an all day event.
- Storm says it works well when an agency chooses a particular topic (candle, ladder, or toy safety) to conduct for the holiday media event. We could do heating safety, fire place safety, Christmas light safety, or Halloween safety in the fall.
- Storm believes we are too close to FPW for planning the media event this year and some agencies are already busy planning FPW events.
- Claire suggested we use the media event idea for seasonal messaging.
- Debbie suggested instead of for FPW we work on an early fall media event with heating, weather, etc. safety issues.
- Rich asked who is in charge of the holiday media event.
 - Storm says Alice Busch.
 - Stephanie M. says Joanne Hatch has been involved, that it is actually the Portland Metro Injury Professionals group that does it every year and each member of the group picks a topic to conduct.
- Rich asked members to send any ideas regarding the media event to Claire at claire.mcgreg@state.or.us or Rich at rich.hoover@state.or.us.

Fire Prevention Conference – Claire McGrew

- Claire recently met with the group that hosts the Fire Prevention Conference held at Salishan Lodge.
- Take the word fire out to make prevention conference. They are inviting partners from the educational system, Head Start, and Department of Human Services because they bring a different approach and they would like to change to a broader base and to an educational conference.
- Talk of five days cut to three days.

Discussion:

- Stephanie asked if they have thought of another location to hold the conference.
 - Claire says they have researched the idea but it was not cost effective because of the rates, they are open to suggestions and if members know of a facility let her know. They have talked about cutting the five day conference to three days.

National Night Out – Claire McGrew

Claire asked members if their agencies were celebrating National Night Out on August 2, 2011.

- Hillsboro is encouraging block parties, Bruce and Storm in collaboration with Hillsboro police officers and community enhancement teams are participating.
- North Bend community wide and Coquille are celebrating.
- Dallas Police Department is celebrating.
- Stayton Fire District's Marion Station celebrates.
- McMinnville holds block parties were the fire department brings Fire Pup and the police department brings McGruff.

Sprinklers – Claire McGrew

Claire handed out a California Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Fact Sheet.

- Oregon Fire Sprinkler Coalition Committee is creating an Oregon Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition Fact Sheet using California's fact sheet as an example. It will include an Oregon logo, cost comparison section with

typical types of home upgrades versus home fire sprinkler, environmental benefits of fire sprinklers sections. They hope to have it created by the end of August and Claire will send it out to members. Claire asked members for feed back so she can share with the Oregon Fire Sprinkler Coalition Committee.

Discussion:

- Jim suggested handing one to every firefighter and he is trying to get Myth Busters to do a segment on home fire sprinklers myths.
- Darrell asked if they could add insurance savings to the Oregon home fire sprinkler fact sheet.
 - Storm said the cost savings for your home insurance is minimal.
 - Darrell said unless you live in a rural area. He gave an example where 30 years ago he worked in Woodburn his then chief obtained a fire truck six miles from his house and his insurance rates went from \$1,000 to \$250 a year.
 - Storm said that in cases like that the cost per foot could go up from \$1.61 to \$5.00 per foot because you have to pay for your own independent water supply, fire pump and holding tank.
 - Claire says that is why they are hesitant to add this information to the fact sheet because they want to keep it factual. She will take the question back to the committee.
- Storm asked if they have heard of any tax incentives for have home sprinklers installed.
 - Claire says will check and let Storm know.
- Claire let members know we will have a home fire sprinkler billboard banner created.

OLST Schedule Updates, whats next – Claire McGrew

Claire will send out a Survey Monkey.

- Jim suggested reaching out to construction companies, etc.

Other Business:

Claire provided the upcoming highlights for the August 18, 2011 OLST meeting.

- State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace will attend the OLST meeting.
- Judy Bowen from Department of Human Services will talk about parents as grandparents. How she has reached out to her communities and is working with local areas to conduct senior focused conferences these are one day seminars that talk about liability issues especially when caring for children that are not their own. These situations bring questions and involve safety issues. She would like to partner with fire agencies to obtain fire safety information and provide resources for fire agencies to take back to their communities.
- Susie Lovisco from Bend Fire Department will provide a presentation on utilizing our older adults. She would to share her recommendations with members on how she has trained seniors to train seniors.

Fire & Life Safety Education offered members safety information to take back to their agencies.

Adjournment: 3:35 p.m.



CALIFORNIA HOME FIRE SPRINKLER FACT SHEET

Fires in the home pose one of the biggest threats to the people of your community. Over 350,000 home fires occur every year in this country and more than 2,500 people a year die in home fires. Home fire sprinklers are a proven way to protect lives and property against fires at home.

These life-saving systems respond quickly and effectively to the presence of a nearby fire. When sprinklers are present, they save lives. Model safety codes now require the use of home fire sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes. These requirements offer the highest level of safety to protect the people of your community.

- If you have a reported fire in your home, the risk of dying decreases by about **80 percent** when sprinklers are present.
- People in homes with sprinklers are protected against significant property loss—sprinklers reduce the average property loss by **71 percent** per fire.

HOME FIRE DEATH AND INJURY RISK

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers the following national burn death and injury data. California's rates track very closely with national statistics.

