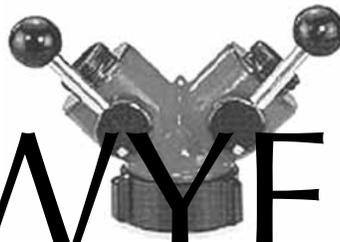


GATED WYE



August 2012 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 343

New smoke alarm program available

The Office of State Fire Marshal and Oregon Life Safety Team are pleased to announce the release of the [revised Smoke Alarm Installation Program](#).

Since 2007, the OSFM has sponsored a smoke alarm installation program called "Invasion of the Smoke Alarms." The program collaborated with local fire agencies and others, to provide free smoke alarms and installation assistance to residences that would otherwise be unprotected.

"Door to Door installation projects are an effective way to reach out to our vulnerable populations and dramatically increase their home fire safety," says State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace. "Our agency continues to be committed to helping Oregon fire departments with efforts to keep their citizens safe. That's why we believe in providing a free smoke alarm program, and work to constantly increase its effectiveness."

The new program has undergone significant changes. It also has a new name that closely reflects its goal, **"Working Smoke Alarms in Every Home."**

Efforts of the new program concentrate around five main outcomes.

- Increase community protection with working smoke alarms.
- Minimize local agency costs when conducting installation projects.
- Identify smoke alarm installation retention rates.
- Track installations for outcome based reporting.
- Provide new opportunities to engage in public fire safety education.

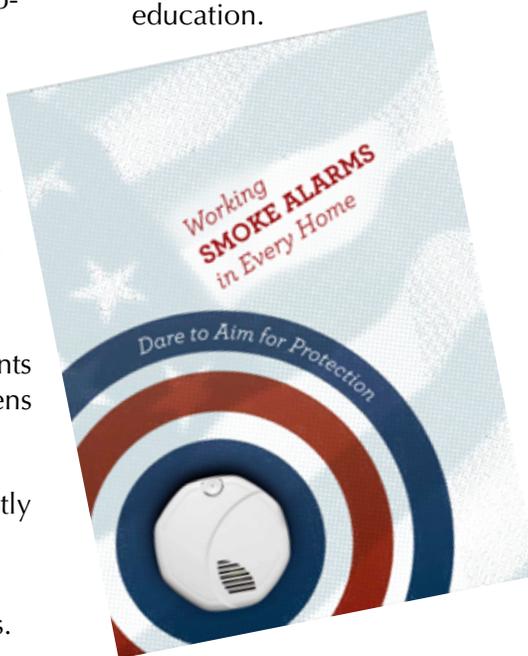
in your community is as simple as filling out a one page form," states OSFM Program Coordinator Terry Wolfe.

The original program required more up-front work and training that agencies had to perform before they could get the smoke alarms. The new program is simplified and streamlined.

"We worked closely with the fire service and designed this program based on their needs and desires," says Wolfe.

The most significant change in the revised program is the ability for local agencies to distribute customized fire safety messaging while engaging residents about installing smoke alarms in their homes. The OSFM has produced a series of ten "rack cards," with fire safety messaging by topic. The rack cards are in English on one side and Spanish on the other. Safety topics include cooking, electrical, home heating, candles, gasoline, medical oxygen, smoking, outdoor cooking, smoke alarms, and home escape planning.

An additional rack card with agency contact information is available to use as a "leave



The cover image of the new smoke alarm program.

"Requesting free smoke alarms for an installation project

see **Smoke alarm** page 4

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



Wildfire season is here, what can you do?

Wildfires have consumed over 750,000 acres of Oregon so far this year and devastated some ranching and grassland areas of Southeast Oregon.

Between 1840 and 1900, wildfires burned more than 2 million acres. Major wildfires in 1933, 1939, 1945 and 1951 burned across more than 640,000 acres in the northern Coast Range (Tillamook Burn).

With more than 41 million acres (over 64,000 square miles) of forest and range land, more people than ever before live in or near the Wildland Interface.

Oregon has a long history of efforts to mitigate wildfire hazards and make residences and other structures less vulnerable from the threat of fire. From the “Fire Free! Get in the Zone” campaign in the Bend area, to NFPA’s “Firewise,” to the USA’s Community Wildfire protection program, to Oregon’s Wildfire Hazard Zone process mandated in 1997 with the enactment of SB 360, many programs and campaigns have strived to lessen the impact of wildland fires in Oregon.

