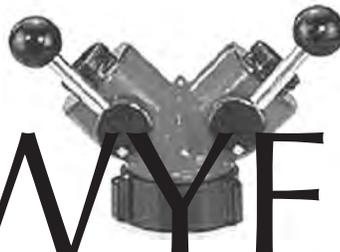


GATED WYE



June 2015 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 378

Huntington smoke alarm program covers entire town

by Huntington Fire and Ambulance Chief Eric Bronson

The city of Huntington, located in Baker County, is a small community with a population of 470 citizens, of which 370 are full-time residents. We currently have eight members on the Huntington Volunteer Fire Department.

We started the project (installation of new smoke alarms) with the assistance of OSFM Deputy State Fire Marshal Karine Johnson and OSFM Training Specialist Colleen Olson, back in November 2013.

When we first started this project, we requested only 48 smoke alarms and applied for and received \$250 in grant funds. The funding allowed us to purchase the tools necessary to install the alarms.

Initially, we targeted homes with elderly residents and homes with small children. The project quickly grew from 48 installations to all residences in the city of Huntington.

The first campaign of 48 smoke alarms was highly successful. With the assistance of OSFM Program Assistant Amy Roach, we were able to request

another 48 smoke alarms in the spring of 2014. After receiving the units we continued with installation. We requested another 100 alarms in November of 2014. These alarms were installed from the end of March to the beginning of April 2015.



left to right: Firefighter Haylee Harding, EMT/Assistant Chief Travis Young, and Chief Eric Bronson of Huntington Fire and Ambulance.

This was accomplished by our volunteers going door to door. We had two crews consisting of three volunteer fire personnel working on the project. One person filled out the paperwork and the other two installed the units. During the project, we were able to complete the task of checking and installing smoke alarms.

We have received positive feedback from the residents of our community who have the new smoke alarms. Currently, we have about 20 homes still in need of alarms. Our department will be requesting an additional 20 units for these residents.

Once completed, we will have accomplished 100% of our goal, having the entire community of Huntington been contacted, checked, and/or installed with working smoke alarms.

During these campaigns, I have to applaud the city of Huntington Volunteer Fire Department personnel for their time and effort to accomplish the project.

We would also like to thank the OSFM for the availability of the free smoke alarms. Without the assistance from OSFM Deputy State Fire Marshal Karine Johnson, OSFM Program Assistant Amy Roach, and retired OSFM Training Specialist Colleen Olson, this project may not have been accomplished.

From the desk of the state fire marshal



I believe we are on the right track and making great progress.

– Jim Walker

30 years of Community Right to Know

Just months after the tragic December 1984 chemical release in Bhopal, India that, within just a few hours, killed more than 2,200 people, the Oregon Legislature passed our state's Community Right to Know law. The law mandated the OSFM to collect information about hazardous substances possessed by facilities throughout Oregon and provide the information to first responders and the public for their response areas and neighborhoods. Also as part of the law, the OSFM is responsible for providing planning and training assistance to local jurisdictions on hazardous substance emergency response and preparedness.

A year later, in 1986, the federal government passed the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) that created the federal Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA), also known as SARA Title III. That same year, in order to comply with the federal law, Oregon integrated EPCRA information into the Hazardous Substance Information Survey. In addition to collecting the hazardous substance information, EPCRA required each state to establish a State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC). Also in 1986, the governor assigned the State Emergency Response Commission duties to the Interagency Hazard Communication Council (IHCC).

The SERC/IHCC designated the entire state as a single LEPC planning district, but from 1986 through 2005, this single statewide LEPC struggled to address EPCRA directives. So, in 2005 the IHCC was abolished and the SERC duties reassigned to the OSFM.

Although we still have had a few hiccups in the program over the years such as staffing and funding cuts, I believe we are on the right track and making great progress. Since focusing on organizing LEPCs

see **Walker** page 3



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503-934-8238

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503-934-8264

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at a truly local level, we have helped shepherd the creation of 10 functioning LEPCs around the state and momentum is gaining.

