

Office of State Fire Marshal Annual Report 2013



A division of the Oregon State Police



Safety Award Presented for Chemical Study Paul S. Sarbanes Award

On May 9th, 2013, the Congressional Fire Services Institute jointly presented the Senator Paul S. Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award to Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal, and the Oregon Governor's Fire Service Policy Council for their study on chemicals found in the overhaul phase of structure fires.

On January 28, 2014, the OSFM, Governor's Fire Service Policy Council, and TVF&R presented the award to Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber. The eight month project used advanced portable detection technology to identify and quantify the airborne hazards present after a fire was extinguished. Findings from the study resulted in a best practices guide for first responders to help mitigate effects of exposure to smoke and other toxins.

TOP: Governor's Fire Service Policy Council Chairman Greg Keller (center) presents the Paul S. Sarbanes Award to Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, while Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Division Chief Brian Sherrard (left) looks on.

LEFT: The Paul S. Sarbanes Award presented by the Congressional Fire Services Institute.

PROTECTING CITIZENS

Fire Prevention Week

The OSFM developed an electronic toolkit and other materials to support education and outreach efforts for the fire service based on the 2013 Fire Prevention Week theme *Prevent Kitchen Fires*. The toolkit was available for download on the OSFM website, an additional 50 kits were mailed out.

Elements of the toolkit focused on the adult roles and responsibilities in practicing fire safety in the kitchen. As part of the campaign, the OSFM worked with the Oregon Association of Broadcasters to air radio and television public service announcements more than 770 times on broadcast stations throughout the state during the week prior to and during Fire Prevention Week, ensuring citizens were exposed to the fire safety message.

In addition, approximately 30,000 cooking brochures were mailed out focusing on the top causes of cooking fires in Oregon.

Smoke Alarm Program

This past year, the OSFM distributed more than 4,500 smoke alarms to fire agencies throughout the state in support of local smoke alarm installation programs.

These agencies ensure at-risk community members have smoke alarms to provide an early warning of deadly home fires.

The OSFM appreciates the dedication of all Oregon fire agencies who commit their efforts and resources to the smoke alarm installation program and provide fire safety information to their communities.

Oregon Life Safety Team

In order for educational messages to be effective, it is important that Oregon fire agencies speak with “one voice” to avoid confusion between jurisdictions on fire safety terms and the exact safety actions to take. To this end, the OSFM enlisted the Oregon Life Safety Team to develop a comprehensive guideline on Fire and Life Safety Educational Messaging.

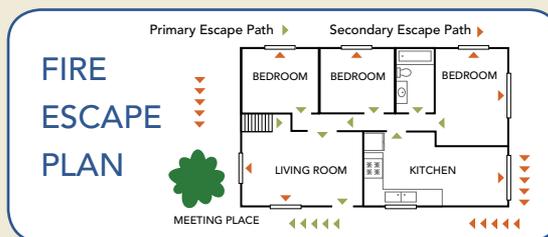
This dynamic document serves as the messaging resource on safety topics from burn prevention to smoking safety. The document is available free on the OSFM website.



Report School Fires Campaign

The Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention program partnered with the Oregon State School Board Association and the Oregon State School Board Association Secretaries in distributing 380 *Report School Fires* kits and providing 50 copies of the elementary and middle school fire awareness curriculums for school use.

Home Escape Planning



The Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention (YFPI) Program provided a train-the-trainer session to Oregon Child Care Development Division staff on how to present *A Guide to Home Escape Planning*, (English/Spanish version) to child care providers. Three thousand copies of the publication were provided for use in training all local registered family care providers in Oregon. YFPI and staff from the Oregon Child Care Development Division arranged for the publication to be translated into Russian, Vietnamese, and Chinese to reach non-English speaking populations. The goal is to share this publication with registered family child care providers throughout Oregon, on an ongoing basis, to assist them with emergency preparedness and ensure compliance with Child Care Division Rules.

Code Enforcement

Code enforcement directly impacts the preservation of life, property, and the environment in Oregon and is the primary objective for the Fire and Life Safety Services unit. Deputy state fire marshals conducted 1,823 inspections in 2013 in accordance with nationally recognized codes and standards including the Oregon fire, mechanical, and building codes, and NFPA 101 Life Safety Code.

