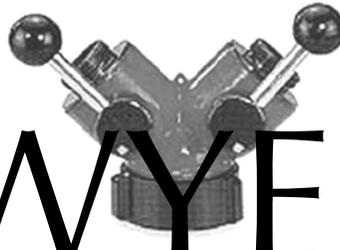


GATED WYE



November 2013 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 358

2013 Fire Season Summary

For OSFM incident management teams and structural protection task forces, the 2013 fire season proved to be the busiest season in the past 10 years, with four declared conflagrations. A total of 20 task forces from 14 counties responded along with elements of OSFM's Green and Blue incident management teams. Together they worked to save more than 1,000 residences with a total property value of more than \$190 million. Below is a quick summary of each conflagration. [Summaries of past conflagrations](#) are available on the OSFM website.

Fire: Pacifica *Blue Team*

- Conflagration date: 07.19.13
- Communities threatened: Williams (Josephine County)
- Structures threatened: 150 residences, unknown number of other structures
- Structures saved: 149 residences, unknown number of other structures
- Structures lost: one residence, six outbuildings
- Participating structural fire agencies: Lane, Linn, Lincoln, and Marion county task forces
- Other participating agencies: ODF, BLM
- Estimated mobilization cost: \$254,419
- Cause: undetermined

Fire: Douglas Complex *Green Team*

- Conflagration date: 07.27.13
- Communities threatened: Glendale and Wolf Creek (Douglas and Josephine counties)
- Structures threatened: 470 residences, 75 other structures
- Structures saved: 469 residences, 71 other structures
- Structures lost: one residence, two commercial buildings, and two outbuildings
- Participating structural fire agencies: Lane, Linn, Benton, Marion, and Lincoln county task forces
- Other participating agencies: ODF, BLM
- Estimated mobilization cost: \$1,468,380.58
- Cause: lightning

Fire: Grouse Mountain *Blue Team*

- Conflagration date: 08.08.13
- Communities threatened: John Day (Grant County)
- Structures threatened: 400 residences, 11 other structures
- Structures saved: 400 residences, 10 other structures
- Structures lost: one outbuilding
- Participating structural fire agencies: Baker, Union, Hood River, and Yamhill county task forces
- Other participating agencies: USFS, ODOT
- Estimated mobilization cost: \$150,000
- Cause: lightning

Fire: Government Flats Complex *Green Team*

- Conflagration date: 08.17.13
- Communities threatened: The Dalles (Wasco County)
- Structures threatened: 83 residences, 82 other structures
- Structures saved: 79 residences, 93 other structures
- Structures lost: four residences, nine outbuildings
- Participating structural fire agencies: Washington, Marion, Clackamas, Multnomah, Hood River, Columbia and Clatsop county task forces
- Other participating agencies: ODF, BLM, USFS
- Estimated mobilization cost: \$1,283,354.14
- Cause: lightning

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



If we can't cover every occupied structure in every jurisdiction due to staffing limitations, we have to make some choices.

- SFM Mark Wallace

Revisiting our priorities

The mission of the OSFM is "To protect citizens, their property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials."

We approach this mission with a wide variety of programs and services. The relevant state statute (ORS 476.030, Duties of State Fire Marshal) provides the following mandates:

- 1) The prevention of fires;
- 2) The storage and use of combustibles and explosives;
- 3) The maintenance and regulation of structural fire safety features in occupied structures and overseeing the safety of and directing the means and adequacy of exit in case of fire from factories, asylums, hospitals, churches, schools, halls, theaters, amphitheatres, all buildings except private residences, which are occupied for sleeping purposes, and all other places where large numbers of persons work, live, or congregate from time to time for any purpose.

I am focusing this month on number three (above). When considering the whole of Oregon, this is a huge job.

Although we have a cadre of deputy state fire marshals covering all parts of the state, there are too few of them to accomplish this mandate without assistance. Fortunately, we have a core group of dedicated local fire marshals and local inspectors that are critical to the achievement of the mission of OSFM.

Our recognition process is designed to ensure those conducting this important work have the requisite knowledge and skills needed to properly apply Oregon Fire Code to the occupied structures across much of the state.