During a recent discussion with LEPC Program Analyst Terry Wolfe, he made a good comment that illustrates our commitment to make the process as easy as possible; "We have developed a flexibility within the LEPC program which is allowing more counties to determine what route they want to take in developing their LEPC."

Oregon was a leader in 1985, and we continue to be a leader 30 years later. The OSFM has an unwavering commitment to the Oregon Community Right to Know law and the SERC/LEPC program as a component of our overall effort to protecting Oregonians.

OSFM, OFMA, Building Codes conducting roundtables

In a partnership to strengthen communication between building and fire code officials, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal has teamed up with the Building Codes Division (BCD) along with the Oregon Fire Marshal's Association to hold "roundtable discussions" statewide.

The first two were in Astoria and Pendleton, Oregon and have been met with positive feedback.

These efforts are intended to facilitate better communication in communities throughout the state by solidifying the roles of building and fire code officials. Topics ranged from alternate materials and methods of construction, alternatives for fire department access and water supply, and emphasizing current state statutes and regulations.

The roundtables have yielded a thoughtful and collective voice of ideas to better aid the communities we serve.

The next roundtable is scheduled for Bend, Oregon on Friday, June 12, 2015. A schedule of additional roundtables will be planned for the southern portion of the state this fall.

National training program play safe! be safe!® coming to Oregon in October

Mark your calendar to join us for two free play safe! be safe!® fire education workshops. One on October 14, 2015, 8 a.m. to noon in Eugene, Oregon and a second on October 15, 2015 in Bend, Oregon, 8 a.m. to noon.

Pre-registration is required and will be available online after June 15, 2015.

The free workshop, presented by Holly Brown, Doctor of Nursing Practice and Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing at the University of Rochester, explores children's perception of fire and the limits of their ability to understand potential risk of fire and its consequences.



The play safe! be safe!® program is a multi-media fire safety education program created especially for children ages three to five. It teaches children the basics of fire prevention and how to respond to specific fire situations.

All workshop participants will receive a play safe! be safe!® kit. Trainers will receive additional kits for distribution, training slides, notes, and a resource list.

The free training is sponsored by Fireproof Children, Head Start Lane County, Eugene-Springfield Fire, Bend Fire, Safe Kids Oregon, the Oregon Fire Marshals Association, and the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal's Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Unit.

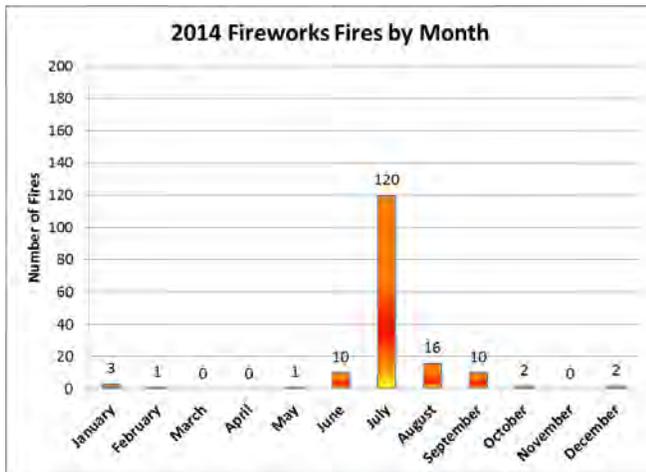
The free training and materials are made possible by a grant from the BIC Corporation.

Fireworks safety media event set for June 23rd

The OSFM, in partnership with Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue and Portland Fire & Rescue, is conducting a fireworks media event focused on the “Keep it legal, Keep it safe” theme used since 2006 in Oregon.

The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. June 23, 2015, at the Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Training Center at 12400 SW Tonquin Road, Sherwood, and will include a live fireworks display demonstrating the proper use of legal fireworks, general fireworks safety, and identifying Oregon illegal fireworks.

Other participants include Oregon Parks Department, Oregon Department of Forestry, the Bureau of Land Management, the Oregon Burn Center, area fire and law enforcement agencies, and Clackamas and Multnomah county animal services.



