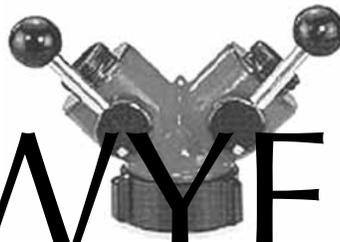


GATED WYE



February 2013 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 349

Life saving letter of thanks for Juniper Flat RFPD

On October 5, 2012, Jennifer Schmitz of Maupin was out hunting with her grandfather when she fell 100 feet down a steep canyon near Oak Springs Fish Hatchery. She recently sent a letter to State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace asking the OSFM to acknowledge all of the responders responsible for her survival.

Juniper Flat RFPD was the responding department aided by a couple of personnel from nearby Wamic Rural Fire District.



Members of the rope rescue team and other responders preparing to move Jennifer Schmitz

“My family and I are celebrating a very happy New Year, thanks to the wonderful staff of volunteers from Juniper Flat RFPD, Life Flight, and South Wasco County ambulance,” said Schmitz.

Fortunately, Juniper Flat had a trained rope rescue team ready for such an incident.

In the fall, Schmitz suffered a fractured neck, a punctured lung, broken ribs, lacerated spleen, fractured breast bone and scapula, and a concussion.

After four hours of effort, Schmitz was lowered the rest of the way down the canyon to an ambulance which transported her to a Life Flight helicopter waiting a mile away.

Due to her injuries and recovery, Schmitz does not remember anything from that day or the four days following. “My husband said the entire crew was so helpful and he was very impressed with how carefully and professionally the crews handled the situation.”

“This is what training and professionalism are all about,” said State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace. “It’s a great example of folks who are dedicated to keeping Oregonians as safe as possible and responding valiantly when called upon.”

“I want to commend the crew for a job well done and a life well saved,” said Schmitz. Everyone at the OSFM happily joins her in that praise.



Members of the Juniper Flat Rural Fire Protection District



Public assembly safety

World-wide news reports are occurring almost weekly about mass fatalities in public assemblies such as a night club or a theater. Most recently, more than 230 people died in the Kiss nightclub in Brazil reportedly as a result of a band member igniting a flare which in turn, ignited the ceiling and filled the overcrowded assembly area with deadly smoke. It's also reported there was only one working exit for the approximately 2,000 occupants of the club.

This incident highlights similar fire tragedies such as The Station nightclub, Coconut Grove nightclub, Triangle Shirt Waist factory, and Our Lady of the Angels school; the list could go on. Unfortunately, we can realistically expect similar incidents around the world to occur in the future.

Common factors include overcrowding or exceeding the posted occupancy limit (if it's posted at all), lack of operable exits for the crowd size, improperly igniting fireworks as part of the show, and insufficient and untrained crowd safety managers.

Our question is, what can we do to prevent such an incident in Oregon. Recognizing that all emergencies are local, prevention measures must start locally. Assembly locations should be visited before crowds arrive to ensure safe practices and code compliance. Are exits actually open? Are occupancy limits posted? How does the facility ensure limits are not exceeded? What should the facility's staff do in an emergency when a crowd is present? In addition, a fire department representative should visit when a crowd is present to see if the facility is actually doing what they need to do. The desire to use fireworks in such areas requires more scrutiny and becomes a technical code compliance issue. You can always check with the OSFM deputy state fire marshal in your region for help on such technical issues.

Almost every vibrant community in Oregon has locations where citizens gather for social, community, and other events. Our universal goal is for these locations to operate safely. Together, the

see *SFM Wallace* page 3

“ Assembly locations should be visited before crowds arrive to ensure safe practices and code compliance.”

– SFM Mark Wallace



**State Fire Marshal
Mark Wallace**

**Office of
State Fire Marshal**

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Fire & Life Safety Education
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Community
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Youth Prevention
& Intervention
ext. 240



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.

Free bumper stickers available from OSFM

OSFM Fire and Life Safety Education has developed a bumper sticker to help spread the message on the importance of testing smoke alarms and practicing a home escape plan.

The free sticker emphasizes fire safety as an “Adult Responsibility.” Order yours to distribute, or to display them on vehicles or other appropriate locations visible to the public.



You can order the 10.5 x 3.5 inch vinyl bumper stickers [using the materials order form on the OSFM website](#).