In the largest populated areas we have designated nine "exempt" fire departments, which means they have accepted this mandate as part of their duties to protect their community. A number of other fire departments perform most or at least some of the work load.

see *SFM Wallace* page 3



**State Fire Marshal
Mark Wallace**

**Office of
State Fire Marshal**

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Community
Right-to-Know
503-934-8238

Data Collection & Research
503-934-8273

Emergency Planning and
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503-934-8238

Fire & Life Safety
503-934-8256

License & Permits
503-934-8264

Youth Prevention
& Intervention
503-934-8240



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.

Without this critical assistance, our 15 deputy state fire marshals would be far too few in number to complete the work load as described above. Even with everyone assigned to these tasks across the state, we find we have to set priorities and limit the frequency of inspections and safety surveys.

Statistics show that most fire fatalities in Oregon occur in single-family dwellings. Our push to have working smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors in more residences gives us the biggest “bang for our bucks” when striving to prevent residential fire fatalities. However, private residences are exempted from the previously referenced statute. It is addressed in ORS 479.255.

My goal is to set some statewide priorities for deputy state fire marshals, local fire marshals, and local fire inspectors for the “maintenance and regulation of fire safety features in occupied structures.”

In theory, fire prevention is really simple. Just keep things that burn far enough away from sources of heat sufficient enough to ignite the combustibles. If that effort fails, people in the structure need to know immediately a fire has ignited and be able to safely exit the structure (fire detection and alarms/signaling systems as described in NFPA 72). The third priority is when people need to evacuate a structure that is on fire, they can do so safely, easily, and effectively.

Successful exiting involves a sufficient number of exits, proper widths of those exits designed for the occupancy load of the structure, and exits free from obstruction and easily opened in the direction of flow for the exiting occupants.

In every community and jurisdiction across Oregon, we need to know where large groups of people congregate. These occupancies should be targeted by our inspectors as a risk management priority. The likelihood of a fire occurring is one risk consideration. A second consideration is the potential consequence or impact if a fire did occur in a particular occupancy. Inspections, including maintenance and regulations, should prioritize those occupied structures based on these risk considerations.

These priorities and considerations are second nature to our trained and certified fire marshals and fire inspectors. However, it is important to occasionally revisit these priorities to reinforce why we do what we do. If we can't cover every occupied structure in every jurisdiction due to staffing limitations, we have to make some choices.

If the likelihood, or historical frequency, of fires in a particular occupancy classification is low, but the consequences are high, we must address it. Maybe it's only a survey, initially, to sort out problem areas needing a higher level of scrutiny and inspections. However, we cannot ignore the risk in occupancies listed in the statute.

Potentially, the inspection frequency of the safest occupancies can be lowered. Then occupancies with fire safety issues can be addressed more fully and more frequently. Occupancies with a higher likelihood of having an incident and a high negative consequence to the community during or after a fire need more frequent inspections with more detail than a simple fire safety survey.

Exempt authorities report their inspection activities annually to the OSFM as a condition of their exemption. Only inspections conducted by OSFM personnel are captured in our database.

Together we can more effectively protect the people of Oregon from fires.

Mobilization Plan Review Committee update

The 2014 Mobilization Plan Review Committee is set and working on updates to the plan. There likely will not be many big changes. The committee will look at cleaning up verbiage to better explain processes, reimbursements, implementation of new NIMS typing, updates to the Task Force Leader guidebook, and training. The committee expects to have the plan ready for review by fire defense board chiefs on or about February 3, 2014.

For more information, visit the [Mobilization Plan Review Committee webpage](#).

Juvenile firesetter intervention training in January

Clackamas Fire District #1, Fire Safe Children and Families, and the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal are sponsoring two days of Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I training, January 15-16, 2014 at Clackamas Fire District #1, 2930 S.E. Oak Grove Blvd., Milwaukie, Oregon.

The training is free; however, registration is required for all attendees. All class materials are provided by the Office of State Fire Marshal. All travel, meals, or other expenses are the responsibility of the attendee.

The 16-hour course provides an overview of Oregon's juvenile firesetter intervention program. Topics include: policies, procedures and laws, child development and communication, practice using the Oregon *Juvenile with Fire Screening Tool*, intervention options including educational strategies and referral procedures, as well as networking steps and data collection.

