



# DPSST Newsletter

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Department of Public Safety, Standards & Training, 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE  
Salem, OR 97317

## Update from the Commander

*By Commander Todd Anderson*

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### Training Division Update

The Training Division is currently seeing an upswing in activity as we have three Basic Police classes on campus and Basic Corrections Local #010 graduated last Friday. With the three Basic classes here at the Oregon Public Safety Academy, we have increased need for PSTS1's and appreciate each one of you that have dedicated yourself to the instruction of new public safety officers.

I know that you have all observed the decline in staffing here at DPSST. DPSST, like most state agencies, has taken significant budget cuts. Throughout these cuts, the staff has shown a high level of professionalism and continues to provide an excellent product. This is demonstrated by the fine men and women who receive top-notch training from both the full-time and PSTS1's here at the Oregon Public Safety Academy.

The efforts of our full-time and PSTS1 staff have been continually recognized as Director Gabliks and I have visited with over 20 police departments, sheriffs' offices, Oregon State Police office's and fire stations in the past month. Each one of the agencies we visited had nothing but positive things to say about students that have received instruction from DPSST. Their only criticism was the reduction in regional and leadership training due to the budget reductions, which was beyond DPSST's control.

We have submitted our budget for 2013/2015 which, reluctantly, the Executive Committee of the Board on Public



Safety, Standards and Training agreed upon. I say reluctantly as we were directed by the legislature to submit a ten percent reduction package which would impact all facets of DPSST. Our Board understands the important mission that all of you are a part of and are fully supportive of our agency. We will not know if we remain status quo or if we face further reductions until the legislature reconvenes in February 2013. That being said, it could be as late as June 2013 until we have a formalized budget.

## Tactical Training Section Update

*By Captain Suzy Isham*

As you may recall, within the last year, we instituted a guidon protocol and ability for a Basic class to receive various citations that reflect their performance in varied areas of their discipline and basic curriculum. To receive this award, the class must complete certain benchmarks within a skill. For the Tactical Citation, Basic Corrections Local students must:

1. Consistently arrive at the prescribed training venue on time with proper equipment and attire. More than three documented instances of tardiness or lack of equipment would constitute disqualification.
2. Consistently be fully engaged in training and give 100% effort during all scenarios. *\*note:* individual performance is not a measured standard for this section. More than three documented instances of failure to engage in training would constitute disqualification.
3. Consistently be polite and respectful to staff and instructors at all times. More than three documented individual instances of disrespect or attitudinal issues would constitute a disqualification.

The recommendation for the citation award is at the discretion of the Training Coordinator that oversees the particular section. Personal observation as well as instructor and coordinator input are taken into account. Final approval of the "Tactical" citation is at the discretion of the Tactical Supervisor.



According to the Academy Training Scenario Coordinator, Mr. Gary Ninman, "BCL010 participated well; was always on time and seemingly gave 100%, 100% of the time." After observing their effort and their attitudes over the six weeks that they were here, their Training Coordinator, Lt. Ryan Keck and I concurred with the assessment and BCL010 was confirmed as the **FIRST** Basic Corrections Local class to receive this award within the history of the guidon. Congratulations BCL010!

We look forward to presenting this citation to other classes in Basic Corrections Local, as well as Basic Police.

## Survival Skills Section Update

*By Captain Roger Eaton*

The month of October brought the start of our third basic police class, BP334, to be in session. For one week, we had three basic police classes and a basic corrections class all in session concurrent. The last time we had three basic police classes at the same time was June through October of 2010. This pick up in classes signals an uptick in agencies hiring again and hopefully in PSTS1 usage to support their training.

On 10/19/12, BCL010 graduated from the Academy. As noted by Captain Isham, BCL010 earned the Tactical Citation for their guidon. Additionally, they were the first basic police or corrections class to earn the Survival Skills Citation. That citation requires the whole class to qualify with their firearm by the end of their third qualification attempt, actually all qualified by their second attempt; all students must perform any random three of 12 defensive tactic techniques with 100% accuracy; and all students must pass CORPAT with a time under the five minutes and 30 seconds, the time standard for basic police students. With the citation on the line, all students of BCL010 passed their final CORPAT test with times under five minutes. Congratulations to BCL010 and their Class Coordinator, Lieutenant Ryan Keck.



## Academy Training Update

*By Captain Teresa Plummer*

As we close the month of October, we would like to recognize the graduation of BCL010 and the start of BP334. On October 19, 2012, 24 students graduated from BCL010 and they received the distinction of being the first class in the history of the Academy to earn all four guidon citation streamers. To provide perspective, a guidon is a small flag carried by each basic class and serves to identify the class. It is designed to develop a sense of pride and Esprit de Corps among its members. A guidon citation streamer is awarded when stringent requirements for meeting the award are accomplished. Citations include the Survival Skills Citation, Tactical Citation, Academic Citation, and the Drill and Ceremony Award. Congratulations to BCL010 and Class Coordinator Lieutenant Ryan Keck for a job well done.

