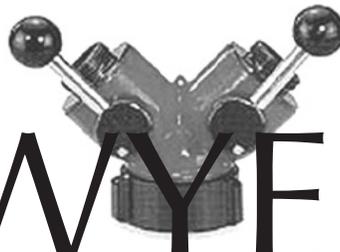


# GATED WYE



April 2010 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 315

## Oregon's gift tree turns 20

as recounted by Jack Remillard  
Pendleton Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal (Ret.)

Twenty years ago this month a small Douglas Fir (Oregon's state tree) was planted at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The tree was presented to the academy on behalf of Oregon alumni in appreciation for the unselfish dedication shown by the academy and staff to Oregon attendees.

The idea of a gift came to me after spending a rewarding two-week training at the academy in 1989. Unfortunately, one evening after class while playing volleyball, I dislocated my left foot. After spending four hours in Gettysburg (yes, I was wounded at Gettysburg) getting my foot reset, I returned to my room at the academy and spent the remaining three days trying to come up with a way to show my appreciation to the staff, who made sure I was comfortable, fed, and made it to graduation as scheduled.

My idea was to present an Oregon tree to the academy. To get the project started, I asked for a \$5 donation from past and present Oregon academy attendees. There was an overwhelming response, and I received more than \$1,000! Two years later

and after a bout with cancer, my idea came to fruition.

I worked with Mr. Wayne Powell from the academy, and Mr. Olin Greene, former Oregon



**Planting the Oregon tree in 1990, left to right: Academy Fire Service Specialists Wayne Powell and Linda Hurley, Oregon Assistant State Forester Fred Robinson.**

State Fire Marshal, and U.S. Fire Administrator at the time of the dedication. Although the tree was planted in 1990, it was officially dedicated two years later on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, by Olin and me, a tremendous honor I will always treasure.

If it wasn't for Olin and Wayne, I believe the tree would have been just another plant on the academy grounds. As it is now, the tree is at center stage, directly in front of the Fallen Fire

Fighters Memorial. It is an honor to have it located in such a place. It is also an honor that the NFA uses the tree as its official Christmas tree. Every year it is decorated with memorial tributes from all over the nation.

Many Oregon academy students have visited the tree but many have not because they don't know about it. Please pass the word to future students and encourage them to visit the tree while on campus. I still appreciate receiving photos of the tree to follow its progress. It is a joy to watch. (photos may be emailed to [jprem@my180.net](mailto:jprem@my180.net))

Join me in celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Oregon's much appreciated gift to the academy.



**The tree in January 2010. Photo by Hermiston Fire Marshal Tom Bohm**

# From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



“ . . . property owners must take more personal responsibility in reducing potential fuels and improving their structural protection. ”

## Public education on a budget

It's hard to believe Wildfire Awareness Week 2010 is around the corner. However, as usual it takes place the first full week in May, (May 2-8).

While normally this is the time when departments and districts ramp up their wildfire prevention and safety campaigns, many will struggle to do anything given that budgets have tightened dramatically the past few years.

Tough budget times have also hit organizations that normally help our efforts by providing grants and other funding to help homeowners mitigate their wildland urban interface risks.

The question is how can we still accomplish public education on wildfire prevention and safety with limited staff and money?

We need to reinforce the basic idea that property owners must take more personal responsibility in reducing potential fuels and improving their structural protection.

We can do this in a low cost way by providing property owners with information resources and encouraging them to be proactive in their own education. They need to take responsibility for implementing measures proven to decrease loss of property and lives during wildfires.

There are many websites with resources and information available to the public such as: the Oregon Department of Forestry, Keep Oregon Green, Firewise, the National Interagency Fire Center, U.S. Forest Service, FEMA, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Many resources are available. The key will be informing property owners about these resources and urging them to take action with what they learn, before it's too late.