The class will help prepare applicants for completing a task book as required by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training for the National Fire Protection Association 1035 certification as a Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I in Oregon.

Class instruction is funded by a 2012 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters grant to Fire Safe Children and Families. The training site is generously provided by Clackamas Fire District #1.

Class size is limited, 16 training slots are available and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. [The training flyer and registration form are available on the OSFM website.](#)

Save the date

The annual Oregon Fire Defense Board Chiefs meeting is planned for March 19, 2014. The location is still to be determined. When the location and other details are finalized it will be published in the Gated Wye newsletter.

Do the Drill resource guide available free

The Office of State Fire Marshal Youth Fire Prevention & Intervention Program is encouraging Oregon fire departments and districts to provide their local schools with copies of *Do the Drill* resource guide.

Do the Drill focuses on conducting safe and effective fire evacuation drills for schools and is one of four drill guidelines included in the OSFM *School Resource Guide to Evacuation Planning*. Also included are earthquake, shelter-in-place, and lockdown drill guidelines.

The guide was developed in partnership with representatives from the Oregon Fire Marshals Association, Oregon Code Committee, Oregon Emergency Management, the Oregon Department of Education, School Resources Officers Association, Special Districts of Oregon, and OSFM.

The *Do The Drill! A School Resource Guide to Evacuation Planning* is [available to view on the OSFM website](#). You can also [order copies using the online order form](#).

For questions or more information, contact the OSFM Youth Fire Prevention & Intervention Program at 503-934-8240 or email Krista.Fischer@state.or.us.

The Oregon Fire Service Museum now on Facebook

Check out the [Oregon Fire Service Museum Facebook page](#). Board member Greg Musil says the Facebook page is intended as a forum to post Oregon fire service history, information about fire museum events, volunteer opportunities, fund-raising, and other important information.

The museum organization is a non-profit educational institution with the goal of establishing a permanent museum facility on the grounds of [Western Antique Powerland](#), 3995 Brooklake Road NE, Brooks, Oregon.

You can also visit the [Oregon Fire Service Museum webpage](#) for more information.

DATA Connection

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

How Does Oregon Compare?

Every state submits data to the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) database. The U.S. Fire Administration's National Data Center provides comparative information on how many incidents each state has reported to the national level and breaks that down to show how many of those incidents were fire, EMS, or non-fire/non-EMS. Based on this information for 2012, here is how Oregon compared to the other 49 states*:

Total number of incidents reported:

Oregon ranked 23rd with 269,149, Florida had the most with 2,613,516 and North Dakota had the least with 22,555.

Total EMS calls reported:

Oregon ranked 20th with 184,895, Florida had the most with 1,963,792, and North Dakota had the least with 11,233.

Total fire calls reported:

Oregon ranked 34th with 10,838, Texas had the most with 84,952, and Rhode Island had the least with 2,549.

Total Non-fire/non-EMS calls reported:

Oregon ranked 25th with 73,416, Florida had the most with 588,045, and North Dakota had the least with 7,827.

*Information provided by the National Data Center as of 7/1/2013.

Is Your Information Included?

The Data Collection & Research Unit only submits incidents to the national level that meet the 100% valid criteria under NFIRS standards. If an incident report is missing a key piece of information or is partially filled out, it is considered invalid and does not go to the national level. This is because only valid incident reports are used for research or statistical analysis at the national level. Invalid incidents are not included.

Incident reports do not have to be 100% valid, however, to be submitted to the state.

At the state level, we use any and all submitted data to conduct research and statistical analysis. This means if you only have partial information and are awaiting details of an ongoing investigation in order to complete your report, you can still submit it to the state. As soon as the remaining information is available, it can be added to the report. Once it is 100% valid, it will then be sent to the national level in the next upload.

Each month, the Data Collection & Research Unit uploads incident data to the national level. The upload includes data from the period two months prior. This month, we will be submitting September's data. In addition, we also upload any changes or additions that have been made up to that point throughout the year that have not been previously submitted.

Oregon's incident reporting database shows a total of 4,562 incidents not reported to the national level in 2012 because they were invalid. To date in 2013, there are 2,925 out of 183,024 incidents that are currently invalid.

