

GATED WYE



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Fallen firefighters honored

Oregon held its annual memorial ceremony September 20, at the Oregon Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial in Salem. The memorial, located on the grounds of the Oregon Public Safety Academy, honors 163 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting Oregon's communities and natural resources.

During the ceremony, Grants Pass Fire Chief Eldon Everton's name was added to the memorial. His name was added through the historic recognition process which allows line of duty deaths from the past, not currently on the memorial wall, to be added. Chief Everton had a heart attack while fighting a house fire in Grants Pass on March 11, 1964. He passed away a few weeks later on April 17, 1964 at Southern Oregon Hospital.

DPSST Director Eriks Gabliks said, "The historic recognition process was created with the goal that one day all Oregon firefighters who have died in the line of duty will be honored on the state memorial. This year's ceremony, and the addition of Chief Everton's name, show that we keep our commitment to never forget the sacrifices of the fallen and the families they left

behind."

More than 500 firefighters, family members, and guests attended the event. Cameron Smith of the Governor's Office and Chief Lang Johnson of Grants Pass Fire & Rescue were the featured speakers. A combined honor guard conducted a roll call of Oregon's fallen, a fire bell was tolled in their honor, and two wreaths were placed at the memorial. One of the wreaths recognized the loss felt by the families, the other the loss felt by the fire service.

The family of Chief Everton added a streamer on the Fallen Firefighter Standard which listed the name of their family member and the date of his death.

You can view photos of this year's ceremony in a [photo album on the OSFM Facebook page](#).

Visit the [DPSST website for more information on the Oregon Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial](#) and the names of the men and women it honors.

Note: This year's National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend, held in Emmitsburg, MD, is October 6-7.

It's not too late to get your Fire Prevention Week materials

Fire Prevention Week 2012 is October 7-13 and the OSFM has a large selection of fire safety materials available free to Oregon fire agencies to help support their education and outreach efforts.

Materials include brochures, "rack cards," checklists, posters, magnets, and other materials. Rack cards and a few other materials are available in English and Spanish.

[The OSFM also has lending resources available](#) such as a 9-1-1 simulator, flameless candles, hazard house tabletop display, mobile billboard, smoke alarm display, home fire sprinkler banner, and more.

The [OSFM online order form](#) has links that allow you to look at each available item before you order.

For assistance or more information, contact Candice Clark at candice.clark@state.or.us or 503-934-8266.

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



“The larger message is to always notice your two or more ways out throughout your life at work, in businesses, restaurants, hotel rooms, etc.”

- SFM Mark Wallace

Have two ways out

This is the slogan for National Fire Prevention Week, October 7-13. Fire Prevention Week is always the week that includes October 9th, the date of the historic Chicago Fire. Many have claimed that it was started by Mrs. O’Leary’s cow while others (enterprising fire researchers who have tried to recreate the scene based on “eye-witness” reports) point at the reportedly drunken blacksmith whose shop was just across the alley. Neither had two ways out.

I’ve always believed we must never limit our fire prevention education efforts to one week per year. To truly have an impact on the fire problem in Oregon, everyone must work to maintain the fire safety habits we were taught in elementary school and reinforced in the years since, every week of every year.

One of the consistent messages has always been to know two ways out of any building you find yourself in. In some locations the options are obvious while in others, not so much. If we teach our children, we know through experience they will take the message home and teach or remind the rest of their family. Exit drills in the home have long been a standing “tradition” in fire safety education. Have a properly operating smoke alarm outside of your sleeping area; know your two ways out; when you get out – stay out; and, have a meeting place – then count noses. This sequence is simple, straightforward and easy to remember.

Still, we have fire fatalities. Too many fatalities occur in residences where the smoke alarm worked, but the occupant decided to fight the fire rather than get out and stay out. We also hear of successes. In the last few days for example, a 14-year-old Troutdale boy discovered his neighbor’s house on fire; learned an eight-year-old couldn’t escape; and, knew that the second way out was the second story window. Grabbing and setting a ladder, he made the rescue and saved a life by facilitating escape via the second way out. We may hear more on this dramatic rescue in the days and weeks to come.

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The Gated Wye is published monthly by the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal. For submissions or suggestions contact Rich Hoover at 503-934-8217 or email richard.hoover@state.or.us. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, alternative formats of this publication are available.