### **- Reminder -**

**State Fire Defense Board meeting  
Tuesday, April 13, 2010, 1 p.m.  
at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond.**



**State Fire Marshal  
Randy Simpson**

**Office of  
State Fire Marshal**

**Oregon State Police  
4760 Portland Rd. NE  
Salem Oregon  
97305-1760**

**[www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM)  
503-373-1540**

Administration  
ext. 211

Codes & Technical  
Services  
ext. 269

Community Education  
ext. 273

Community  
Right-to-Know  
ext. 214

Data Services  
ext. 236

Emergency Planning &  
Response  
ext. 227

Emergency Response  
ext. 238

Fire & Life Safety  
ext. 204

Firesetter Intervention  
ext. 230

License & Permits  
ext. 264

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 e-mail [richard.hoover@state.or.us](mailto:richard.hoover@state.or.us). In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, alternative formats of this publication are available.

Simpson photo courtesy of ODOT Photo and Video Services.

## Basic Fire Investigation 100 course available online or in the classroom

The Office of State Fire Marshal has created new basic fire investigation training as a prerequisite to Basic Fire Investigation 200.

Basic Fire Investigation 100 is a 3-4 hour training for 'first in' firefighters and officers whether volunteer or career. The course is based on the current edition of NFPA 1001, NFPA 921, and the Oregon DPSST FFI, FFII, and Fire Officer I Task Book objectives.

Basic Fire Investigation 100 provides a framework for fire personnel with limited experience in fire investigations. Topics include basic understanding of the need for scene preservation, legal authority, determining fire patterns, origin and cause, and various steps in the investigation process.

On completion, students know fire investigation initial procedures and are able to assist in protecting and preserving evidence of a suspicious fire and provide documentation to the investigator.

[Enroll for classroom or online version.](#)

For more information, contact Anita Horsley at [anita.horsley@state.or.us](mailto:anita.horsley@state.or.us) or 503-934-8249.

## Public safety chaplain roundtable in April

The second annual Oregon public safety chaplain roundtable is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, Oregon.

The roundtable, cosponsored by the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association and the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal, is designed for all chaplains working with public safety organizations.

The purpose is to share information and training and develop a list of trained chaplains available to conduct call-outs when needed.

The roundtable takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with lunch provided. Please RSVP to Laura Drager at 503-934-8211 or [laura.drager@state.or.us](mailto:laura.drager@state.or.us).

## OSFM new hires

**Lena Mohajerin**  
Research Analyst  
Data Unit



Lena grew up in Eugene, Oregon and earned her MBA from the University of Oregon in 1995. Since then she has worked for several private companies in the Portland area in marketing, market research, and as an analyst. Lena has been married 10 years and has one daughter in kindergarten and one in first grade. Her interests outside of work include arts & crafts, reading, running (she's run the Portland Marathon twice), and "everything having to do with my kids!"

"This is my first time working in the public sector and I've really enjoyed my first five months here," says Lena. "There is a genuine warmth and friendliness among OSFM's staff that makes this office unique."

**Daniel Wright**  
Administrative Specialist 1  
Data Unit



Before joining the OSFM, Dan worked 10 years for a solid rocket fuel manufacturer (Explosive & Chemical Technician, Planner/Scheduler, and Government Properties) in San Jose, California. He moved to Roseburg, Oregon in 1999 and spent the last 10 years with various government agencies including the City of Winston (Code Enforcement Official), Douglas County (Winston Branch Librarian), and the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (Parking Enforcement, Go Oregon Analyst). Dan has been married for 22 years and has two grown children in Eugene, Oregon. In his spare time he likes to exercise, read, and play music (Bass).

"It's alright, I guess," joked Dan.

## OSFM annual report available on the web

The 2009 Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Annual Report is available on the OSFM website.

The redesigned report has an entirely new look and layout. The various chapters highlight the many successful partnerships between the OSFM and organizations around the state in accomplishing the OSFM mission to protect Oregonians, their property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials. [Click here to download the report.](#)

## Kits available on older adult safety

The Office of State Fire Marshal has available public education kits aimed at fire and fall prevention and safety for older adults. The kits, titled *Remembering When™: A Fire and Fall Prevention Program for Older Adults* were developed by the National Fire Protection Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help older adults live safely at home for as long as possible. The kits are free to any Oregon fire department (a \$65 value).

To request a kit or for more information, contact Candice Clark at 503-934-8266 or [candice.clark@state.or.us](mailto:candice.clark@state.or.us).

