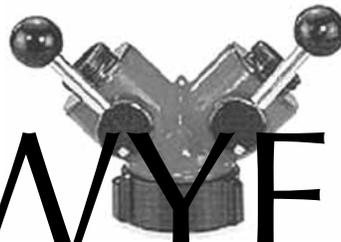


GATED WYE



November 2012 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 346

Oregon Garden announces completion of the Oregon Garden Fire Safety House

The Oregon Garden announced the completion of the Oregon Garden Fire Safety House Project. This is the first full-scale fire prevention and safety house in the U.S.

The house, originally built in the 1970s, features a self-guided tour of the exterior with inter-

The project was funded through an Assistance to Firefighters grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Partners in the project include Oregon Garden Foundation, the Oregon Department of Forestry, Moonstone Garden Management, Firewise Communities, Oregon State University, and the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal.

[Visit the Oregon Garden Fire Safety House Facebook page](#) to see more photo galleries showing photos of the home before, during, and after renovation.



A view of the front of the completed Oregon Garden Fire Safety House

pretive kiosks illustrating how a home can be protected from wildfire using defensible space strategies and fire resistant building techniques.

Visitors will also learn about fire resistant landscaping plants, and how to reduce surrounding fuels that could cause a wildfire to encroach on a home.



A close up view of one of the eight interpretive kiosks placed around the Oregon Garden Fire Safety House

OSFM website complications

Over the past several months, the State of Oregon has been migrating the hosting of Oregon.gov websites to a new vendor. The migration process is a technical challenge and, as with most complicated projects, there have been some difficulties along the way.

The OSFM is aware that our website may be slow to load for many customers, and opening PDF documents may take longer than normal. You may also experience error messages stating "page not found."

Solutions are being worked on by the vendor and state IT officials to correct these and other issues affecting Oregon.gov websites. The OSFM expects this effort will result in eliminating these issues in the near future.

Meanwhile, if you have questions or need assistance accessing the features on our website, please call our main number, 503-378-3473.

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



Your agency's role in haz mat response

In 1989, the Legislature authorized the Office of State Fire Marshal to develop and maintain the first statewide hazardous materials response system in the U.S.

Hazardous materials are an integral part of daily life, and there are frequent incidents involving spills and leaks of these materials. Oregon has 13 strategically located Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams (RHMERT), comprised of local first responders with the advanced training and technical equipment needed to respond effectively.

All emergencies are local incidents. As such, local fire, law enforcement, and EMS personnel are responsible for establishing effective command and control at the incident site upon arrival. They must size up the situation to determine if it's a spill or leak of hazardous materials; size and nature of the incident; type of material involved; form of the material (solid, liquid, or gas); potential amount involved; injuries at or near the scene; and the actions to take, based on their level of training and equipment, etc.

The response of an RHMERT must be specifically requested if the incident exceeds the capability of the local fire department and, if any of the following questions can be answered "yes:"

- Is this a transportation incident involving a release or potential release of an identifiable hazardous material?
- Is this an incident at a "fixed site" known to contain hazardous materials?
- Are there incapacitated victims from unknown causes, or exposed victims from a cause known to be a hazardous material?
- Is there a visible environmental impact? (dead fish, dead vegetation, etc.)
- Is this a request from another RHMERT?

see *SFM Wallace* page 8



**State Fire Marshal
Mark Wallace**

**Office of
State Fire Marshal**

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

**www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM
503-934-8200**

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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.

The response of an RHMERT must be specifically requested if the incident exceeds the capability of the local fire department . . .

– SFM Mark Wallace

OSP Fallen Trooper Memorial Auction November 10

An auction to raise money for the Oregon State Police Fallen Trooper Memorial is scheduled Saturday, November 10, 2012, from 6 - 10 p.m. at the Willamette Heritage Center at Mission Mill in Salem, Oregon.

The \$10 per ticket covers food and non-alcoholic drinks. A no-host bar will also be available.