Fire Defense Board meeting set for May 6th

The 2013 Oregon Fire Defense Board training and meeting will be held Monday, May 6, at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, Oregon.

- 9-11:30 a.m. Mobilization Plan training
- 12-1:30 p.m. Lunch/Panel conversation on mobilizations
- 2-3:30 p.m. Fire Defense Board Chiefs formal meeting

Later this month (Feb.), the OSFM Emergency Response Unit will send out contact information and registration instructions to all fire chiefs.

SFM Wallace

continued from page 2

Oregon fire service can meet this goal. It's often not a code technicality but just good common sense. If an issue or an identified problem can't be easily resolved, our office can provide technical assistance.

In the end, it's about prevention and keeping citizens and their property safe from fire at all times; especially when large numbers gather for any reason.

State Emergency Coordination Center makes upgrades

Thanks to a Department of Homeland Security grant, the Oregon Emergency Management Agency has made significant upgrades in technology, systems, and procedures to the state Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) in Salem. The upgrades will serve to improve coordination, effectiveness, and operational performance.

The team in charge of the upgrade sought input from OEM management and staff on improvements and changes.

On the technology side, the main meeting room now has three full video screens allowing for multi news feeds so agencies can follow different news reports. Other upgrades include:

- New telephone and microphones that allow users to monitor TV stations of their choice and provide better briefings
- The operations center, in the back of the main ECC room, has been updated and elevated to provide better working space and an improved view of the entire ECC
- Teleconferencing capabilities
- Better work and storage space for the agencies using the ECC

These upgrades and established priorities will better serve all responders and citizens by providing state-of-the-art equipment to manage resources, as well as provide an established methodology for prioritizing resource requests.

Monthly NFIRS classes available

The OSFM is now conducting free classes every month on the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS).

Classes are held the last Tuesday of every month from 1-3 p.m. at the OSFM headquarters in Salem, Oregon. These classes will also be available via webinar.

To register, call the OSFM Data Unit at 503-934-8250 or email osfm.data@state.or.us.

What doesn't burn can kill too

by Fire & Life Safety Adult Program Coordinator
Terry Wolfe

As winter temperatures drop, emergency responders often experience an increase in calls related to carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. In cold weather, it's likely a number of residents are using damaged or poorly maintained heating equipment, warming up their cars in the garage, using gas kitchen stoves as a source of heat, and operating generators near the home when the power is out.

According to the NFPA, the number of responses to non-fire CO incidents has increased nearly 96% since 2003. Nationwide, there were more than 80,000 CO-related calls in 2010. Partial credit for the rise in these types of calls is likely due to the increased use of detectors, which alert people to the presence of CO.

As of April 2011, Oregon statute requires a carbon monoxide alarm in all new and remodeled residential structures. This includes hotels, motels, apartments, dormitories, fraternities, sororities, one- and two-family dwellings, townhouses, and residential care/assisted living facilities.

The statute also requires sellers of one- and two-family dwellings, manufactured dwellings, or multifamily housing units containing a carbon monoxide source to have one or more, working CO alarms before conveying title or transferring possession of the dwelling.

Often called the silent killer, CO is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels like gasoline, wood, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane burn incompletely. Residents living in homes with fuel burning appliances or even an attached garage are at risk for CO poisoning.

The dangers of CO exposure depends on a number of variables, including the victim's health and activity level. Infants, pregnant women, and people with physical conditions that limit the body's ability to use oxygen can be more severely affected than healthy adults, even with lower concentrations of CO.

So, while we expend a lot of effort at this time of year reminding everyone to be fire safe, let's not forget to remind them that what doesn't burn can kill too.

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DOT launches free app featuring Emergency Response Guidebook

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) now has a free, mobile web app of its Emergency Response Guidebook 2012 (ERG). The new safety tool will provide emergency responders with fast, easily accessible information to help manage hazardous material incidents.

The mobile ERG will make it easier for firefighters, police, and other emergency first responders to quickly locate information using an electronic word search function, and ensures easy reading even during nighttime emergencies. The 2012 version of the ERG includes new evacuation tables for large toxic gas spills and standard response procedures for gas and liquid pipeline incidents.

"The first 30 minutes are the most crucial when it comes to responding to a hazmat situation," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "The new app is both mobile and flexible, and gives first responders the knowledge they need to protect themselves and their communities in an emergency."