We all watched the horrible devastation caused by the 200 foot tall flame fronts that swept into subdivisions of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Being a Colorado native I have fond memories of many of the places destroyed, including the iconic Flying-W Ranch. Could that happen in Oregon? Yes. Will it happen? Only time will tell. In the meantime, my suggestion is to turn to the principles of Emergency Management and Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

PLAN now on what to do if faced with an advancing wildfire. PREPARE to evacuate by knowing in advance what you absolutely need with you. MITIGATE risks by being “Firewise,” and create a defensible space on your property. Quickly RESPOND to small fires before they

see *SFM Wallace* page 3



**State Fire Marshal
Mark Wallace**

**Office of
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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.

“ Even if you have the best fire insurance, you will still be required to submit proof of loss to your insurance company. ”

- SFM Mark Wallace

SFM Wallace

continued from page 2

become Conflagrations. This step includes first responders, mutual aid agreements, collaborators, and self-help tools. Set trigger points to give adequate time to evacuate. Finally, prepare for an effective RECOVERY if the worst should occur. This is often the overlooked part of many plans.

Even if you have the best fire insurance, you will still be required to submit proof of loss to your insurance company. It took my friends months to recreate a detailed list of the possessions they lost as a result of the Four Mile Canyon Fire in Boulder Colorado. I suggest periodically (annually, for example) photographing everything in your home to help prove make, model, serial numbers, etc. Don't forget stuff in drawers, closets and the garage. Store the images on a digital memory card in a safe place away from your home (workplace, safe deposit box, etc.). Trust me, this is not a waste of time.

Most wildfires are the result of lightning or human actions or inactions. So, be aware when lightning comes and do your utmost to prevent fires throughout Oregon.

OSFM's fire and fall prevention and safety program for older adults

According to the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal, between 2004 and 2008, 68% of fire fatalities were age 50 or older. In response, the OSFM, in collaboration with the Oregon Life Safety Team, and members of the fire service, developed a special program to address fire and fall safety for older adults.

This free program includes brochures on the top causes of fires and falls and tips on how to prevent them. There are also check lists to identify existing fire and fall related hazards in the home.

Also included are two PowerPoint slide presentations and corresponding videos (Take the Right Steps to Prevent Fires and Take the Right Steps to Prevent Falls). These presentations are easy to deliver and cover the leading causes of fire and fall related hazards and prevention tips.

Training is also available to any agency interested in developing and conducting educational presentations to older adults. The training includes tips on how to connect with older adult audiences.

Visit the [OSFM's Older Adult Fire and Fall Prevention webpage](#) to learn more about the program.

For questions or to schedule training, contact Bill Brauer at 503-934-8233 or bill.brauer@state.or.us.

Fallen firefighter ceremony set for September 20

The Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training will be hosting the seventh annual Oregon Fallen Firefighters Memorial ceremony Thursday, September 20, 2012, at 1 p.m. The ceremony will be held at the Oregon Public Safety Academy, 4190 Aumsville Highway SE, Salem.

During the 2012 ceremony, the name of Chief Eldon Everton of the Grants Pass Fire Department will be added to the memorial. Chief Everton was stricken by a heart attack while fighting a house fire in Grants Pass on March 11, 1964. He passed away a few weeks later.

[More information on the Oregon Fallen Firefighter Memorial](#) can be found on the DPSST website.

For questions, contact DPSST Fire Certification Supervisor Julie Olsen-Fink at 503-378-2297 or julie.olsen-fink@state.or.us.

Join the OSFM on Twitter and Facebook

The OSFM is now on Twitter (@OSFM) and Facebook. We're excited to add these social media outlets to our communication toolbox to enhance our outreach to the public, fire agencies, and other stakeholders. Join us!



Smoke alarm

continued from page 1

behind” when no one is home. There is also a colorful “Get Out and Stay Out!” refrigerator magnet describing the steps for home escape planning.

“The idea of the smoke alarm card and the magnet is to hand them out during each resident visit, whether smoke alarms are installed or not,” says Wolfe.



Refrigerator magnet

Depending on their priorities and needs, local agencies have the option to include other rack cards in the packet for each home.