On October 14th, we saw the start of Basic Police 334 with Lt. Lee Farmer as the primary coordinator. Although the first several weeks dictate mostly classroom participation, it will not be long before we start the scenario and skills training venues.

## Fire Training Section Update

*By Captain Mark Ayers*

### ***Skid Avoidance for Fire Apparatus Drivers Program (SAFAD)***

The DPSST Regional Fire Section is no stranger to remote delivery and over the last ten years has purchased a number of training props that can be moved around the state to assist with the needs of the Oregon Fire Service. The latest addition to the Oregon Fire Training toolbox is the Skid Avoidance for Fire Apparatus Drivers (SAFAD) Program. As designed, the program is similar to that used by the law enforcement community with the noticeable difference between the Fire Service and that of law enforcement training being the use of a Ford F-650 crew cab truck with a



gross vehicle weight (GVW) rating up to 29,000 pounds instead of the police package sedan. The concept of the program started several years ago and came together towards the end of 2008 and early 2009 as a result of several tragic accidents involving Oregon Fire Service drivers. As with law enforcement emergency vehicle operation course (EVOC), the foundation of the Fire Service Program is a sound base of training that emphasizes the dynamics or performance characteristics of the vehicle, an awareness of the space occupied by the vehicle and how this impacts the overall environment, taking into consideration driving conditions. Once the base knowledge, skills and abilities have been established or identified through such standards as the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Driver/Apparatus Operator Competency, the SAFAD curriculum provides the actual hands on experience to support and reinforce the base training.

In designing the program the goal was established to provide each attending operator the psychomotor skills and mental attitudes that are essential to becoming the most competent, skillful and responsible driver possible. Overall, the program performance objective is to reduce Oregon's statistical numbers in the national list of accidents and injuries. In the past 12 years, 16 Oregon firefighters were killed in vehicle crashes while on duty.

To deliver the training, various solutions were considered, with DPSST ultimately choosing SKIDCAR Systems. The SKIDCAR System consists of two hydraulic platforms mounted to the front and rear axles of the truck. An instructor who is seated next to the driver adjusts the grip using a computer that is slaved to the hydraulic platforms. The instructor is able to create and repeat circumstances where it is possible for the driver to lose control, experience common roadway hazards, and do so at low speeds with no physical risk to the driver, instructor, or equipment. Real-time instruction throughout the event is the ultimate key to successful training with this system. For the desired mobility for regional delivery, a trailer was designed to hold the system components as well as tools, spare parts, and other equipment and supplies. The training package is self-contained with the Ford F-650 crew cab truck acting as the power unit for transport. SKIDCAR



Systems provided instructor training and, to date, all training personnel assigned to the Fire Service training program have been, or are projected to be, trained in the delivery of the regional program.

Accessing a location with a minimum 300' by 600' slab of smooth, open, level pavement proves to be a challenge when planning and/or scheduling SAFAD training. Examples of sites that have been utilized include the Public Safety Academy in Salem, Port of Portland, Redmond Air Tanker Base, and Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Pendleton Airport, and the Roseburg Lumber Company chip loading facility in North Bend. These locations are representative of providing the training throughout the state and have been vetted by DPSST instructors to insure they meet the minimum specifications and will allow the total experience when the student is behind the wheel. Each location has its own set of coordination issues and DPSST staff continues to look for and identify potential training sites in its quest to push the training out further to our constituents with program logistics being left to the Regional Training Associations with assistance from DPSST regional training coordinators.

Regional delivery of this program is a variation of the model presented at the Public Safety Academy in Salem. The minimal prerequisite is current certification within the NFPA Driver/Apparatus Operator competency or its equivalency. Prior to actual hands-on training, DPSST regional training coordinators or local Fire Service Program training staff will conduct classroom training at constituent agencies. To ease the burden of classroom delivery and to provide consistent presentation, the program has been put on a DVD which was accomplished with the assistance of Portland Fire Bureau, Salem Fire Department and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue. The DVD is sent to an agency for delivery during customary scheduled trainings. When the Skid truck becomes available within the local jurisdiction, the participating department will work with DPSST staff to facilitate the actual driving portion of the course consisting of the operational briefing and actual hands-on training with the Skid unit conducted over a one and a half hour timeframe. This model allows for participating departments to shuttle crews back and forth between the skid training venue and home agencies, thus having less impact on the backfilling of stations. DPSST staff

devotes six hours per day to actual hands on driver training. The instructors may remain in a region up to an entire month to accommodate as many agencies as possible. It should be noted that SAFAD trainees have traveled several hours in both directions to attend the regionally provided training. Their willingness to do so coupled with their agency's support clearly establishes the cultural acceptance and high training priority placed on SAFAD.

Since the initiation of the program, DPSST has reviewed five documented cases in which Fire Service personnel that have received the SAFAD training utilized their enhanced skills to avoid potentially hazardous situations. During the bi-annual statewide DPSST Listening Tour conducted recently, constituent opinion was that the SAFAD program is of the highest value and topped the list of training that the Fire Service would like to see expanded and presented more frequently. Testimonials from the actual operators, strong support from command and executive staff with proven results offer the best program validation.