PHMSA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Library of Medicine (NLM) joined forces in producing the two free ERG mobile applications.

Chief Ernest Mitchell, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's U.S. Fire Administrator for the U.S. Fire Administration, noted that the release of the 2012 ERG mobile app "will provide essential tools to help first responders safely deal with hazmat incidents. I always found the ERG to be extremely valuable and believe that a copy should be in every emergency response vehicle and in the hand of every first responder in America."

Links to download this software are available from the Apple iTunes website at [ERG 2012 for iPhone](#) and from the Google Play website at [ERG 2012 for Android](#). In addition, a version of the ERG is available in [NLM's Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders \(WISER\)](#) application. An instructional video for learning how to use the ERG 2012 is also available on [PHMSA's website](#).

DATA Connection

News from the Data Collection & Research Unit
by Program Coordinator Dave Gullede

Smoke alarms in Oregon

In addition to the usual risks of residential fires, this time of year generally creates an increased risk of fires due to home heating. As such, it is especially important for homes to have working smoke alarms.

In Oregon, during the last five years, one in three residential fires were in homes with no smoke alarm or where a smoke alarm failed to operate. These fires were responsible for 18 fatalities, 133 injuries, and \$45 million in property loss.¹ These casualties and property losses might have been prevented if these homes had working smoke alarms.

Nearly a quarter (24%) of Oregon fire fatalities had no smoke alarm in their home. An additional 18% had an alarm, but it did not operate.

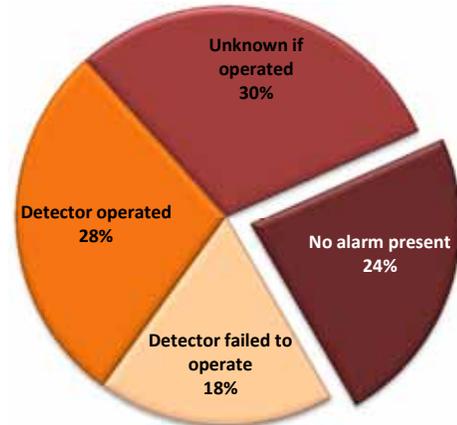
When smoke alarms fail to operate, it is typically because batteries are missing, disconnected, or dead. In Oregon, 63% of alarm failures were due to missing, disconnected, or dead batteries. People are most likely to remove or disconnect batteries because of "nuisance activations." The nuisance may be false activations because the alarm is installed in an inappropriate location, such as too close to a cooking appliance or steamy shower. Or the "nuisance" may be the chirping sound that warns of a low battery.

All ionization smoke alarms sold in Oregon are required to have a hush feature that allows silencing without removing the battery. If that alarm is solely battery-powered, it is required to have a long-life battery designed to last ten years. Hard-wired ionization and combination smoke alarms are not required to have a ten-year battery.

The Office of State Fire Marshal and Oregon fire agencies continue to educate the public about proper smoke alarm installation and maintenance. These efforts will directly pay off in lives saved, reduced property loss, and increased firefighter safety.

[Visit the OSFM website for smoke alarm program information and resources.](#)

Smoke Alarm Performance in Residential Fires with Fatalities, 2008-2012



Based on 60 Oregon fatalities with reported smoke alarm data

Reporting smoke alarm data

Over the last five years, Oregon fire agencies responded to more than 15,000 fires in residential structures. Smoke alarm data is currently available for just over two-thirds (67%) of these fires. This percentage is up from the five-year period between 2005-2009, where smoke alarm data was only available for 44% of fires.

Some of the missing data is due to the difficulty of gathering smoke alarm information. Fire damage can make it impossible to determine if smoke alarms were present. And, often the only way to determine if a smoke alarm sounded is to interview building occupants, bystanders, or responding firefighters.

However, some of the missing smoke alarm data is due to inattentive reporting. Reporting smoke alarm presence and performance as completely as possible for every incident, ensures we have accurate information to gauge progress in smoke alarm campaigns and education efforts.

Thank you for reporting your incidents.

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.

¹ All Oregon statistics in this article are based on 2008-2012 incidents reported to the Office of State Fire Marshal as of January 23, 2013. Dollar amounts are estimates made by on-scene firefighters.