Since 2010, incident reporting has steadily improved as the overall incident validity rate has continued to increase. The validity rate is a measure of how many incident reports are 100% compliant to the NFIRS standard, or valid. In 2010, the overall incident validity rate was 85.4%. In 2012, it reached 98.3%. The overall incident validity rate so far in 2013 is 98.5%.

To ensure all incidents are valid, local fire departments can run an Incomplete NFIRS Incident Report, or ask the OSFM Data Collection & Research Unit for it. This report will identify which incident reports are not complete, based on the NFIRS standard, and what specific information is missing.

Resources are also available [online](#) that show the total number of incidents and the incident validity rate for each Oregon fire department.

If you have questions, we have answers!

Contact the Data Collection & Research Unit at: 503-934-8250 or 877-588-8787 (toll free); or email osfm.data@state.or.us.

New telephone technology may affect monitored fire alarms

The fire and security alarm monitoring industry is cautioning customers to check with their monitoring service if they are switching from standard land line phone service to digital technology such as voice over internet protocol (VoIP), digital subscriber line (DSL), or cellular radio. Currently, the most popular new service is VoIP.

(Editor's note: This article uses VoIP service as an example of how digital technology may not be compatible with many monitored alarm systems. Sections of this article have been reprinted from Security Distributing and Marketing magazine.)

Because most alarm systems communicate over standard telephone lines, new VoIP service must be compatible with the system used by the company that monitors a business's or home's fire or burglar alarms.

If it is incompatible, a fire or burglar alarm signal may not be received by the monitoring central station, or the signal may be received in a confused or incompatible fashion.

Some VoIP systems do not work during power failures or may have limited backup battery capacity, which is when a burglar or fire alarm may be needed the most. This does not happen with standard telephone lines because they carry their own electric power.

Internet lines sometimes are shut down for maintenance. For surfing the web, or even telephone calls, this may be a temporary inconvenience. But for an alarm system that must be connected 24/7, it can mean the difference between life and death.

No standard currently exists for equipment used in VoIP systems, so your professional security dealer or security systems integrator should be contacted for advice about which VoIP systems in your area work best with his or her company's monitoring services.

In addition, alarm customers need to make sure they can call their local 911 center with their new VoIP phone system, and that the 911 center can tell where you are located. Many 911 centers can determine from the telephone line where a call originates. That feature must be included with your VoIP system, or the VoIP company must have your updated address. If this is not done, the 911 center may not know where to dispatch police or fire.

It's also important for security dealers to send periodic test messages, called "polling," to alarm panels to ensure they are connected properly.

For these reasons and more, central station alarm monitoring companies urge any business or private party with a monitored alarm system to check with their professional security dealer or systems integrator for information on the most reliable way to convert fire and/or burglar alarm systems to digital technology.

Oregon Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference



May 13-15, 2014
Seaside, OR

HazMat Response: Geared up and On the Move



Click here to visit the webpage for more info

The advertisement features a dark blue background. On the left, there is a logo for the Oregon Hazardous Materials Response Teams, which is a diamond shape with a skull and crossbones in the center, surrounded by the text 'OREGON HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAMS'. Below this logo, the dates 'May 13-15, 2014' and location 'Seaside, OR' are listed. In the center, the main title 'HazMat Response: Geared up and On the Move' is written in large, bold, orange letters. On the right, there is a circular logo for the Oregon State Fire Marshal, featuring a fire truck and the text 'OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL' and 'PREMIER PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES'. Below this logo, a link is provided: 'Click here to visit the webpage for more info'.