The safe use of legal fireworks is a critical part of the statewide message. Fireworks-caused fires (legal and illegal) skyrocket every July in Oregon.

Coming off of last year’s record wildfire season and this year’s extreme drought conditions in many Oregon counties, the safe use of fireworks is more important than ever.

For more information, contact the License & Permits Unit at 503-934-8264 or 503-934-8285.

Fireworks education and enforcement resources

As fireworks season approaches, the OSFM reminds fire agencies about a number of online resources available to assist with your fireworks education and enforcement efforts. Click on the following links to access information covering the topic your agency is interested in:

- [Common Inspection Elements for Retail Fireworks Sales](#)
- [Retail Sales Toolkit](#)
- [Outdoor Fireworks Display Inspection Checklist](#)
- [Fireworks Display Toolkit](#)
- [Illegal Fireworks Toolkit](#)
- [Public Education Toolkit](#)
- [Pocket Guides for Fireworks Enforcement](#)

A new fireworks safety education resource available free this year is the 4” x 9” rack card, shown at right, designed to illustrate the burn danger of wire sparklers.



All of the above linked resources may be downloaded from the OSFM website. [The rack can be ordered online.](#)

DATA Connection

News from the Analytics & Intelligence unit
by Program Coordinator Dave Gullede



Bark dust fire outside of a shopping center. Photo courtesy of Trappe Fire & EMS Company, Pennsylvania.

How do you code that?

Among the leading incidents in the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) that are often coded improperly are bark dust fires. In this article we will take a look at what bark dust is and how to report these types of fires.

What people refer to as mulch in the Midwest and other sections of the country is called bark dust here in Oregon. Webster's Dictionary defines this as "a protective covering spread or left on the ground to reduce evaporation, maintain even soil temperature, prevent erosion, control weeds, enrich the soil, or keep fruit clean." It is also used as decorative landscaping for homes, businesses, and even in the median of a street or highway. Playgrounds and recreational areas also use bark dust as a ground covering. It is used quite widely and for a variety of purposes.

Bark dust fires can be very dangerous as they are often close to residential or other occupied structures. Although they are outside and may start small, these types of fires can quickly result in the total loss of a home or building. Properly coding these fires is essential to helping us identify this problem.

That raises the question, "Are bark dust fires really a problem?" In 2014, there were more than 1,200 incidents reported as bark dust fires in Oregon. This represents nearly 10% of all fires in the state!

A review of incidents that have reported some elements indicative of a bark dust fire found that many of these incidents have been improperly coded, which means the actual number of bark dust fires is likely higher.

The leading ignition heat source reported in these fires was smoking materials, primarily cigarettes, accounting for about half (46.6%) of these types of fires where the heat source was determined.

Under the NFIRS standard, bark dust fires should be coded as Incident Type *142-Brush or brush-grass mixture fire*. This includes ground fuels lying on or immediately above the ground such as duff, dead leaves, fine dead wood, and downed logs. Generally, for bark dust fires, the *Item First Ignited* would be *72-Light vegetation (not crop)*. This includes grass, leaves, needles, chaff, mulch, and compost. The *Material First Ignited* would be *61-Wood chips, sawdust, wood shavings*.

The coding may vary depending on specific circumstances. However, the codes mentioned above would be the most appropriate for a simple bark dust fire.

When incidents are not coded properly it makes identifying them quite difficult. Bark dust fires definitely fall into this category. Not being able to accurately identify certain types of fires leads to poor focus on how to combat the problem as well as an inability to even identify it as a problem. This is why it is so important to make sure bark dust fires are coded properly.

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

Questions? Please contact the Analytics & Intelligence unit at 503-934-8250, toll free at 877-588-8787, or email osfm.data@state.or.us.

Summer related fire safety materials available free

Spring and summer are prime seasons for outdoor cooking and vacation travel and the OSFM is offering free fire safety education materials covering both of these topics.

Below at left is a two-sided, bilingual (Spanish & English) rack card providing tips on outdoor cooking safety. It references propane and charcoal grills and tips such as proper placement & use, keeping kids and pets at a safe distance, never leaving the grill unattended, and more.