Wildland PIO course offered in April

The Oregon Department of Forestry, in conjunction with Rogue Community College in Grants Pass, will be hosting a training for Incident Command System S-203: Introduction to Incident Information.

This is a basic required course to become a wildland fire public information officer. Contact any of the following for more information:

Brian Ballou
Fire Prevention Specialist
ODF Southwest Oregon District
541-665-0662
bballou@odf.state.or.us

Jamie Paul
ODF Training and ROSS Coordinator
ODF headquarters
503-945-7435
jpaul@odf.state.or.us

Rod Nichols
ODF Public Affairs
503-945-7425
rnichols@odf.state.or.us

FEMA releases resource typing for public comment

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has released a resource typing definition for fire services and hazardous materials (Fire/HazMat) for 30-day public comment. The resource typing definition for Fire/HazMat is: Aerial Apparatus, Fire.

The guidance provides a standardized set of criteria when inventorying Fire/HazMat resources.

This effort is part of the National Preparedness System to organize the tools and resources needed to achieve the National Preparedness Goal.

To review and offer public comments, [download the documents from the FEMA website](#). Comments must be submitted by February 28, 2013.

For questions, email fema-nims@fema.dhs.gov or call 202-646-3850.

Fire grant update

by Hines Lieutenant/Grant Writer Jonathan Manski

Statistics from the 2012 Fire Prevention & Safety Grant are in, and participation from Oregon fire departments is still on a downward trend.

This year, 26 applications were submitted, eight from community organizations or universities and 16 from traditional fire departments. To compare, there were 28 submissions in 2011 and 40 in 2010. Nationally, there were 1,415 applications. This is relatively flat, compared to a year ago.

The majority of grant dollars (\$1.77 million) was requested by non-fire departments; \$784,000 was requested by fire departments. The smallest grant request was \$9,215, and the largest was \$999,747. Department applications included three from all-volunteer, four from career, and 11 from combination departments.

Success is just trickling in from the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program. In fact, Oregon hopefuls were "skunked" the last half of January. I'm also afraid to say the computer-issued denial letters are likely a month away, so the waiting anxiety continues for those that will get bad news.

A change to the AFG program involves excess funds after purchasing your program's items. The previous excess limit of \$5,000, available for similar activity items with program approval, has increased to \$10,000. That should allow departments a little extra freedom. There are also new allowances for submitting amendments. For more information, check with the Regional Program Specialist.

A critical element contributing to the slowness of AFG awards is the conversion of the Central Contractor Registration program to the new System for Award Management (SAM) program. Funds cannot be moved to an awardee without completion *and* activation of your account in SAM. Make sure you follow through and ensure your agency has completed the process of migration *and* activation.

[Visit the FEMA fire grants webpage](#) for more information.



Triethylamine (C₂H₅)₃N

Description:

- Synonyms: TEN, N,N-Diethylethanamine
- Clear colorless liquid with a strong ammonia to fish-like odor
- CAS No.: 121-44-8
- EPA Section 302 EHS: Not listed
- EPA Section 112_R: Not listed
- EPA Section 304 EHS: Not listed
- OSHA PSM: Not listed

NFPA 704 Information:

- Health: 3
- Flammability: 3
- Reactivity: 0
- Special: None

Uses and Occurrences:

- Used in production of quaternary ammonium compounds
- Intermediate for manufacturing medicines and pesticides

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Stable under recommended storage conditions
- Flash point: 5-20° F
- LEL: 1.2%; UEL: 8%
- Autoignition temperature: 419-480° F
- Vapor density (air = 1): 3.48-3.5
- Specific gravity (water = 1): 0.73
- Boiling point: 191.8-193.5° F
- Hydrogen gas may be formed in contact with strong reducing agents, such as hydrides
- Reacts violently with oxidizing agents
- Incompatibles include isocyanates, halogenated organics, peroxides, acidic phenols, strong acids, and some metals

Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: 25 ppm (TWA)
- IDLH: 200 ppm
- Corrosive, causing severe chemical burns
- Inhalation - extreme exposure may cause pulmonary edema and death
- Some symptoms may be delayed

Fire Fighting Measures:

- Extinguishing media: Water spray, dry chemical, alcohol-resistant foam

- CO₂ reacts with amines to form thermally unstable carbamate salts
- Vapors may travel to a source of ignition and flash back
- Vapors may collect in low areas