- Fire related injuries represent 1% of the incidence of injuries and 2% of the total costs of injuries, or \$7.5 billion each year.
- Fatal fires and burn injuries cost \$3 billion, representing 2% of the total costs of all fatal injuries.
- Hospitalized fire and burn injuries total \$1 billion while non-hospitalized fire and burn injuries cost \$3 billion.
- Groups at increased risk of fire related injuries and death include children 4 and under, older adults ages 65 and older, African Americans and Native Americans, the poorest Americans, persons living in manufactured homes and substandard housing, and persons living in rural areas.
- In California, the counties identified as "rural" accounted for approximately 7% of the population and 22% of the fire deaths (2006-2010).

FACTS ABOUT THE COST OF HOME FIRE SPRINKLERS

Much research has been conducted and information collected on the cost of residential fire sprinkler installation; as in any business those prices vary depending on the structure configuration, size, and design (custom housing verses production housing). The Fire Protection Research Foundation recently issued the *Home Fire Sprinkler Cost Assessment* report. The report reveals that the cost of installing home fire sprinklers averages **\$1.61 per square foot** for new construction, which equates to about 1 to 1.5% of the home cost and an approximate \$5.00 extra mortgage payment a month. Within California, the Office of the State Fire Marshal has been provided installation costs from residential sprinkler installers that range from **\$.65 to \$2.75 per square foot** depending on house configuration. Also, the California Department of Insurance has provided information from one of their surveys that indicate a savings on residential insurance to be between 2–13% for the installation of residential fire sprinklers.

For additional information about residential fire sprinklers, check out the following websites:
osfm.fire.ca.gov and firesprinklerinitiative.org

FACTS ABOUT HOME STRUCTURE FIRES IN CALIFORNIA

From 2003-2010 California fire departments responded to an estimated **73,422** home structure fires (one-two family homes).

These fires caused:

- **563** civilian fire deaths
- **3** firefighter deaths
- **2,072** civilian fire injuries
- **\$3.1 billion** in direct damage

Nationally, **85 percent** of all civilian fire deaths in 2009 resulted from home structure fires.

On average, **eight people a day** die in U.S. home fires. That is equivalent to the number of deaths that would be caused if **one commercial airplane** crashed every month.

Sources:

Fire Loss in the United States during 2009 by Michael J. Karter, Jr., NFPA, Quincy, MA, August 2010

Home Structure Fires by Marty Ahrens, NFPA, Quincy, MA, January 2009

Office of the California State Fire Marshal, 2003-2010 data as reported by 48% of fire departments



Additionally, cost and fees should be differentiated. Fees are driven by individual agencies or communities based on their individual needs and business plan. Examples include stand-by water fees imposed by water purveyors for water that will not be used unless there is a fire; and the water usage will be far less than water used to extinguish the fire by the fire department. Other fees are associated to local needs to process requests,

plans, and provide inspection services of the new construction. These fees are included within the local agency's adopted local ordinances.

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS FOR WATER SUPPLY

Water supply for the residential fire sprinklers can be obtained from a variety of means. They include a connection to a reliable waterworks system, an elevated tank, a pressure tank, a stored water source with an automatically operated pump or a well with a pump of sufficient capacity and pressure to meet the sprinkler demand. Also, where a fire sprinkler system is supplied by a stored water source with an automatically operated means of pressurizing the system other than an electric pump, the water supply may serve the sprinkler system only. The required design water demand for the fire sprinkler system is the flow of two sprinkler heads for 10 minutes (approximately 310 gallons of water needed for life safety).

BEWARE OF FALSE CLAIMS FOR NEWER HOMES

Opponents of residential fire sprinkler systems like to boast that newer homes are safer homes and that the fire and death problem is limited to older homes. This statistical claim evaporates if you adjust for the higher risk characteristics (e.g., lower income, less education) found on average in the occupants of older homes. But in fact, newer homes are also more likely to include a threat to firefighters in the form of lightweight construction. Lightweight construction has been estimated to be used in a half to two-thirds of all new wood one- and two-family homes. Sprinklers can offset the increased dangers posed by lightweight construction and create a safer fire environment for firefighters to operate. Nationally recognized studies show new construction building techniques, larger homes, open spaces, and increased fuel loads and materials contribute to faster fire propagation, shorter time to flashover, shorter escape time for occupants, and shorter time to structural collapse.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF FIRE SPRINKLERS

- Reduce greenhouse gases by 98%
- Reduce fire damage by up to 97%
- Reduce water usage to fight a home fire by upwards of 90%
- Reduce the amount of water pollution released into the environment
- Reduce debris to landfills

Source:
The Environmental Impact of Automatic Fire Sprinklers, a study by FM Global and Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, 2010

FREEZE PROTECTION ISSUES

With proper installation, home sprinkler systems will not freeze in cold settings. NFPA13D sets forth guidelines on proper insulation to avoid pipes freezing. The Chicago area is a great example of a cold weather region where many jurisdictions have passed sprinkler mandates for new homes with limited to no problems with systems freezing. Examples of freeze protection best business practices include insulating sprinkler piping, similar to the house plumbing, and proper use of antifreeze solutions.

FIRE SPRINKLERS ARE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

The findings of a groundbreaking study show that greenhouse gases released by burning buildings can be reduced by 98% when automatic fire sprinklers are installed. The study, a collaborative effort of FM Global and the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, also found that automatic fire sprinklers: reduce fire damage by up to 97%; reduce water usage to fight a home fire by upwards of 90%; and reduce the amount of water pollution released into the environment.