Oregon's Wildland Arson Patrol recognized by IAAI

Oregon's Wildland Urban Interface Patrol program received an award in September, recognizing the program for its work to reduce the incidence of arson. Informally known as the "Wildland Arson Patrol," the collaborative project of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon State Police (OSP) garnered the Oregon Chapter 31 International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) Outstanding Accomplishment Award presented during the association's training conference.

Prompted by a rash of costly wildfires set by arsonists during the early 1990s, the patrol came into being in 1997 and combined the law enforcement skills of veteran OSP state troopers with the wildland fire know-how of ODF's field investigators.

The arson patrol officers serve a dual function: assist other law enforcement agencies to investigate suspicious wildfires, and educate the public on how to detect and report possible arson incidents. In their education role, they also press the need to practice fire prevention for both arson and other human-caused fires.

Retired State Troopers Jim Davis, Klamath Falls, and Bill Lyons, Bend, are working the Arson Patrol during the 2012 wildfire season. The beat is a familiar one to both men, as each worked the arson patrol in years past.

"They were essentially able to hit the ground running," ODF's Jeff Bonebrake said. "And as sworn officers, they bring with them the authority and capability that we as an agency are not able to provide directly."

"Harnessing the training and experiences retired State Troopers have for this type of a program is a huge benefit for Department of Forestry, law enforcement, and everyone who uses our natural resources," said OSP Major Travis Hampton. "Their proactive contacts prevent fires from starting, and when a fire does happen they are a critical resource to help determine if it was human-caused."

[More information about the Wildland Urban Interface Arson Patrol Project is available on the Oregon State Police website.](#)

OFCA releases "Best Practices" after air monitoring study

The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association's - Safety and Health Section has released a best practice guide for Respiratory and Dermal Protection During the Extinguishment, Overhaul and Investigation Phases of a Fire. The recommendations provide fire departments with a multitude of options to better protect their personnel from the acute and latent effects of the products of combustion during extinguishment and post fire knock-down.

These recommendations were derived by consensus from studies presented by Oregon State Fire Marshal Regional Hazardous Materials Team 9 -Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, during a Respiratory Protection Summit held January 18, 2012 at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem. The study was performed in 2009 and the final report, A Study on Chemicals Found in the Overhaul Phase of Structure Fires using Advanced Portable Air Monitoring available for Chemical Speciation, was released February 25, 2011.

The best practice guide can be found on the [Oregon Fire Chief Association Safety and Health Section website](#). For more information on study material, or to request a copy, contact Mariana Ruiz-Temple at mariana.ruiz-temple@state.or.us or 503-934-8238.

Sparky awards to be handed out at OFDDA/OFCA November conference

In a slight change from past years, winners of the OSFM Golden and Silver Sparky awards will be recognized this year at the final joint conference of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association and the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association.

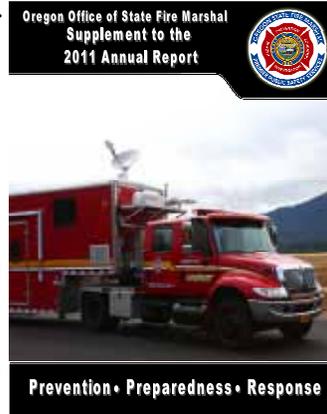
The conference is November 8-10, 2012, at the Riverhouse Conference Center in Bend, OR. [Visit the OFCA website for more information.](#)

OSFM supplement to annual report now available

The [supplement report to the 2011 OSFM Annual Report](#) is now available on the [OSFM website](#) (6 MB).

The supplement is a comprehensive collection of statistics regarding the fire situation and hazardous materials in Oregon. It also contains information on the activities, resources, and demographics of Oregon's local fire agencies.

The OSFM would like to thank the Oregon fire agencies that submitted incident reports and other information to make this report possible. We would also like to thank the Special Districts Association of Oregon for its collaborative efforts to create a comprehensive report for the fire service and all our stakeholders.



Fire & life safety recognition



OSFM Deputy State Fire Marshal Ted Megert (right) presents Westside Volunteer Firefighter and Hood River County Building Official Mark Van Voast with his Fire Marshal certificate with Fire Inspector II and Fire Plans endorsements. Van Voast is the first building official in Oregon to have earned the certifications and training for recognition as Fire Marshal. The presentation was made September 24, at a meeting of the Hood River City Council.