## Oregon Burn Center offers free classes for professionals

The Oregon Burn Center offers free classes throughout Oregon and SW Washington for nurses, physicians, EMS, fire service, and high-risk workers. Classes are usually Power Point presentations, 1 to 3 hours in length and presented by a staff member of the Oregon Burn Center. Handouts and other materials are provided free.

[A list of classes and descriptions is also available on the web.](#)

To schedule a class or for more information, email [oregonburncenter@lhs.org](mailto:oregonburncenter@lhs.org).

## HMEP grant application for 2010/11 now available

The Application and Guidance Manual for the 10/11 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grant is due for release April 1. [An electronic version is available on the OSFM web site.](#)

The HMEP grant provides funding for planning and training projects related to hazardous materials.

**Note - Last minute federal changes have shortened the deadline for grant submissions to May 15, 2010.**

The performance period for approved projects begins October 1, 2010 and ends September 30, 2011.

If you would like more information or a printed copy of the application, contact Terry Wolfe at 503-934-8219 or [terry.wolfe@state.or.us](mailto:terry.wolfe@state.or.us).

## Training on the culture of poverty

Albany Deputy Fire Marshal Wanda Omdahl, in partnership with the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal, will deliver training on the Culture of Poverty at the OSFM office in Salem, May 20, 2010. The two-hour training is free.

National data indicates that people most at risk for fire are preschoolers, older adults, people with disabilities, and people that live in poverty.

The class is designed to correct myths and assumptions and help members of the fire service understand this specific population and mutual perceptions. Space is limited to 30 attendees.

[Register on the web.](#) For more information, contact Candice Clark at 503-934-8266 or [candice.clark@state.or.us](mailto:candice.clark@state.or.us).

## DATA Connection

News & technical tips from the Data Services Unit

### What constitutes an Exposure Fire?

Exposure is defined as a fire resulting from another fire outside a building, structure, or vehicle; or a fire extending to an outside property from a building, structure, or vehicle. The Office of State Fire Marshal Data Unit is often contacted for clarification about exposure fires. To shed some light on this topic, we have provided some examples.

Examples of Exposure Fires:

- A building that burns due to radiant heat from a fire in an adjacent building.
- A vehicle parked on a street (or motor home parked next to a garage/house) that burns due to radiant heat from a fire in an adjacent building.
- A building fire resulting from a vehicle collision.
- A fire that spreads from a building to a yard/field.
- A fire that spreads from one separate building to another separate building.
- A fire that spreads from one fire-rated compartment to another within one building that has internal fire separations.

Examples of fires that are not Exposure Fires:

- A fire that originates in the house and spreads to the attached garage.
- A fire that spreads through separate shops in a business block, building, or shopping mall (where the shops are not separate fire-rated compartments).
- Vehicles in a garage or building (e.g. underground parking lot) that burn due to a fire in the garage or building. In this case, the vehicles are considered contents of the garage or building. However, if the damage is confined to the vehicle, it is considered a vehicle fire. If the fire spreads beyond the vehicle and damages any part of the garage, the incident is considered a structure fire listing the vehicle(s) as contents.
- A fire occurring in a boat moored at a wharf or marina with damage confined to the boat, is a boat fire. However, if the fire spreads from the boat to other boats moored at the wharf or marina, whether attached by mooring lines or contained in sheds, the original boat is considered contents of the marina. Damage to other boats or surrounding structures is considered part of the property fire and

reported as contents losses or building losses, respectively. Boats burned in this manner are not individual exposure fires.

- A fire that spreads through a single building with multiple owners (e.g. condominiums) does not have exposures unless the building had internal fire separations that the fire crossed.

Exposure is limited to actual flame damage. For example, if an adjacent building is damaged due to water, heat, smoke, or fire control, this is not considered an exposure fire. However, the damage should be recorded in the incident report.

The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) requires an additional Basic Module be completed for each exposure fire.

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#### Reporting Guidelines from NFIRS

*Incident Number* – The original fire and all exposure fires are recorded under the same Incident Number.

*Exposure Number* – The original incident is always coded with Exposure Number '000,' and exposures are numbered sequentially beginning with '001.'

*Alarm Time* – The Alarm Time should reflect the time of each new exposure.

*Ignition Factor* – The Ignition Factor for all but the original fire are classified as 'exposure fires.'