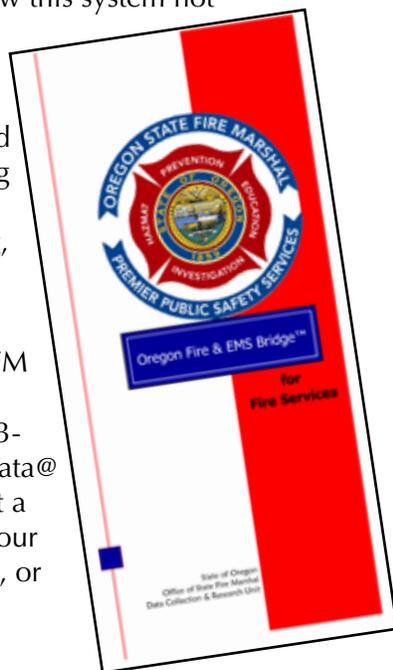
More than 100 items will be included in raffles, a silent auction, and live auction. Items include a Sunriver Resort package, golf packages, casino packages, Oregon State University and University of Oregon sports packages, sports memorabilia, and more.

For tickets, contact ospfallenmemorial@gmail.com. For more information about the memorial, visit the [Oregon State Police Memorial website](#).

Brochure available on Oregon Fire & EMS Bridge™

Oregon Fire & EMS Bridge™ is the name of the OSFM's free online incident reporting system. If your fire agency hasn't made the switch to the Oregon Fire & EMS Bridge™ reporting system, now is a great time to request a brochure explaining how this system not only allows you to report incident information, but how it can provide record keeping and tracking of staff, equipment, inspections, training, compensation, and more.

Contact the OSFM Data Collection and Research Unit at 503-934-8250 or osfm.data@state.or.us to request a brochure, activate your department account, or request training.



Code amendment proposals for the 2014 Oregon Fire Code now being accepted

The OSFM is now accepting code amendment proposals for the 2014 Oregon Fire Code based on the 2012 International Fire Code.

The current Fire Code in Oregon is the 2010 edition of the Oregon Fire Code (OFC), based on the 2009 International Fire Code (IFC) with Oregon amendments. The OSFM proposes to update the OFC with the 2012 IFC.

The OSFM is accepting proposed amendments now through December 21, 2012.

All proposals must be submitted to the OSFM in writing. [A form, including code amendment proposal criteria, is available on the OSFM website.](#) Proposals may also be emailed to Deputy State Fire Marshal John Caul at john.caul@state.or.us.

Any interested person may propose to:

- Add an amendment to the proposed base model code, or
- Recommend to incorporate statewide code interpretations into the code, or carry these forward to the newly adopted code.

Accepted proposals will be reviewed at the monthly meetings of the Oregon Fire Code Committee beginning January 2013. The committee will then make its recommendations to the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

There will be more opportunity for input at a future public hearing (TBD). The 2014 Oregon Fire Code is scheduled to become effective April 1, 2014.

For questions or more information, contact Deputy State Fire Marshal John Caul at 503-934-8276 or john.caul@state.or.us.



Here come the holidays

by OSFM Program Coordinator Terry Wolfe

With the advent of fall comes the annual fire service effort to remind Oregon citizens of the dangers associated with the holiday season.

Besides the onset of colder weather and reminders about heating our homes safely, this time of year is filled with gatherings to celebrate the holidays, sharing time with family and friends, and preparing those wonderful holiday meals.

However, since 2008, there has been a steady upward trend in the number of cooking fires in Oregon.

In 2011, 7.2% (769) of fires involved cooking, resulting in two deaths, 38 injuries, and an estimated \$8.1 million in property damage. These types of fires are the leading cause of fire-related injuries in Oregon, accounting for 17.0% of reported injuries. Now is the time, before the season gets into full swing, to remind Oregon residents of the dangers associated with cooking.

The OSFM has several pieces of free educational materials available to assist your fire agency's efforts in reminding citizens about cooking safety.

Help us get the word out and cooking-related fire statistics down, so everyone can have a safe and memorable holiday season.

For more information on available materials, contact Terry Wolfe at 503-934-8245 or terry.wolfe@state.or.us, or. You can also [visit the OSFM website](#).

Red Cross announces free Wildfire smartphone app

On the heels of a busy wildfire season across the United States, the American Red Cross has released its official Wildfire smartphone application (app). The app puts lifesaving information in the hands of people who live in or visit wildfire-prone areas. It gives residents instant access to a "Blaze Tracker" feature so they can prepare their households and businesses, and make critical lifesaving decisions.