2013 Inspections (By DSFM and L&P Staff)

Type of Occupancy	Number of Inspections & Reinspections
Schools and daycare facilities	861
Business, factory, hazardous operation, merchandise	351
Residence for elderly, disabled, or minors	194
LPG, cardlock, and bulk plant	525
Place of assembly	153
Institution (hospitals, prisons)	71
Congregated residence (hotel, lodge, apt. farm labor camp)	130
Licensed children's group home	56

Fire Investigation

OSFM deputy state fire marshals conducted 203 fire investigations in 2013.

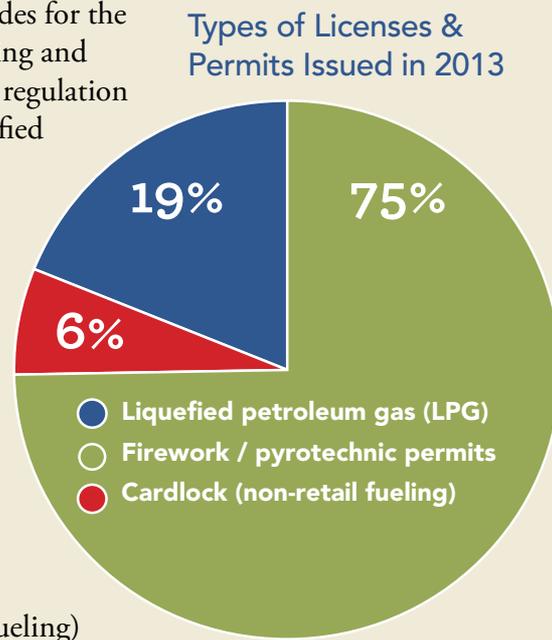
Deputies investigate to determine the origin and cause, and whether the fire was the result of carelessness or design. Estimated loss to structures was valued at more than \$38.3M.



PROTECTING CITIZENS

License and Permits

The License and Permits unit provides for the safety of all Oregonians by upholding and enforcing the proper licensing and regulation of non-retail fueling stations, liquefied propane gas (LPG), explosives, fireworks, fire-standard compliant cigarettes, and novelty/toylike lighters. Staff from the L&P unit issued 229 general fireworks permits, 90 limited fireworks permits, 42 limited pyrotechnic permits, 67 general pyrotechnic permits, 799 retail fireworks permits, 17 agriculture fireworks permits, and 74 special effects fireworks permits. Staff also licensed 103 cardlock (non-retail fueling) headquarters, 332 cardlock facilities, 477 LPG company licenses, 505 LPG employee licenses, and 4,248 LPG tank licenses.



State Emergency Response Commission/ Local Emergency Planning Committees

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) provided 386 first responders from agencies across the state with specialized hazardous materials training. The training was funded through the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant program.

The OSFM hosted its first Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) conference in May. More than 70 attendees representing LEPC members, hazmat team members, emergency managers, and other interested parties learned about the roles and responsibilities of an LEPC as well as planning, training, and exercise activities LEPCs are involved in. There was also a focus on the broad variety of hazmat response capabilities available in Oregon that included partners from the regional hazardous material response teams, EPA, DEQ, Coast Guard, and the National Weather Service.

PROTECTING PROPERTY

Statewide Fire Apparatus Listing

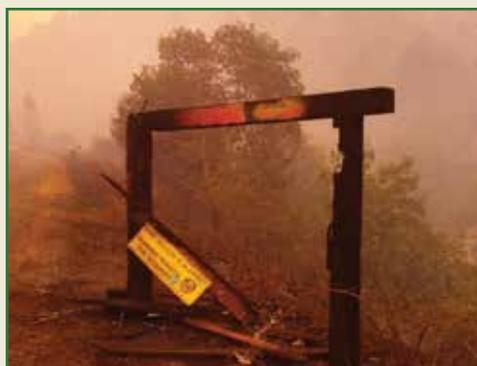
The OSFM Data unit and Emergency Response unit worked together to refine standards for statewide fire apparatus listings that are available for emergency mobilizations. All Oregon fire chiefs now have rapid, easy access to this statewide apparatus resource list in addition to other important information related to conflagrations and mobilizations. As a result of these efforts, the amount of time and effort will be dramatically reduced when emergency resources need to be deployed to large scale incidents.



PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Conflagrations

There were four conflagrations declared during the 2013 wildfire season: Pacifica, Douglas Complex, Grouse Mountain, and the Government Flats Complex. These fires ranged in acreage from 500 (Pacifica) to 48,679 (Government Flats). An effective response by incident management teams from the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and associated structural protection resources resulted in 1,099 residences saved, with six lost; a success rate of 99%. The fire season response could not have been as successful as



it was, were it not for the partnerships OSFM has cultivated with the local fire service and state fire defense board chiefs. Having the ability to deploy well-equipped and fully prepared resources made all the difference in protecting homes and structures. In all, 98 local structural fire departments from around the state responded to these conflagrations following the procedures outlined in the *Oregon Mobilization Plan*.

Community Right-to-Know

The OSFM Community Right to Know program continued to evolve by enhancing service to stakeholder groups and emergency responders. In 2013 we revised Oregon Administrative Rules (837-085-0070) increasing the minimum reporting quantities of most hazardous substance liquids and gases to 500 units (gallons, cubic feet). This was accomplished as a collaborative effort between the OSFM stakeholder groups and emergency responders. This change in reporting quantity requirements allows the CR2K program to maximize its resources for the collection, validation, and dissemination of hazardous substance information by focusing our efforts on quantities posing a more significant impact for communities and first responders.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Hazmat Responses



In 2013, Oregon Hazardous Materials Response Teams responded to more than 55 significant

hazardous materials incidents meeting state response criteria. In addition to response, regional teams provided resources through 117 telephone advisory consultations to local responders, industry representatives, and others.

Hazmat Legislation

During the 2013 Oregon legislative session, the OSFM was granted an increase to the Petroleum Load Fee (PLF). This fee supports the State Hazardous Substance Emergency Response Team Program which encompasses 13 State Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams stationed throughout the state. These teams are the only hazardous materials response teams in Oregon and serve all communities. Their capabilities allow them to deploy to any area of the state when needed.

The PLF increase will be implemented on a gradual scale. The per load fee was increased to \$6 on July 1, 2013, it will go to \$7 on July 1, 2014, and \$8 on July 1, 2015. This graduated fee increase will provide funding to maintain the current response and operation level of the 13 State Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams. The OSFM hazmat teams reduce physical and financial impacts to the environment, offset the need for every local fire agency to train and equip for hazmat events, and ensures the citizens of Oregon are protected from the effects of hazardous materials incidents.

COLLABORATION

Fire Insurance Premium Tax

The OSFM worked closely with stakeholders during the 2013 legislative session to increase the Fire Insurance Premium Tax. With support from our fire and life safety stakeholders a small increase from 1% to 1.15% is enough to maintain funding to continue providing fire safety resources and services to the citizens of Oregon and the Oregon fire service. This funding is a critical source to maintaining the collaborative efforts of the Office of State Fire Marshal, Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, and the Oregon State Police Arson unit.

Fire Incident Reports & Training

To help achieve its mission of collecting quality data, the Data unit continues to offer free training classes on both the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and Oregon Fire Bridge™, the state's incident reporting system. In 2013, a total of 97 class hours of training were provided to 227 students representing 101 different agencies. These efforts have contributed to an average of 26% more incidents being reported each month, as well as more complete and thorough reports.

The Data unit, in partnership with the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, hosted a two-day National Fire Academy training class on NFIRS attended by students from 18 different agencies. The class provided education on how to properly complete an incident report, and the importance and use of the data that is collected.

Hazmat Collaboration

The OSFM State Hazardous Materials Response Teams Outreach Committee developed a comprehensive training program for all first responders on the capabilities of the regional hazardous materials response teams. This outreach program is delivered to departments and responders in the state to improve hazmat response coordination at all levels. Training provides information on state hazmat team capabilities, call out procedures, and training for first on-scene responders.

The OSFM launched a complete online reporting module for Oregon Hazardous Materials Response Teams. Teams are now able to log onto Oregon Fire Bridge™ and complete their Operations Packet along with the Basic and Hazmat reporting modules for easy and convenient reporting to OSFM on hazardous material incidents. This will allow the OSFM to better track hazardous material incidents and develop enhanced hazmat training and public education campaigns.



Data Outreach

The Data unit logged 1,031 requests for assistance from 242 fire agencies in 2013. Assistance ranged from user support of Oregon Fire Bridge™, to providing help with coding incident reports, to requests for a variety of information. Requests for information can take minutes, hours, or days to complete depending on the complexity of the request. We successfully handled 97.7% of all requests within 24 hours.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Partnerships

Our 16 deputy state fire marshals partner with national, state, and local organizations on investigations, inspections, and fire code enforcement. These partnerships allow us to exchange program information and materials, and to effect positive changes in fire related behaviors on a broader scale than by acting alone.