*Sources:* [www.nfirs.fema.gov/documentation/reference](http://www.nfirs.fema.gov/documentation/reference)  
[www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom/fire\\_reporting\\_manual](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom/fire_reporting_manual)

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### Fire Bridge™ Q&A

**Q. Every run form has a 'validity' percentage associated with it. What does that number mean?**

**A.** Your goal is for run forms to be **100% Valid with No Errors or Warnings**. *Validity* is the percentage of run form completeness, based on U.S. Fire Administration rules. NFIRS only accepts incidents at 100% validity for the national database. Any missing data from run forms is listed in red as *Errors* and *Warnings* at the top of the form. Errors must be corrected to reach 100% validity. Warnings must be corrected for your form to meet Oregon-specific data standards. You can verify the completeness of your forms by running your 'Incomplete NFIRS Incident Report List' (under 'Reports' in your department's section of Fire Bridge). Be sure to click the radio button to display both Errors and Warnings.

For questions, call 503-373-1540, extensions 234, 237, or 244.

## Assistance to Firefighting Grant workshops available

The Office of State Fire Marshal, in partnership with Region 10 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is hosting free Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) workshops throughout Oregon during April.

The AFG workshops provide fire and EMS agencies with information on 2010 updates, available funding, and funding priorities. Participants will also learn the grant application process and receive insight on the 2010 Program Guidance.

Three separate grants for 2010, opening in late March, include Operations and Safety & Vehicles grants, Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response grants, and Fire Prevention & Safety grants.

Workshop dates and locations include:

**April 3, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.**

La Grande Rural FPD  
10200 South McAlister Road  
Island City, OR

**April 6, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.**

Siuslaw Valley F&R  
2625 Highway 101 North  
Florence, OR

**April 7, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.**

Winston-Dillard Fire Department  
250 Main Street  
Winston, OR

**April 8, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.**

Klamath County#1 - Station 3  
1625 Mitchell Street  
Klamath Falls, OR

**April 9, 2010 at 1:30 p.m.**

Central Cascades Fire & EMS  
20400 Crescent Lake Highway  
Crescent Lake, OR

**April 13, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.**

Boardman Rural Fire District  
Port of Morrow  
2 Marine Drive  
Boardman, OR

If you have any questions, or for more information contact Colleen Olson at 503-934-8228 or [colleen.olson@state.or.us](mailto:colleen.olson@state.or.us).

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## Fire grant update

by Hines Firefighter/Grant Writer  
Jonathan Manski



By the end of March, thirty-nine Oregon applications to the Fire Prevention & Safety program have yet to be secured. However, with only 40 projects awarded nationally there is still plenty of life left in this program.

Waiting for documents detailing the availability of funds for the programs appropriation is holding up the start of the 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program, tentatively set to open March 29, April 5, or April 12, you get the drift. Meanwhile, the 2009 AFG program continues to work some magic for Oregon departments. Near the end of March, 30 projects valued near \$3 million have been awarded. By the time you read this or soon after, some will have seen the computer generated denial letters, the first in a short series of denial events. The good news about these early denials is it helps you decide the projects to focus on with your 2010 application.

Changes to the 2010 AFG program are limited, dealing mostly with clarifying terminology, modifications of facilities, vehicle payments, and EMS questions. Overall, the program looks similar to the 2009 version with much less available funding. Since the computers have been a downfall to the AFG program this year, some of which remain, I would not recommend waiting until the very last minute to submit your project requests.

Finally, this month I want to recognize Oregon departments who are members of an elite club of grant recipients. The AFG has been in place since 2001 and in the 10 years since, these twelve departments have produced successful applications five times; Ashland, Evans Valley, Halsey-Shedd, Hubbard, LaPine, Lebanon, Mid-Columbia, Molalla, North Bend, Phoenix, Redmond, and Silverton. Outstanding work.