2008 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- Shipping name: Triethylamine
- Hazard Classes: Flammable Liquids (3), Corrosive Substance (8)
- UN/NA: 1296; Guide # 132 Flammable Liquids-Corrosives
- Spill: Initially isolate 150 feet in all directions

Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(1)

- Flammable liquid Class IB
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
 - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 120 gallons
 - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 240 gallons
 - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 240 gallons
 - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 480 gallons
 - Group when MAQ exceeded: H-2 or H-3

Incident Reporting and Information:

- Facilities reporting triethylamine on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey: six
- Hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: none

References include:

[Cameo chemicals – Triethylamine](#)
[Fisher Scientific – MSDS Triethylamine](#)
[CDC Niosh Pocket Guide - Triethylamine](#)
[Sigma-Aldrich – MSDS Triethylamine](#) - (Link select download MSDS)
[Honeywell, Burdick & Jackson – MSDS Triethylamine](#)
[EPA List of Lists, July 2011](#)
[CDC Occupational Health Guideline](#)

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

Wireless carriers to offer text to 9-1-1 service

The nation's four largest wireless carriers, joined by the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO) International and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA), announced an agreement on a voluntary commitment to offer text-to-9-1-1 services. The four participating wireless service providers are AT&T, Sprint Nextel, T-Mobile USA, and Verizon.

The agreement paves the way for a national approach to enabling the public to reach 9-1-1 via text messages, which can be important for persons with disabilities and during situations where a voice call cannot be made.

"With this agreement, text-to-9-1-1 capability will be rolled out in an expeditious manner, consistent with Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) readiness and in accordance with industry standards," said APCO President Terry Hall.

As part of the agreement, the carriers pledge to work cooperatively with APCO, NENA, and the FCC to educate the public on the availability and limitations of text-to-9-1-1, as well as to train Public Safety Answering Points on text-to-9-1-1. The general public should still continue to make voice calls to 9-1-1 whenever possible.

Key points of the agreement include:

Applies only to text messaging services (referred to as Short Messaging Service or SMS) provided directly by the four national carriers. Text messaging applications provided by third parties (referred to as "over the top" applications) are NOT covered by the agreement.

The four carriers will make text-to-9-1-1 services available to PSAPs no later than May 15, 2014, at which point PSAPs may request text-to-9-1-1 services after becoming ready to receive texts.

The service providers will implement a bounce-back (auto-reply) message by June 30, 2013 to alert subscribers to make a voice call to 9-1-1, whenever text to 9-1-1 is not available.

[The full text of the agreement can be found online.](#)

Unclassifieds

For sale

Gerber 911 uniform jackets for sale. Jackets have been laundered and department identifiers removed. Condition varies from fairly new to good/great, to gently used. Sizing, quantities, and condition are not guaranteed.

Sizes:

- 19 - Small
- 76 - Medium
- 124 Large
- 41 - X-Large

Gerber Sizing Chart	
Jacket Size	Chest Size
Small	36" - 38"
Medium	40" - 42"
Large	44" - 46"
X-Large	48" - 50"

Prefer to sell in lots of 25, minimum bid is \$10 per jacket. Smaller lots considered (even individual sales), but minimum bid is \$20 per jacket. Best efforts will be made to accommodate size requests.

All offers above the minimum considered. Highest bid(s) win. Offers accepted until 4 p.m., February 15, 2013.

Payment/pickup can be made on March 13, 2013 at TVF&R's North Operating Center 20665 SW Blanton, Aloha, Oregon. Department checks preferred. Payment through Paypal may be accommodated.

For questions or to bid, contact Shannon Wrench at Shannon.Wrench@tvfr.com, 503-259-1135, or Eric Wicks at Eric.Wicks@tvfr.com, 503-259-1157.

Job opening

The Oregon Department of Environmental Health and Safety within the Enterprise Risk Services Unit, and the University of Oregon is inviting applications for Fire/Life Safety Manager.

This position manages the university's fire and life safety programs in accordance with OSHA Oregon Fire Code and related regulatory standards.

The position serves as liaison to local, state, and federal agencies for fire and life safety compliance issues and emergencies, and acts as a consultant to the university community for fire and life safety issues, including public events.

[Visit the U of O website for complete description and application.](#) EO/AA/ADA institution committed to cultural diversity.