The Wildfire app includes:

- The "Blaze Tracker" trio of features, which can be customized for alerts specific to locations where users live, travel, or have loved ones:
 - * "Blaze Warnings" lets users see areas where NOAA has issued warnings that conditions are favorable for potential wildfires;
 - * "Blaze Alerts" informs users when a wildfire has begun within 100 miles of any location(s) monitored;
 - * "Blaze Path" from Inciweb.org which provides users with a current view of an existing wildfire's perimeter, how it has spread, and the fire's current location when available.
- Comprehensive reporting of all wildfire activity for every geographic area in the United States;
- Options to view the app in English or Spanish based on user language settings;
- One touch, "I'm safe" messaging that allows users to broadcast reassurance to family and friends via social media outlets that they are out of harm's way;
- Locations of open Red Cross shelters;
- Simple steps and checklists people can use to create a family emergency plan;
- Preloaded content that gives users instant access to critical action steps, even without mobile connectivity;
- Toolkit with flashlight, strobe light, and audible alarm; and
- Badges users can earn through interactive quizzes and share on social networks.

Wildfire app users can receive notification of wildfire risk and activity within 100 miles of locations that matter most to them.

To download the app, visit the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store for Android](#) by searching for American Red Cross. Apps can help prepare people for disasters, but they are not a substitute for training. Red Cross First Aid and CPR/AED training empowers people to know how to respond to emergencies in case advanced medical help is delayed. People can go to redcross.org/takeaclass for course information and to register.

DATA Connection

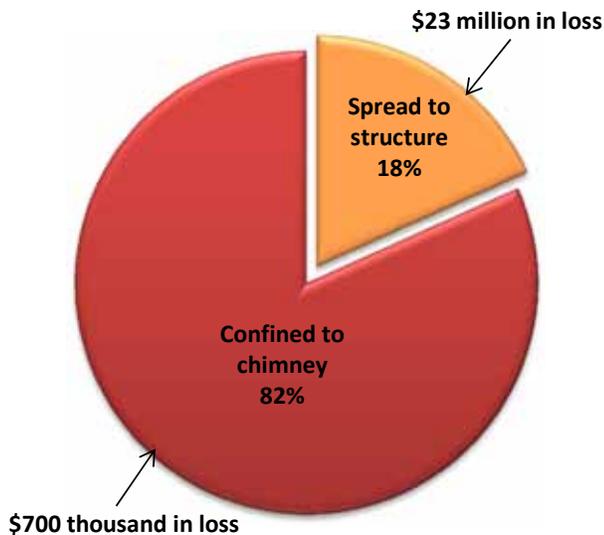
News from the Data Collection & Research Unit

Chimney fires

As temperatures begin to drop, Oregonians will start using their fireplaces and woodstoves, and fire agencies will find themselves responding to chimney fires. Fourteen percent of all residential fires are chimney-related fires. The largest percentage (63%) of chimney-related fires occur between November and February.¹

Looking at houses and apartments in Oregon from 2007 through 2011, there were 3,372 fires that either were confined to a chimney/flue or started in a fireplace, chimney, or flue and extended to the structure. During this period, these fires resulted in 10 deaths, 41 injuries, and more than \$24 million in estimated damage.

Chimney-Related Fires in Oregon 2007-2011



¹ All statistics in this article are based on 2007-2011 incidents reported by Oregon fire agencies, submitted to the Office of State Fire Marshal.

Most fires involving a chimney are confined to the chimney or flue (see graph). These confined fires rarely result in serious injury and account for just 3% of estimated losses in chimney-related fires. The average estimated loss per fire that was confined to the chimney or flue was \$257.

Conversely, 18% of chimney fires spread to become building fires, accounting for 97% of estimated losses in chimney-related fires. The average estimated loss per fire that was not confined to the chimney or flue was more than \$38,000.

Additional chimney-related fire statistics:

- The largest percentage (46%) were caused by failure to clean.
- The largest percentage (34%) occurred between 5 and 9 p.m.
- 4.4% average annual increase in incidents over the last five years.
- 63% of injuries occurred between 10 p.m. and 8 a.m.
- The majority of deaths (8) occurred between 1 a.m. and 10 a.m.
- The average dollar loss from a chimney fire that spreads to the structure is about 150 times greater than the average dollar loss from a chimney fire contained to the chimney.

By understanding the prevalence and causes of chimney fires in their local jurisdictions, fire agencies can lead public education campaigns to help prevent those types of fires.

Reminding homeowners to have chimney and woodstove flues inspected and cleaned each year by a qualified chimney sweep can help prevent fires. In addition, educating homeowners about safe practices, such as using a fireplace screen, keeping combustibles at a safe distance, and properly disposing of ashes, will translate to fewer fires.

