

Meeting Minutes

OREGON LIFE SAFETY TEAM



January 16, 2014

Mt. Hood Room – Office of State Fire Marshal

1:30-3:30pm

Attendees:

Barrett, Sean – Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue (Lane)
Blank, Detective Mike – OSP Explosives section
Burns, David C – US Consumer Product Safety Commission
Cranford, Jeff – McMinnville FD (Yamhill)
Del Grande, Sgt. Kevin– OSP Explosives section
Gulledge, Dave – OSFM
Hallman, Les – Oregon Fire Chiefs Association
Hatch, Joanne– Tualatin Valley F&R (Washington/Clackamas)
Hoover, Rich – OSFM
Knudson, Dennis – West Valley FD (Polk)
Kusz, Jim – North Lincoln F&R (Lincoln)
Mack, Jeff – Salem FD (Marion)
McGrew, Claire - OSFM
Mendez, Alfredo – Marion County FD (Marion)
Nemeyer, David – Forest Grove Fire (Washington)
Patton, Jim – Corvallis Fire (Benton)
Roach, Amy – OSFM
Rodgers, Dennis – OR Fire District Directors Association
Sauermann, Lora – Albany Fire (Linn)
Slavens, Ginger - Nestucca RFPD (Tillamook)
Stafford, Stephanie – OSFM
Walker, Jim – OSFM
Wallace, Mark – OSFM
Robert Tibbetts from LaGrande FD (union)

Meeting called to Order 1:35 by Stephanie S.

Welcome/Introductions

Oregon Fire Casualty Review Statistics

Dave Gulledge gave a review of the Oregon Fire Casualty Review Committee stats. Dave explained his role in producing fatality reports and recommendations on lowering the rate of fire fatalities and injuries.

- 1) 36 fire related fatalities in 2013
- 2) Smoking was the leading cause
- 3) 4 of those were smoking while on oxygen
- 4) 45% of homes with fatal fires had alarms 17% did not. Homes with them activated about half the time. Every instance where it didn't activate was due to batteries being removed.
- 5) 176 injuries last year in 146 residential fires 80% were in residential fires. Half those are 1-2 family dwelling, mostly males (63%) over 60% were minor injuries. In most cases they were engaging in fire suppression activities when they were injured. Majority were males and occurred during the dinner hours (5-7pm).

Recommendations from the 2004-2008 Fire Fatality Report:

- 1) Expand older adult fire prevention programs
- 2) Improve smoke alarm program
- 3) Increase home fire escape efforts
- 4) Promote installation of home Fire sprinkler
- 5) Target Fire and Life Safety Education to at risk populations
- 6) Increase cigarette caused fire education
- 7) Monitor legislative and regulatory processes.
- 8) Improve data collection review.

Jim Kusz asked about legislation on residential sprinklers and how that was coming along, or if there were any progress. Dave didn't have the answer for that, but Claire said that they were taking baby steps and that she didn't have a better answer.

Les Hallman asked for a brief summary (1-2 pages) of the stats Dave gave to get to the fire chiefs. Dave said that he would be willing to do that when all data was in. Dave also stated that stats would come out in the "Gated Wye".

Stephanie asked Dave to combine the two 5 year stat timelines for a total number over ten years.

Rich Hoover asked Dave about the 50+ age group being the highest age group of fire related fatalities. Older fatalities are mostly linked to smoking related fires.

Stephanie asked the group to be thinking about campaigns and issues that were important to the group, so that after Sgt. Del Grande's presentation, we could discuss the focus of the group for the upcoming year. So that there is more time to prepare speakers, presentations, and get the word out previous to observed target dates such as "change your clocks".

Hash Oil Extractors Education

Sgt. Kevin Del Grande from OSP Explosives Unit, along with Detective Mike Blank gave the group a presentation on hash oil fires, as they are becoming more prevalent.

- 1) Hash oil is very easy to make, and can be made anywhere using a pvc pipe, some solvent and marijuana.
- 2) The gases produced by the solvent can be very flammable if not well ventilated.
- 3) Hash oil has no smell and is not easily identifiable, so it's harder to detect than marijuana or some other drugs.
- 4) Det. Blank asked that FD's call their local explosives unit if they see these devices, as they closely resemble a pipe bomb, and until it is examined, it might not be known which it is. The more ventilated an area is, the less likely a hash oil extractor is to explode, as it dissipates the gasses.

~ ~ ~5 MINUTE BREAK ~ ~ ~

2014 Fire Prevention & Safety Education Pre-Planning Discussion

Stephanie brought up planning for the year, and brought up the example of the campaign to "change your clock, change your battery". That message is now outdated, since many smoke alarms now have 10 year batteries and some are tamper resistant. Discussion was about alternatives such as the newer updated message of "change your clocks, check your alarm"

Jim Kusz said maybe it should be considered to abandon the "time change" angle and just educate more for "check your alarm monthly".

David Burns stated people should learn to get out and not wait on smoke alarms.

Jim Kusz suggested we need a new catch phrase that gets attention.

Joanne Hatch said that with media outlets, it's a culture of change. Discussion was held about using outlets such as Facebook and Twitter type social medias.

Jeff Cranford suggested using Chief Mark Wallace to disseminate information down the pipeline to Fire Chiefs, who could share with their staff.

The issues that the group felt were most important to address were:

- 1) Smoke alarms
- 2) Fire escape
- 3) Fire suppression (and when you should fight/when you should flight)

Meeting adjourned at 3:36pm