



OREGON LIFE SAFETY TEAM

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 18, 2016

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal
Charles P. Pray conference room

Attendees/Representing

Barrett, Sean – Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue (Lane)
Birr, Tim – Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Retired
Dunn, John – Oregon Fire District Directors Association
Fischer, Krista – OSFM
Gulledge, Dave – OSFM
Hatch, Joanne – Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (Clackamas/Washington)
Houston, Laura – Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators
Kusz, Jim – North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 (Lincoln)
Leipfert, Rich – Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Linder, Amy and Casey – Eugene Springfield Fire (Lane)
McDermott, Debbie – McMinnville Fire Department (Yamhill)
McGrew, Claire – OSFM
Mendez, Alfredo – Albany Fire Department (Linn)
Montgomery, Bruce – Hillsboro Fire Department (Washington)
Nelson, Barbara – Stayton Fire District (Marion)
Roach, Amy – OSFM
Rouse, Ron – Portland Fire & Rescue (Multnomah)
Ryun, Curtis – Oregon Burn Center
Slavens, Ginger – Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District (Tillamook)
Stafford, Stephanie – OSFM
Storms, Anne-Marie – Keizer Fire District (Marion)
Upton, Jeneanne – Nestucca Rural Fire Protection District (Tillamook)
Ward, Mitchell – Banks Fire District #13 (Washington)
Wells, Devon – Hood River Fire Department (Guest Speaker)
Zalas, John – Portland Community College (Guest)

Welcome/Introductions/Updates

Stephanie welcomed everyone to our new building and pointed out where the facilities were located. Stephanie shared that the September meeting will be held in the morning from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to accommodate the 11th Annual Oregon Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial, which begins at 1:00 p.m. Everyone introduced themselves.

Review of June Minutes

Stephanie asked that you please provide any changes to Amy by Friday, August 19, 2016.

Modern Fire Dynamics: Educating the Public – Chief Devon Wells, Hood River FD

Chief Wells talked about making changes in the way the public is educated, the messaging that we use, and how to be a driving force in the way people learn fire safety. He asked the group for some goals that we have as fire agencies. Some of the goals included working

smoke alarms and sprinklers in every home, zero hotel/motel fires, and to raise public awareness of fire science and fire prevention.

The group discussed the length of time it takes to make changes in our society. It took about 25 years to make smoke alarms commonplace in residential housing, and based on that timeline, Chief Wells suggested that sprinklers should be commonplace in about 20 years.

Chief Wells said that the way to make change is to “go to battle” for things like sprinklers and community risk reduction. Talk to legislators and be knowledgeable enough to have conversations anywhere to support positive change in fire prevention. Changing the messaging was also discussed. It was suggested that we come up with new slogans and new campaigns such as “Get out fast” and “Close the door”.

Chief Wells talked about how media educates the general public and we need to change that, because Hollywood shares misinformation in messaging. One example given was the movie *Towering Inferno*, which shows all sprinklers activating and flooding the hotel. Sprinklers don’t work like that, but a large portion of the population still believes that they do.

We need to get into schools, civic groups, and wherever we can teach the general public. We should be teaching not just “Get low and go”, but to shut the doors to all rooms when we sleep or are away from the house, and when we are home to get out of the house fast. Ground floor windows are a quick egress and should be used to get out, if that is the fastest way out of the house.

The group raised questions and discussed different aspects of messaging. How do we provide for literacy levels? Do we tweak a current message to include closing the door? How do we keep fire service current on messaging, so they aren’t sharing outdated information? How do we teach the science of fire to help people understand the “whys” and begin to grasp newer concepts? Chief Wells had a list of ways that we, as educators can start to change messaging, educating the public, and helping in legislation for change in fire prevention. The list included:

- Take action by attending planning, zoning council, civic group meetings, and speak about fire sprinklers and community risk reduction.
- Build advocacy because the more people that buy into prevention messaging, the more people there are to spread the word.
- Utilize resources by getting help from people and organizations that have gone before you.
- Do your homework and gather all resources that will assist in the process.
- Be prepared and always be ready to introduce new fire prevention information and fire sprinkler legislation. If the climate is ready make sure you are too.
- Don’t give up. The process may take years, so make sure you and your predecessors make leading community risk reduction a priority.

Other Business

Stephanie Stafford - Stephanie talked about our new Oregon State University (OSU) and University of Oregon (UO) eyeglass/tech device cloths and window clings, and our new yard debris and cooking fire brochures.

Barbara Nelson – Barbara said that in her experience, seniors love to have people come in and talk to them about fire and other safety concerns. Barbara goes to *Meals on Wheels* and local area senior centers and noted that the seniors say that they share a lot of the information with family members and friends who are 50+.