Dimethylamine Anhydrous $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NH}$

Description:

- Synonyms: DMA, N-methylmethanamine
- Colorless liquefied gas with a fishy odor at lower concentrations and an ammonia odor at higher concentrations
- CAS No.: 124-40-3
- EPA Section 302 EHS: Not listed
- EPA Section 112_R: 10,000 pounds
- EPA Section 304 EHS: Not listed
- OSHA PSM: 2500 pounds

NFPA 704 Information:

- Health: 3
- Flammability: 4
- Reactivity: 0
- Special: None

Uses and Occurrences:

- Produced commercially and found naturally in animals and plants
- Used as a solvent and to make other chemicals

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Highly flammable
- Flash point: -67 to 20° F
- LEL: 2.8%; UEL: 14.4%
- Autoignition temperature: 752-756° F
- Vapor density (air = 1): 1.6
- Boiling point: 45° F
- Reacts vigorously with mercury and chlorine
- Reacts violently with strong oxidizing agents
- Dissolves readily in water to form flammable corrosive solutions
- Reacts with hypochlorites to form N-chloroamines some of which are explosives when isolated
- Use caution with mineral based and clay based absorbents
- Incompatibles include metals, acids, combustible materials, halogens and oxidizing materials

Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: 10 ppm (TWA)
- IDLH: 500 ppm
- Corrosive causing severe chemical burns

Fire Fighting Measures:

- Extinguishing media: Water spray, dry chemical, appropriate foam, carbon dioxide
- Vapors may travel to a source of ignition and flash back
- Vapors may collect in low areas

2008 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- Shipping name: Dimethylamine, anhydrous
- Hazard Classes: Flammable Gases (2.1)
- UN/NA: 1032; Guide # 118 Gases Flammable -Corrosive
- Spill: Initially isolate 330 feet in all directions

2010 Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(1)

- Flammable Gas Liquefied
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
 - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 150 pounds
 - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 300 pounds
 - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 300 pounds
 - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 600 pounds
 - Group when MAQ exceeded: H-2

Incident Reporting and Information:

- Facilities reporting Dimethylamine anhydrous on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey: 1
- Hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: None

References include:

[Cameo chemicals – Dimethylamine, anhydrous](#)
[Matheson Tri-gas, Inc. – MSDS Dimethylamine, anhydrous](#)
[Airgas Inc. - MSDS Dimethylamine](#)
[Sigma-Aldrich – MSDS Dimethylamine](#) - (Link select download MSDS)
[EPA List of Lists, October 2012](#)

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

OSFM new employee

Bethany Emmert
Office Specialist 2
License and Permits unit

Bethany grew up in Sweet Home, Oregon, where she graduated from high school in 2006. She went on to attend Corban University in Salem, graduating with an Associate of Arts in Business.



In 2009, she was hired as a vault teller by a Linn County credit union. She held this position until beginning her service with the OSFM in April 2013.

In her free time she enjoys spending time with her family which includes five nieces and nephews. "They keep me pretty busy!" says Bethany. She also enjoys spending time with friends, watching movies, traveling, and reading.

"I have really enjoyed my first six months here," she says. "It's been great getting to know my new coworkers and I hope to have a positive impact on the office and get to know all of our customers better."

For sale

1991 Ford F350 custom chassis, 7.3L diesel, 4x4 w/ manual lock hubs, and a Wayjax slip in unit. \$8,400, OBO.

1995 Central States FL80 Interface fire engine: Transmission- MD3560P, wheelbase 175", 1250 gpm midship pump, 400 gpm aux pump, 500 gal water tank, pump and roll capable, no equipment (i.e. hose, tools, etc.) included with purchase. \$30,000 OBO.

For more information, contact Josh Hazen from Corvallis Fire and Rescue at 541-766-6473 or email josh.hazen@corvallisoregon.gov.

OSFM awards

The OSFM recognized three staff members in October for their contributions to the agency.

Manager Claire McGrew congratulates Administrative Specialist Joe Saltarello for his "exceptional professionalism and dedication to providing quality service to the citizens of Oregon." Salterello has since accepted a position as office manager at the OSP Salem Command Center.



Manager Claire McGrew congratulates Environmental Specialist Aleta Carte for her "can-do attitude and positive leadership which has contributed to the success of the CR2K program and fostered an environment of collaboration."



State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace (right) presents Training Coordinator Bill Brauer with an Outstanding Service award in recognition of Brauer's "time and commitment to numerous voluntary roles including the Oregon Honor Guard, Incident Management Red Team, Positive Action Committee, as well as OSFM events and other activities."



Editor's note: Bill Brauer is retiring this month after 22 years of service at OSFM. Bill has always conducted himself with dedication and true professionalism while at the OSFM. We wish him all the best in retirement.