Fall means a change of messages

by OSFM Fire & Life Safety Education Program Coordinator Terry Wolfe (Data provided by the OSFM Data and Research unit.)

We're still experiencing warm and dry weather, but it won't be long before the cold days of winter will be upon us. We know it's time to change our safety messages accordingly, so here is some information to help you target the "hot" spots.

In 2011 in Oregon, 8.4% of fires were categorized as heating equipment fires. There were 896 heating equipment-related fires, 615 of which were confined chimney fires. Heating equipment fires resulted in four deaths, 11 injuries, and an estimated \$5.9 million in property loss. Failure to clean chimneys and placing combustibles too close to heaters are frequent causes of these fires.

There has been an upward trend in the number of cooking-related fires since 2008. In 2011, 7.2% (769) of fires involved cooking, resulting in two deaths, 38 injuries, and an estimated \$8.1 million in property loss. These types of fires are the leading cause of fire-related injuries in Oregon, accounting for 17.0% of reported injuries.

After multiple years of decline, from 2009 to 2010, candle fires jumped 35.8% to 72 fires and remained at that number in 2011. These 72 candle fires resulted in one death, seven injuries, and an estimated \$1.8 million in property loss.

Electrical fires, where the ignition heat source is electrical arcing, have remained steady since 2007 and currently represent 5.9% of the state's fire problem. In 2011, 626 electrical fires were responsible for three deaths, seven injuries, and an estimated \$9.1 million in property loss. Typically, electrical fires are started by heat from a short-circuit arc or overloaded equipment.

The number of cigarette-related fires increased in 2011. These types of fires accounted for 9.3% (985) of fires in Oregon and resulted in nine deaths, 13 injuries, and an estimated \$3.8 million in property loss.

The OSFM has educational materials covering all of these topics and more. [You can review and order materials on the OSFM website.](#)

DATA Connection

News from the Data Collection & Research Unit

Using “Other” Incident Type Codes in NFIRS

The most challenging part of entering information into the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is knowing which codes to use. The key to quality data is taking the time to make sure it is entered accurately. Confusion and exasperation can lead to poor selections being made, which creates poor data.

One of the most important fields is the Incident Type. The Incident Type is defined as the actual situation responding emergency personnel found when they arrived on scene. What gets entered into this field determines what additional information, if any, will be needed for the report.

In NFIRS, codes that end with a zero are generic codes for those rare instances where no other code applies. Using these codes can be problematic for research purposes. To demonstrate this, a response to a person having a medical emergency should generally be coded as “311 – EMS Call,” and a non-injury traffic accident should generally be coded as “322 – Motor vehicle accident without injuries.” To date in 2012 however, the code “300 – Rescue or EMS, **other**,” has been used over 5,300 times where one of these more specific codes could have been used.

There may be a time when the situation just won’t fit into one of the specific types. However, selecting “Other” (a code that ends with a zero), as an incident type should only be used for those instances where a more specific code truly does not apply. NFIRS codes are intended to cover any type of situation; nevertheless, there can be exceptions - but the exception shouldn’t be the norm.

In 2011, Oregon fire agencies used “Other” codes as incident types in more than 28,500 instances, which accounts for nearly 10% of all incidents last year. Every time an “Other” code is used instead of a more specific code, the data not only becomes less specific, but less usable for statistical purposes.

Data provided in NFIRS reports are routinely used to make decisions all the way down to the local level that help prevent fires, injuries, and deaths.

This can include decisions on agency staffing and deployment, the purchase of new equipment, or development of training and education programs. In order to effectively identify and address specific issues, the data needs to be specific.

To get specific, there are 178 Incident Type codes in the current NFIRS standard to choose from. To make the right codes easier to select, they are broken down into 9 general categories or “Series.” The three digit Incident Type codes begin with the Series number they relate to, which identifies the type of incident (fire, EMS, hazmat, etc.), followed by subsequent numbers to further define the situation. Under the NFIRS standard, incidents are coded using the lowest numbered code that applies to the situation.

When entering incident data, don’t shortchange yourself or your community by using an “Other” code when a more specific code could be used. If in doubt, take the time to contact the OSFM Data Collection & Research Unit for assistance in selecting the correct codes for your incident.