The OSFM has educational materials covering home heating and many other topics. [You can review and order materials on the OSFM website.](#)

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.

2012 – 2013 HMEP grant awards

The U.S. Department of Transportation provides grant funding to Oregon's Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPC) through the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Grants Program.

The grants are to improve local effectiveness in preventing chemical accidents, promote safe and efficient response to hazardous materials incidents, and enhance implementation of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act.

The HMEP Grant Program distributes fees collected from shippers and carriers of hazardous materials, to LEPCs and emergency responders for hazardous materials related training and planning projects. It is intended to encourage a comprehensive approach to emergency training and planning by incorporating the unique challenges of responses to transportation situations.

2012 – 2013 HMEP Grant Recipients

Training Grants

Clatsop County LEPC

\$2,500 - Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response

Columbia County LEPC

\$5,200 - Response to Class B Ethanol Fires

Coos County LEPC

\$7,367 - Anhydrous Ammonia Safety Training and Drill

Mid-Valley LEPC (Linn-Benton Counties)

\$3,200 - Haz Mat Incident Command and Incident Response: Awareness and Operations Training

Multnomah County LEPC

\$4,950 - Haz Mat IQ Training

Regional Haz Mat Response Teams

\$41,310 - Haz Mat Task Book Training and Technician Training (Weeks 1-4)

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue

\$16,350 - Haz Mat IQ Training

Planning Grants

Clatsop County LEPC

\$10,050 - Haz Mat Mitigation Plan and Tabletop Exercise

Columbia County LEPC

\$13,800 - Commodity Flow Study, Haz Mat in Transportation, Shelter-in-Place, and Evacuation Planning

Coos County LEPC

\$3,000 - Anhydrous Ammonia Safety Training and Drill

Mid-Valley LEPC (Linn-Benton Counties)

\$8,500 - Regional Haz Mat Emergency Response Teams-related Conferences

Additional awards are pending.

For more information on the HMEP grant program and upcoming grant opportunities, contact Sue Otjen at 503-934-8227 or sue.otjen@state.or.us.

Sherman County Emergency Service agencies to receive volunteer award

The 2012 Governor's Volunteer Awards will present Sherman County Emergency Service agencies with a statewide Outstanding Volunteer Program Award on November 9, 2012, during a luncheon at the Salem Conference Center. The agencies to be recognized include South Sherman Rural Fire Protection District, City of Moro/Moro Rural Fire Protection District, North Sherman County Rural Fire Protection District, Rufus Volunteer Fire Department, and Sherman County Ambulance.

The awards program, organized by the Oregon Volunteers Commission for Voluntary Action and Service, honors Oregonians who do extraordinary things and inspire and motivate future volunteerism.

"Oregon is made richer by the contributions of our talented and compassionate citizens," said Governor John Kitzhaber. "These award winners represent the best of the state – people who give their time, energy, and resources to lifting up others and making Oregon a better place to live."

A total of 26 organizations and individuals will be recognized at the event.

[Visit the Oregon Volunteers website for more information.](#)



Phosphorus Pentoxide P_2O_5

Description:

- Synonyms: Phosphoric anhydride, phosphorus (V) oxide
- Odorless, white powder or crystalline solid
- CAS No.: 1314-56-3
- EPA Section 302 EHS TPQ: Not listed
- EPA Section 304 RQ: Not listed
- OSHA Process Safety Management: Not listed

NFPA 704 Information: Ratings vary by source

- Health: 3 to 4
- Flammability: 0 - 1
- Reactivity: 0 to 2
- Special: Water reactive

Uses and Occurrences:

- Manufactured, not naturally occurring
- Strong dehydrating agent
- Used in medicine, pesticide, and surfactant manufacturing

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Flash point: Not applicable
- Flammable limits: Not applicable
- Vapor density: 4.9 (air = 1.0)
- Specific gravity: 2.39 (water = 1)
- Stable under recommended storage conditions
- Reacts violently with water to evolve heat. The heat may be sufficient to ignite surrounding or admixed combustible materials
- Reacts violently with ammonia, hydrofluoric acid, oxygen difluoride, propargyl alcohol, calcium oxide, potassium, sodium, sodium hydroxide, and chlorine trifluoride
- Readily absorbs moisture from the air (hygroscopic) to form meta-, pyro-, or orthophosphoric acid
- Incompatible materials include: water, aluminum, peroxides, magnesium, alcohols, metals, and oxidizing agents

Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: None listed; IDLH: None listed
- Corrosive – Causes severe chemical burns to all body tissues
- May be fatal if inhaled

Fire Fighting Measures:

- Extinguishing media: Dry chemical, carbon dioxide, alcohol resistant foam
- Reacts with water to form toxic and corrosive fumes
- Use flooding quantities of water from a distance, not directly on material
- Do not get water inside containers

2008 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- Phosphorus pentoxide, Hazard Class 8 (Corrosive Substances); UN/NA: 1807; Guide # 137 Water Reactive - Corrosive
- Spill: Initially isolate 75 feet in all directions
- Fire: Tank, rail car, tank truck: Isolate ½ mile

2010 Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(1)

- Water Reactive Class 2
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
 - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 50 pounds
 - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 100 pounds
 - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 100 pounds
 - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 200 pounds
 - Group when MAQ is exceeded: H-3

Incident Reporting and Information:

- Facilities currently reporting phosphorus pentoxide on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey: one
- Hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: None

References include:

- [Cameo chemicals - Phosphorus pentoxide](#)
- [Sigma-Aldrich MSDS Phosphorus pentoxide](#)
- [Acros Organics N.V. MSDS Phosphorus pentoxide](#)
- [EPA List of Lists – July 2011](#)

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

SFM Wallace

continued from page 2

If the answer is “yes” to any of these questions, the Incident Commander (IC) must immediately and specifically request a **“state haz mat team response”** by contacting their incident dispatcher who must relay the request to the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS) at 1-800-452-0311. OERS will dispatch the appropriate RHMERT by contacting the OSFM duty officer.

Past difficulties, confusion, and/or delays in an effective response have been due to ineffective communication or communication breakdowns (requests don't get processed, understood, or transmitted). It's critical that the communication of a response request be very clear. My suggestion is that you always say “send the state hazardous materials response team.” Then, spend a few more seconds and tell them why, using relevant information from your incident size up (example – “We are at the scene of a semi-trailer on its side. It's leaking an unknown liquid and there are flammable liquid placards visible from our closest safe vantage point. There is no fire at this time, AND we request a response from the regional haz mat team).

Hazardous materials emergencies are no time for obscure, non-specific communication. By providing your dispatcher, or the OERS dispatcher, and the OSFM duty officer with incident size up information and information about the question you answer “yes” to, as well as clearly requesting response of the RHMERT that covers your jurisdiction, your response will assist in protecting our citizens, the environment, and our communities from a release of hazardous materials.

Our goal is for this system to work quickly and effectively each and every time. The system is not automatic or mechanical. It involves personal communications where human error is possible. If at any time you don't get an anticipated callback in a reasonable time, call OERS again and request contact by the OSFM duty officer.

When an RHMERT responds, their function is control and mitigation. Ensuring proper clean-up, recovery, and mitigation after containment and control, remains the responsibility of the local jurisdiction and/or the Department of Environmental Quality.

Virginia company's close call prompts ladder inspection warning

A worker for a Virginia roofing company narrowly escaped serious injury when the fiberglass ladder he was using collapsed, leaving him hanging on a roof edge. A second employee was able to deploy another ladder in time to rescue his co-worker.

The ladder that collapsed was a Type 1A fiberglass ladder rated for a 300 pound load capacity. The worker weighed approximately 160 pounds. The ladder had been inspected and was less than two months old.

Upon investigation, the roofing company found small cracks on the fiberglass side rails next to the rungs on approximately 20% of their fiberglass extension ladders.

Craig Hamelund from the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division contacted Virginia Roofing Inc. to confirm the incident and learned the company found six other ladders from two different manufacturers that had similar cracks. They removed them from service and now have a policy to use only aluminum ladders unless there is a potential electrical concern.

The company's insurance carrier primarily conducted the investigation.

[View a pdf of the safety notice and details about how to inspect fiberglass ladders here.](#)

OSP Mobility and E-Ticketing program wins state award

The Oregon State Police Mobility + E-Ticketing Program was recently honored as the “Gold Winner” during the State Chief Information Officer's (CIO) third annual awards program. The program was also announced as the runner-up for a 2012 Recognition Award by the National Association of State Chief Information Officers.

[Visit the Oregon State CIO Awards Program webpage](#) for more information and detailed summary of all the programs recognized in 2012.