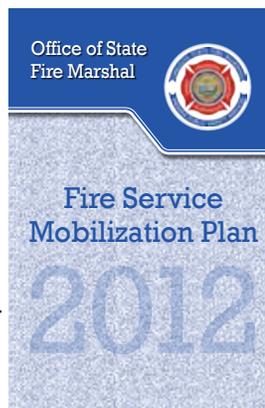
“From densely populated neighborhoods, to the most remote locations in Oregon, we are ready to work with your agency on the goal of getting working smoke alarms in every home,” says Wolfe.

For more information, contact Terry Wolfe at 503-934-8245 or terry.wolfe@state.or.us.

Copies of State Mobilization Plan available

Printed copies of the State Mobilization Plan are now available.

Please contact [your local OSFM Deputy State Fire Marshal](#) or contact Rebecca Oberfoell at 503-934-8405 or rebecca.oberfoell@state.or.us.



Fire Prevention Week 2012 “Have 2 Ways Out”

Have 2 Ways Out, is the theme for Fire Prevention Week 2012. This year’s theme intends to focus education efforts on having two ways out as a key element of a home fire escape plan.

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal has free resources available to any Oregon fire agency to enhance their fire safety education efforts. In addition to a home escape plan flyer (which has an area for families to draw up their own escape plan), the OSFM has a specially designed brochure with pull-out information cards covering home fire escape planning, smoke alarms, and home fire sprinklers.

[Order your free education materials on the OSFM website](#) or contact Candice Clark at 503-934-8266 or candice.clark@state.or.us.

SAFER Veterans Hiring Program

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is encouraging fire departments applying for [FY 2012 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response \(SAFER\) hiring grants](#) to make the recruitment and hiring of veterans a priority. FEMA has developed several strategies and incentives available to grantees that hire military veterans.

\$50 million in grant funds will be set aside specifically to fund SAFER firefighter positions filled by military veterans who are new employees not currently employed in the fire service.

Recruiting efforts aimed at hiring post-9/11 veterans will receive additional consideration. To receive this consideration, applicants must describe their specific policies and recruiting efforts in the application’s Narrative Statement. Each SAFER firefighter position filled by a military veteran will be eligible to receive full funding for three years instead of the usual two years.

Act Fast – SAFER hiring grant applications are due August 10, 2012. Hiring grant budgets should be prepared assuming firefighter positions will be filled for two years only.

DATA Connection

News from the Data Collection & Research Unit

Reporting Exposure Fires

As defined by the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), an *exposure* is a fire resulting from another fire outside that building, structure, or vehicle, or a fire that extends to an outside property from a building, structure, or vehicle. For example, if the building fire ignites a truck parked outside, the truck fire is an exposure fire.

Although the Incident Number of an incident report permits all properties involved in a fire incident to be related together, the Exposure Number identifies each separate property type involved in the fire. This makes it possible to capture the specific details of the fire in each exposure and to relate all the exposures to the basic incident, if necessary. The Exposure Number, in conjunction with the FDID, State, Incident Date, and Incident Number, uniquely identifies each incident.

In a fire involving exposures, an additional report should be completed for each exposure.

Each module completed for an exposure should contain the same Incident Number assigned to the original property involved. A separate sequential Exposure Number is assigned to each exposure. The original incident is always coded "000," and exposures are numbered sequentially and incremental by 1 beginning with "001." The relevant data for each exposure should then be recorded using the appropriate modules.

When a fire involves more than one building, each building fire should be considered a separate fire, with the ignition for all but the original building fire classified as exposure fires.

Exposure reporting is limited only to fire incidents (Incident Type codes beginning with a 1). If it is necessary to record the address/location of each property for incidents other than fire incidents, the "Person/Entity Involved" fields (Block K1 of the Basic Module or Supplemental Module) can be used.

The use of an exposure fire is also limited to situations where there is actual flame damage. If an adjacent property is damaged due to water, heat, smoke or fire control, include the damage in the main report (Exposure 000). The owner/occupant information can be captured on NFIRS Form 1S, Supplemental Report. Multiple persons and entities involved can be documented on this report. The number of buildings involved should be documented in the Fire Module, Section B2.