The *NFIRS Complete Reference Guide*, contains all of the NFIRS codes, along with related descriptions, definitions, and examples. An electronic copy of the *NFIRS Complete Reference Guide* is available on the NFIRS [website](#).

Parting thought:

Good data = good decisions

If you are responsible for entering incident data into NFIRS, you are a part of that equation!

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.

SFM Wallace

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There are many times in history where a cascading series of little circumstances, many overlooked or ignored by adults, created tragedy where multiple lives were lost.

We will soon be at the ten-year anniversary of a 2003 fire in Rhode Island known to firefighters everywhere simply as “The Station Night Club Fire.” There weren’t enough exits for the large number of adults in the building and 100 people died in about 90 seconds. Lots of mistakes were made prior to the fire, but for many of the 100, their last mistake was to know only one way out. Many of the fatalities jammed the front entrance and blocked the exit for many others who subsequently died. By the time people in the crowded room realized the fire they saw was not part of the night’s entertainment, they had only seconds to react and get out. [Findings of the National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) list one of the factors in this tragedy as the inability of exits to handle all of the occupants in the short time available. Certainly, other factors had a big impact on the outcome, but adequate egress opportunities would have reduced the number of fatalities.

On October 18, Gina Russo, a survivor of “The Station Night Club Fire” will be the keynote speaker at the Oregon Fire Marshal Association’s 2012 Roundtable. On February 20, 2003, Gina Russo got out, but her fiancé and 99 others did not. If you’ve ever wondered why we work to prevent fires, create fire safe habits within our community, work to maintain strong fire code provisions and fire safe buildings, I suggest you attend and listen to her story.

It’s not just having two ways out of your bedroom at home. The larger message is to always notice your two or more ways out throughout your life at work, in businesses, restaurants, hotel rooms, etc. When you are part of a big crowd, have an escape plan in mind. Plan a meeting place in case you get separated from friends or loved ones. Notice and report blocked exits. In multi-story buildings notice the stairway accesses.

Chances are you will never need your second way out. But if you do, it’s too late to search for one. Time to escape will be short. ALWAYS – “Have Two Ways Out”.

Fire grant update

by Hines Lieutenant/Grant Writer Jonathan Manski

The starting gates have opened for the 2012 Assistance to Firefighters Grants. Nationally, thirteen awards were announced in Round One and one lucky Oregon fire department was among them. Congratulations are in order for the Monroe Rural Fire Protection District for a nice Ops & Safety award.

There is still a group of applications that have not been through peer review. These are likely those that scored fairly well in the computer scoring, not high enough to be in the top group, but above those that will probably be reading turn-down letters sometime later this fall. I expect these remaining applications to be reviewed soon.

There will also likely be a delay in further awards now that the end of the federal government’s fiscal year just passed. The Feds will be closing the books on the year’s programs and there always seems to be a delay in getting rolling with the new year money pot, but look for a renewed effort on issuing 1199a’s and awards around mid-month.

Also kind of interesting is the fact that FEMA is awarding both the 2011 and 2012 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grants concurrently, as the beginning of the 2012 announcements started at the same time as AFG. Now if congress will pass a budget, there should be funding for these beneficial programs.

Turndown notices for the 2011 Fire Prevention & Safety Grants (FP&S) went out near the end of September, so that should help you decide what to do next as the FP&S 2012 should be opening this fall.

For the latest grant information, [visit the fire grants page on the FEMA website](#).





Picric Acid $C_6H_3N_3O_7$

Dry picric acid is a yellow crystalline solid that is a high explosive. Picric acid as a reagent is used in an aqueous form with at least 10% water (wet). The danger is that over time the water evaporates. Bottles of dried picric acid or with picric acid crystals may explode when handled or by turning the cap. Old bottles of picric acid may be found in schools and laboratories. [Video on detonation and images of picric acid found in school lab \(2.31 minutes\)](#).