Anne-Marie Storms – On September 11th at 7:00 a.m. Keizer Fire District will host a memorial service and breakfast to honor those lost on September 11, 2001. Anne-Marie also shared that Keizer Fire District just held a smoke alarm project in a local mobile home park. Fifty-three alarms were installed in 90 homes in three hours. OSFM staff, Amy Roach, assisted in the project.

John Dunn – Oregon Fire District Directors Association conference will be held in Bend, Oregon on Oct. 27-29, 2016 at the Riverhouse on the Deschutes. For information please visit <http://ofdda.com/registration/>. John also noted that Senate Bill 1513, which authorizes counties to exempt up to \$250,000 of assessed value of each homestead owned and occupied by the surviving spouse of fire service professionals, police officers, or reserve officers that are killed in the line of duty from taxes that are based on the assessed value, which is imposed by all taxing jurisdictions. This bill was made effective and activated June 2, 2016. Counties will need to implement this bill.

Curtis Ryun – The Oregon Burn Center is extremely busy right now and has been full for months. They are still taking donations for the family house which will be a place to stay for family members of burn victims. Curtis said that it will be similar in concept to the Ronald McDonald houses. There will be a new burn center in about five years. Curtis said that he would like to see more Oregon agencies get involved with the American Burn Association meetings. Fire service is encouraged to attend. For more information please visit <http://www.ameriburn.org/>.

Rich Leipfert – Rich shared that the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association is transitioning to new leadership and emails haven't been received. Greg Keller is interim managing director, so please contact him if you aren't receiving the emails. Greg can be contacted at 888-846-5741 or greg@ofca.org.

Debbie McDermott – McMinnville has been doing many weekend safety events and on August 20-21, 2016 will be doing "Operation Backpack" to help fill backpacks for children in grades K-5 who would otherwise not have all the school supplies that they might need for the new school year. They participated in a safety fair at Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum and a fly-in at Rock of Ages.

Alfredo Mendez – Albany FD is hosting the first ever class of Albany Citizens Fire Academy. There are ten open slots available for people 18 in age or older. The class will be held for six Thursdays and one Saturday. For more information please visit <https://www.cityofalbany.net/departments/fire/about-afd/afca>.

Jim Kusz – Lincoln City's St. Claire station's annual *Get Ready* event will be held from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016. For more information please visit <https://www.nwnatural.com/AboutNWNatural/PressRoom/2015PressReleases/ItsTimeToGetReadyJoinUsForNaturalDisasterPreparednessEvents>.

Lincoln City will again be hosting Fall Kite Festival on October 1-2, 2016 and North Lincoln Fire & Rescue will have a booth at the event.

In November, Jim will again be teaching a two-day disaster preparedness class at Oregon Coast Community College. The class will be held November 10 & 17, 2016. For more information please visit <http://www.oregoncoastcc.org/disaster-preparedness-summer/>.

Jim talked about a hotel fire that occurred August 5, 2016 in a hotel in Newport that killed four people. The cause of death is still unknown at this time.

Jim shared that Cape Kiwanda now has assigned a park ranger to patrol the fence to prevent people from climbing over the fence.

Dave Gullledge – The supplement to the OSFM 2015 Annual Report is now available online.

Amy Linder – Eugene-Springfield Fire is in the beginning phases of kicking off a smoke alarm installation program, including some community risk reduction activities.

Claire McGrew – The OSFM will be working with the Oregon Fire Sprinkler Coalition at the League of Oregon Cities conference on September 29-30, 2016 to increase awareness of home fire sprinklers. This year's conference will be in Salem, Oregon. If you are interested in more information on this event or home fire sprinklers, please visit www.firesprinklerinitiative.org/state-coalitions/oregon.

Claire also mentioned that the OSFM will be hosting a booth at the Oregon School Board Association (OSBA) on November 10-13, 2016 in Portland. Staff will be promoting the *Do the Drill* publication, the importance of emergency school drills, and will also have additional information. The OSFM Codes Deputy will be available to review door locking hardware. For more information on the OSBA please visit www.osba.org.

Mitch Ward – Banks Fire District #13 held a smoke alarm installation project and it was very successful. In June, Mitch attended *Fire Adapted Communities Learning Exchange* and will be working with Oregon Department of Forestry to assist with wildland urban interface issues in the Banks area.

Ron Rouse – On September 3, 2016 the Portland State Vikings have a football game at 2:30 p.m. They will offer free gumbo for firefighters, EMS, and law enforcement for a lunch that will begin at 12:30 p.m. There is also a charity Halloween party at the Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery which is located downtown Portland on October 29, 2016. Donations from the party will be given to the Oregon Burn Center to be used for the family house.

Tim Birr – Tim Birr will be leading the pipes and drums for the 11th Annual Oregon Fallen Fire Fighters Memorial on September 15, 2016.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.