Below at right is a multi-fold bilingual (Spanish & English) brochure with tips on recreational vehicle fire and carbon monoxide safety. Safety information covers cooking appliances, electric heaters, general electrical issues, generators, campfire safety, and more.

You can preview each of the educational items in detail by clicking on each of the images below.

You can order these and many other fire safety education materials for free using our [online order form](#). To order the rack card, scroll to the pull down menu on the form titled Bookmarks, Post Cards, and Rack Cards. To order the brochure, scroll to the pull down menu on the form titled Booklets, Brochures, and Pamphlets.



Outdoor Cooking Safety!

Oregon averages 36 outdoor cooking-related fires each year. These fires resulted in both civilian and firefighter injuries.

- Only use propane and charcoal grills outdoors. Using them indoors or in any enclosed space (e.g. garage) poses a fire hazard and exposes people to deadly gases.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Don't move the grill. This can cause an explosion.
- Place the grill away from your home's siding, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Place your grill a safe distance from any play areas and foot traffic.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Keep children and pets away from the grilling area; declare a three-foot "Kid Free Zone."
- If you cook with charcoal, use only charcoal starter fluid to start the grill. Once lit, never add charcoal fluid or any other type of flammable liquid.
- Keep all flammable liquids, matches and lighters out of children's reach and away from any heat source.



RECREATIONAL VEHICLE FIRE SAFETY

Prevent RV Fires



Safety information from the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal and your local fire agency



A planned six months turns into 26 years

After serving 26 years with the Oregon State Police and the Office of State Fire Marshal, License and Permits Unit Manager Anita Phillips is retiring. She will be leaving with a total of 30 years of state service.

Anita has had an interesting and varied career track since graduating from Central High School in Independence, Oregon.



She started her state service working for State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF) Corporation in 1978. During her tenure at SAIF, she became interested in helping in the medical field after taking a class on medical terminology. She then attended Chemeketa Community College for training as a medical assistant, left the SAIF Corporation and worked at various medical offices from 1983 through 1988.

In 1989, Anita rejoined her state service after being hired in a clerical position for Oregon State Police ID Services, a position she planned would last only six months. After five years, she became an office specialist for the OSFM.

At the OSFM, Anita worked through the ranks to serve as a cardlock compliance specialist, manager of the cardlock program in 2000, assistant manager of the License and Permits Unit in 2002, and was appointed manager of the L&P Unit in 2005.

"This has been a great job," said Phillips. "I believe in the OSFM mission and I am proud of the advancements we have made in the L&P Unit. I will miss my co-workers, my fire department friends, and the stakeholders who have supported the unit."

In retirement, Anita looks forward to working with animal foster services, traveling to great places like Hawaii, Boston, England, and Italy, as well as continuing her avid support of the Oregon Ducks football team by attending as many games as she can.



Propionic Acid $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$

Description:

- Synonyms: Carboxyethane; propanoic acid
- Colorless liquid with a rancid odor
- CAS No.: 79-09-4
- EPA Section 302 EHS: Not listed
- EPA Section 112R : Not listed
- EPA Section 304 EHS: Not listed
- OSHA PSM: Not listed

NFPA 704 Information:

- Health: 3
- Flammability: 2
- Reactivity: 0
- Special: None

Uses and Occurrences:

- Produced in nature by some bacteria
- Industry use as a food additive

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Combustible
- Stable under recommended storage conditions
- Flash point: 120-130° F
- LEL: 2.1; UEL: 14.8
- Autoignition temperature: 870-955.4° F
- Vapor density (air = 1): 2.56-2.6
- Specific gravity (water = 1): 0.99-1
- Boiling point: 285-286° F
- Incompatibles include strong oxidizing agents, bases, amines, halogens, metals, and reducing agents

Health Hazards:

- IDLH: Not determined
- LD50: 2600-4200 mg/kg (oral rat) varies widely per MSDS/SDS source
- LC50: 19.7 mg/l (inhalation 1 hour rat)
- Corrosive causes severe chemical burns to all tissues

Fire Fighting Measures:

- Extinguishing media: Water spray, dry chemical, carbon dioxide or appropriate foam
- Use water spray to cool unopened containers
- Vapors can spread along the ground and collect in low areas
- Vapors may form an explosive mixture with air

2012 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- Shipping name: Propionic acid with not less than 90% acid
- Hazard Class: Corrosive Substance (8); Flammable/Combustible liquid (3)
- UN/NA: 3463; Guide #132 Flammable Liquids - Corrosive
- Spill or leak – Initially isolate 150 feet in all directions
- Fire – Tank, rail car or tank truck: Initially isolate ½ mile in all directions

2014 Oregon Fire Code: Table 5003.1.1(1)

- Combustible liquid Class II
- 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
- Note d and e

Incident Reporting and Information:

- Facilities reporting acetic acid or an aqueous dilution on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey: two
- Hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: one

References include:

- [Cameo chemicals – Propionic Acid](#)
- [Fisher – Scientific MSDS Propionic Acid](#) (no link)
- [Sigma-Aldrich – MSDS Propionic Acid - \(Link select download MSDS\)](#)
- [Eastman Chemical Co. – SDS Propionic Acid](#)
- [Science Lab.Com – MSDS Propionic Acid](#)
- [EPA List of Lists – March 2015](#)
- [CDC NIOSH Pocket Guide – Propionic Acid](#)

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

OSFM wildfire season preparation

In preparation for the upcoming wildfire season, staff at the OSFM conducted their annual Agency Operations Drill (AOC) on May 22. The drill was successful in that AOC staff were able to contact every Fire Defense Board Chief but one.

It was an excellent training opportunity for activation team members as they were able to 'mobilize' 11 Task Forces.

The following day, the Communications Unit

held a small drill at OSFM during which they tested the new Codan repeaters and communication team members'



OSFM staff during the AOC training.

ability to program and use the new handheld ICOM and BK radios.

Thanks to all participants for their willingness to ensure the OSFM's rapid and efficient response to this season's anticipated conflagration(s).

OSFM strategic plan update

In March, a large portion of OSFM staff began work on the strategic plan for 2014-2019.

The group completed a SWOT analysis to evaluate the agency's strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats. From that analysis, OSFM identified the key internal and external factors that are important to the agency and defined five goals to focus on. These include leadership/organization, technology, marketing/communication, succession planning/training, and budget.

Committees, made up of OSFM staff, are holding work sessions to finalize objectives and strategies for the goals.

The purpose of the strategic plan is to provide members of the fire service, stakeholders, and the public an overview of expectations and vision for the future of OSFM. Planned completion of the plan is June 30, 2015.

More neighborhoods join Ashland Firewise

Ashland's Firewise program has added seven more neighborhoods to its 12 existing communities.

Firewise is a national program that emphasizes homeowner responsibility and community participation in wildfire home safety. It encourages local solutions for wildfire safety by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, firefighters, and others.

The new communities will be formally recognized for their efforts in wildfire preparedness by posting Firewise Communities signs at the entrance of each neighborhood. The street signs indicate national recognition of the community that has partnered with Ashland Fire & Rescue and the Oregon Department of Forestry in the Firewise Communities program.

Congratulations to these Ashland communities for being national leaders in the Firewise program.

CCC Emergency Services 50 Year All Class Reunion

Come join in the celebration of the 50 Year Anniversary of Chemeketa Community College's Emergency Services Program.

On September 11, 12, and 13 of 2015 there will be a reunion of all former students, instructors, staff, family members, fire department personnel, and any supporters of the CCC Fire Program.

With three full days of events, there will be something for every family member: a Friday night reception, Saturday a golf tournament, motorcycle rally and BBQ, and on Sunday an Open House at the Brooks Regional Training Center.

Everyone is encouraged to come and relive their glory days with classmates, staff and instructors!

For questions, please contact Tania Kleinschmit at tania.kleinschmit@chemeketa.edu or Scott Hukari at shukari@chemeketa.edu.

[Follow us on Facebook: Chemeketa Emergency Services - 50th Anniversary Weekend](#)