[Click here for the latest information on FEMA grants.](#)

Short notice - The 2010 grant opportunity in the Volunteer & Rural Fire Assistance, (VFA/RFA), program is open now until April 16. If you serve a community with less than 10,000 population, you need to review this program. A financial match is required. [Read more here.](#)



## Anhydrous Ammonia $\text{NH}_3$

### Description:

- Synonyms: Ammonia, Spirit of Hartshorn
- Colorless gas or compressed liquid with a pungent suffocating odor
- CAS No.: 7664-41-7
- EPA Section 302 EHS TPQ 4004 cu ft/500 lbs
- EPA Section 112<sub>R</sub> 207,800 cu ft/10,000 lbs
- OSHA Process Safety Management (PSM) 207,800 cu ft/10,000 lbs

### NFPA 704 Information:

- Health: 3
- Flammability: 1
- Reactivity: 0
- Special: None

### Uses and Occurrences:

- Found in the body as a by-product of protein and nucleic acid metabolism
- Used in the production of explosives
- Commonly used as a refrigerant
- Used in fertilizers as a source of nitrogen

### Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- DOT non-flammable, but does have a flammable range: LEL: 16%; UEL 25%
- Very reactive and incompatible with acids, oxidizing agents, and reducing agents
- Under certain conditions may form explosive fulminate-like compounds with heavy metals such as gold, mercury, or silver
- May react with bromine, chlorine, fluorine, or iodine to form spontaneously explosive compounds

### Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: 50 ppm, TWA
- Inhalation  $\text{LC}_{50}$  (rat): 5.1 mg/l/1 hour
- Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH): 500 ppm
- May be fatal if inhaled
- Toxic and very corrosive to body tissues causing severe burns
- Liquid ammonia can cause frostbite

### Fire Fighting Measures

- Emergency responders should use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and full chemical protective equipment

- Isolate hazard area, deny entry
- Extinguishing media: Dry chemical,  $\text{CO}_2$ , water spray or regular foam
- Do not attempt to extinguish fire unless flow of material can be stopped first
- Containers may rupture or explode if exposed to heat
- Do not get water inside containers
- Cool fire-exposed containers with water spray
- Vapors are initially heavier than air and spread along the ground
- Stay upwind and keep out of low areas
- Toxic, corrosive vapors may be released from venting pressure relief devices

### 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- DOT Nonflammable gas, Hazard Class 2.2
- UN/NA: 1005; Guide # 125,
- Spill: Initially isolate 330 feet in all directions
- Large spill: First isolate 500 feet in all directions (Table 1)
- Small spill: First isolate 100 feet in all directions (Table 1)

### 2007 Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(2)(g)

- Corrosive
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
  - A single cylinder containing 150 lbs or less in a nonsprinklered building.
  - Two cylinders each containing 150 lbs or less provided the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1

### Incident Reporting and Information:

- There are 245 facilities in Oregon currently reporting anhydrous ammonia on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- There have been 91 hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986 involving anhydrous ammonia

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For questions or suggestions contact HazMat Information Specialist Alec Carte at 503-934-8262 or e-mail [aleta.carte@state.or.us](mailto:aleta.carte@state.or.us)

## Fire & life safety recognition

On March 16, Supervising Oregon Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Jones presented Fire & Life Safety Awareness II recognitions to three Hillsboro Fire Department Inspectors (pictured below).



*Left to right: Supervising Deputy Dave Jones, Lieutenant Charlie Marble, Captain Doug Nolan and Captain Joe Ligatich.*



*Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Jones (right) presents Clackamas Fire Inspector Mike Boumann on his Oregon Fire Marshal with Fire Plans Examiner recognition March 11.*

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## Central Oregon co-op receives grant

Insurance company FM Global recently awarded a \$2,000 fire prevention grant to the Central Oregon Fire Prevention Cooperative (COFPC) in Redmond, Oregon.

The COFPC will use the award to assist with community fire prevention activities to help educate residents and reduce the number of wildland and structural fires. Specifically, the co-op will use the funds to purchase a generator to run their smoke trailer which provides training for children on how to safely exit a home in the event of a fire.

"We attend a lot of events throughout Central Oregon," said COFPC Chair Dave Wheeler, a member of the Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Department. "And we can't always count on having a power source to run the trailer. This will allow a lot more kids to practice exiting a home, calling 9-1-1, and learning the importance of a family meeting place."

## Unclassifieds

### For sale

1989 Ford F350 Diesel with custom box (in excellent condition). Used as a rescue vehicle; has 29,500 miles.

This vehicle is in good shape and would make a great apparatus for dive rescue or other special team unit. Asking \$5,000. [Photos and contact information available here.](#)