In the case of buildings with internal fire separations, treat the fire spread from one separation to another as an exposure. Treating multiple ownership of property within a building (e.g., condominiums) as exposures, unless separated by fire-rated compartments, is discouraged.

When reporting exposure fires, be sure to check or mark the exposure fire check box, Cause of Ignition (Block E1) on the Fire Module for each exposure fire, and then skip to Section G on the Fire Module.



In this example, the fire originated with the vehicle in the driveway, resulting in an exposure fire to the home. (Picture credit - Abingdon (MD) Firefighter Steven Muccioli)

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.

Scio family displays life saving reminder after escaping blaze

Back in May of this year, John and Debbie Nuber survived a fire that destroyed their Scio home. They credit their survival to being alerted by their smoke alarms. They had just installed new batteries in the alarms. Unfortunately, the 1904 home built by her great grandfather was a complete loss.

Convinced that other Scio residents should be reminded of the value of having working smoke alarms, the Nubers approached the [Scio Fire District](#) about getting a sign to put in their yard. The department was glad to help and had the sign (below) made for them. The sign still stands in the yard and will stay up through the end of their rebuilding process, which is expected to begin this month.



Homeowners John and Debbie Nuber worked with the Scio Fire District to have this sign placed in the front yard of their destroyed home. They escaped the fire after being alerted by their smoke alarms.

"I'm so glad my husband tests our alarms and changes the batteries regularly," said Mrs. Nuber. "Though we did lose all our possessions, stuff is just stuff; your life is everything!"



Fire grant update

by Hines Lieutenant/Grant Writer Jonathan Manski

The 2012 AFG statistics are in. This may be boring for some, but interesting to others depending on how your department fits into the numbers.

There were 11,660 applications received nationally, way down from the 16,494 submitted last year. Significant but not readily explainable. Bad weather back East, and power outages across the mid-Atlantic, are things that come to mind.

Oregon mimicked the downward trend with 139 applications, a long shot from the 179 applications in 2011, and our 10-year average of 205. Just by submitting an application this year, your odds of success are greatly improved, right out of the gate.

Here is the breakdown for Oregon:

- One department submitted three applications
- 23 departments submitted two applications
- 90 departments submitted a single application
- There were 94 Operations & Safety applications and 45 Vehicle applications
- Three were regional applications and one from a non-affiliated EMS organization

Of the 139 applications:

- 13 were career departments
- 88 were combination departments
- 34 were volunteer departments
- Four were paid-on-call departments
- Eight were classified urban
- 25 were classified as suburban
- 106 were classified as rural

You should plan to see movement on the award process by the end of August or first part of September.

The 2011 SAFER grants have reached 13 Oregon awardees, including Columbia Fire & Rescue, which received two awards as a result of some hard work. That's impressive, to say the least.

The 2012 SAFER program is now open until August 10th. Although a controversial program, one can't argue about its boost in Recruitment & Retention, you just have to use some imagination and logic when applying.

For the latest grant information, [visit the FEMA grant website](#).



Diethyl Ether $(C_2H_5)_2O$

Description:

- Synonyms: Ethyl ether; ether; ethoxyethane
- Clear colorless liquid with an ethereal odor
- CAS No.: 60-29-7
- EPA Section 302 EHS: Not listed
- EPA Section 112_R: 10,000 lbs/1,697 gallons
- EPA Section 304 EHS: Not listed
- OSHA PSM: Not listed

NFPA 704 Information:

- Health: 1 or 2 depends on source
- Flammability: 4
- Reactivity: 1
- Special: None

Uses and Occurrences:

- Synthesized, not naturally occurring
- Laboratory solvent; starting fluid
- Formerly used as anesthetic

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Flash point: $-49^{\circ}F$
- LEL: 1.9%; UEL: 36%
- Autoignition temperature: $320-356^{\circ}F$
- Vapor density (air = 1): 2.56
- Specific gravity (water = 1): 0.71
- Boiling point: $94-95^{\circ}F$
- **Oxidizes readily in air to form unstable peroxides that may explode spontaneously**
- May form explosive peroxides on long storage
- If peroxides are present removing caps or stoppers may cause explosion
- May explode when in contact with nitric acid
- Decomposes violently when heated
- Sensitive to mechanical impact if explosive peroxides are present
- Incompatibles include strong oxidizers, halogens, sulfur, and permanganates

Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: 400 ppm (TWA)
- IDLH: 1,900 ppm
- Eye skin and mucus membrane irritant
- May be absorbed through skin
- Anesthetic by inhalation
- Continued exposure can cause respiratory failure and death

- Initial symptoms may include excitement, nausea, vomiting then dizziness, drowsiness

Fire Fighting Measures:

- Extinguishing media: Foam, dry chemical, carbon dioxide, water may be ineffective
- Do not extinguish the fire unless the flow can be stopped (NOAA Cameo Chemical)
- Use water in flooding quantities to cool containers

2008 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- Shipping name: diethyl ether or ethyl ether
- Hazard Classes: Flammable Liquids (3)
- UN/NA: 1155; Guide #127 Flammable Liquids
- Spill: Initially isolate 150 feet in all directions

Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(1)

- Flammable liquid Class IA
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
 - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 30 gallons
 - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 60 gallons
 - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 60 gallons
 - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 120 gallons
 - Group when MAQ exceeded: H-2 or H-3

Incident Reporting and Information:

- Facilities reporting diethyl ether or ethyl ether on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey: six
- Hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: two

References include:

- [Cameo chemicals – Diethyl ether](#)
- [Fisher Scientific – MSDS Diethyl ether](#)
- [CDC Niosh Pocket Guide – Ethyl ether](#)
- [Hi-Valley Chemical, Inc. – MSDS Ethyl ether](#)
- [OSHA Guideline For Ethyl Ether](#)
- [EPA List of Lists, July 2011 \(4.7MB pdf\)](#)

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

OSP Arson ramps up fireworks enforcement

Every year, following the July Fourth holiday, citizens from around the state contact the OSFM License and Permits Branch to register numerous complaints about illegal fireworks. In response, the OSFM works with these complainants and their local law enforcement agencies to address their concerns.

This year, the OSFM is making use of another enforcement resource, the Oregon State Police Arson Unit. With the assistance of OSP Detective Sergeant Matt Lawson, the Arson Unit is investigating complaints of illegal fireworks and assisting local law enforcement when requested. This additional resource helps in the timeliness of complaint investigation and increases the number of issued citations.

Two recent cases highlight the effectiveness of having OSP Arson as an additional enforcement resource:

Central Point – OSFM received a complaint about a neighbor traveling to Nevada to purchase illegal fireworks then recruiting people to sell them on the street. OSP Detective Harris investigated and issued three misdemeanor arrest citations to three suspects for possession and sale of illegal fireworks.

Yamhill County – OSFM received a complaint about a neighbor shooting off mortars in a residential area in a forest zone. “The main event lasted for one and a half hours, preceded by several days of M80s and Roman Candles. Burnt powder all over the place and there are dead birds laying around,” stated the complainant. Detective Downey investigated and discovered illegal fireworks still in the suspect’s driveway. Case resolved. Citations to follow.

“We serve as an investigative branch or law enforcement arm for the OSFM,” states Detective Sergeant Lawson. “All of these types of cases can be investigated by us. OSP is always willing to work with local sheriff and police departments as needed, and the enforcement of illegal fireworks is no different.”

The OSFM sincerely thanks the OSP Arson Unit for their assistance and investigative efforts.



Illegal fireworks found by Detective Downey in the driveway of a Yamhill County resident.

Holding individuals accountable for fireworks law violations may reduce future violations and shows all Oregonians the consequences of possessing illegal fireworks.

The OSFM encourages fire departments to work with their law enforcement partners to address illegal fireworks problems.

For more information on the OSP Arson Unit, [visit their webpage](#) or call 503-934-0243. For assistance after hours, call 1-800-452-7888.

OSFM seeks information on fireworks education and enforcement

The OSFM is requesting Oregon fire and law enforcement agencies to submit examples of fireworks enforcement and education campaigns conducted in 2012.

“We want to be sure to recognize the efforts of any agency that has taken increased steps to improve fireworks education and compliance,” says License and Permits Manager Anita Phillips. “By publishing successful efforts we hope to help other agencies in planning and conducting their own education and compliance efforts.”

Please submit your education and enforcement examples to Lori Van Dan Acker at lori.vandanacker@state.or.us or 503-934-8274.