Description:

- Synonyms: 2, 4,6-Trinitrophenol (TNP)
- Wet form is an odorless yellow paste or slurry
- CAS No.: 88-89-1
- EPA Section 302 EHS, 304 and OSHA PSM: Not listed

NFPA 704 Information:

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

Uses and Occurrences:

- Used as a laboratory reagent
- Early 20th century used as an antiseptic

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Flammable solid (wet form)
- If any indication that there are solid crystals treat as a high explosive
- Wet form - stable under recommended storage conditions – containers should only be handled by trained personnel
- May be ignited by heat, flame, friction, or shock
- **Readily forms salts on contact with many metals (including copper, lead, mercury, zinc, nickel, iron) that are more sensitive to explosion than picric acid**
- Mixtures with aluminum and water will ignite after a delay period
- **Contact with concrete floors may form the friction sensitive explosive calcium picrate**
- Incompatible materials include: Oxidizing agents, reducing agents, and bases
- Autoignition temperature (explodes): 572° F
- Flash point: 302° F

Health Hazards:

- Picric acid (dry)
- OSHA PEL: 0.1 mg/m³ (Skin); IDLH: 75mg/m³
- Causes severe eye and skin irritation
- Chronic: May cause kidney damage

Fire Fighting Measures:

- Extinguishing media: Dry chemical, carbon dioxide, alcohol resistant foam
- Use flooding quantities of water
- Explosion likely under fire conditions, maintain safe distance

2008 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- Shipping name: Picric Acid, wet, with not less than 10% water and Picric Acid, wetted with not less than 30% water
- Hazard Class: Flammable solids (4.1)
- UN/NA: 1344; Guide # 113 Flammable solids-Toxic (Wet/Desensitized Explosive)
- Spill: Initially isolate 330 feet in all directions
- Fire: Tank, rail car, tank truck: isolate ½ mile
- Picric Acid (dry): UN 0154 Guide # 112 Explosives (1.1, 1.2, 1.3 or 1.5 or 1.6)

2010 Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(1)

- Flammable solid wetted with 30% water
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
 - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 125 pounds
 - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 250 pounds
 - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 250 pounds
 - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 500 pounds
- Group when the maximum allowable quantity is exceeded: H-3
- Dry picric acid is one pound allowed only in a building with automatic sprinklers. Two pounds if within an approved storage cabinet. If the MAQ is exceeded the group is H-1.

see **Picric Acid** page 8

Picric Acid

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Incident Reporting and Information:

- Facilities reporting picric acid on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey: none
- Incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: two

References include:

- [NOAA Cameo chemicals Picric acid \(dry\)](#)
- [NOAA Cameo chemicals Picric acid \(wet with not less than 10% water\)](#)
- [CDC NIOSH Pocket Guide – Picric acid](#)
- [Fisher Scientific MSDS Picric acid](#), wetted with at least 30% water
- [Sigma Aldrich MSDS Picric acid](#)
- [Alert for Girl Scout First Aid kits](#)

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

FEMA Basic PIO training available in Portland

The Portland Bureau of Emergency Management is sponsoring a FEMA G-290 Basic PIO Training Course October 31 – November 1, 2012. The course is free. Instructors are Dave Thompson from the Oregon Department of Transportation and Lt. Gregg Hastings from the Oregon State Police.

G-290 fulfills the prerequisite to attend the advanced PIO training course (E-388) at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, MD.

To register or for more information, contact Dan Douthit at dan.douthit@portlandoregon.gov or call 503-823-3928. Space is limited.

US Fire Administration releases report on heating fires

With the beginning of fall comes cooler temperatures and the resulting seasonal increase in the number of home heating fires. The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) has issued a special report: Heating Fires in Residential Buildings (2008-2010). USFA reminds everyone to maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

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Mid-Valley LEPC hosts hazmat exercise

The Mid-Valley Local Emergency Planning Committee hosted their first full-scale hazardous materials training exercise September 12, with participation from Oregon's Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team 5 - Linn/Benton, Oregon National Guard members, Albany Fire and Police departments, Corvallis Fire Department, Linn and Benton county sheriff's offices, Linn County Public Health Medical Reserve Corp., and others.



Members of Hazmat Team 5 work on the simulated chlorine leak

The training exercise, funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, and managed by the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal, depicted a chlorine leak from a railcar at the Union Pacific and Portland & Western rail yard in Albany.



Practicing decontamination after the exercise

Training covered a wide variety of response details, from setting up a command post to testing emergency phone systems with cooperating local businesses, and coordinating with media.