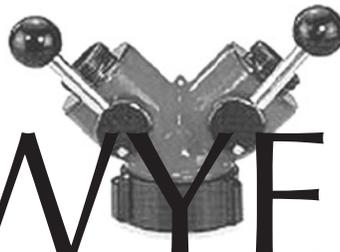


GATED WYE



March 2015 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 375

Most fire fatalities in Oregon since 2008

Fifty Oregonians lost their lives due to fire-related injuries in 2014. This is the most since the 53 fire fatalities in 2008.

Residential fires accounted for 34 of the 50 fatalities. The sixteen non-residential fatalities occurred in incidents involving motor homes, outdoor fires, motor vehicle accidents involving fire, suicide, and other situations.

The top three causes of residential fire-related fatalities were smoking, combustibles too close to a heat source, and cooking.

Of all fire fatalities, males were more than twice as likely to be a victim as females (35 male deaths vs. 15 female deaths). Adults 50 and older accounted for more than half (28) of total fatalities. Six of the fatalities were under the age of 18.

In addition to the fatalities, there were 214 civilian injuries, 124 firefighter injuries, and more than \$128 million in property damage.

All data is as reported by local fire agencies as of February 17, 2015.

2014 YTD OREGON FIRE FACTS



12,149
TOTAL FIRES

291,784

TOTAL INCIDENTS



200,974
EMS INCIDENTS



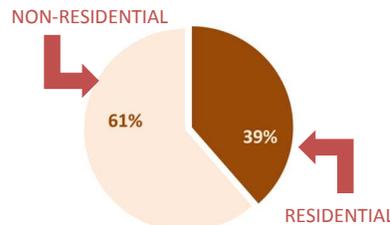
1,233

HAZMAT INCIDENTS

3,737
STRUCTURE FIRES

1,654
VEHICLE FIRES

4,372
OUTSIDE FIRES



FIRES BY PROPERTY USE

107
YOUTH INVOLVED FIRES

122
YOUTH INTERVENTIONS

DAMAGE FROM FIRES



50 DEATHS

+ **\$128.8**
MILLION

IN PROPERTY DAMAGE

214

CIVILIAN INJURIES

124

FIREFIGHTER INJURIES

Report Date 2/13/2015

From the desk of the state fire marshal



Fatalities, are we doing enough?

If you read our front-page story, you know we have experienced the most fire-related fatalities since 2008. This is disheartening to me for a number of reasons.

The OSFM mission is to protect citizens, their property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials. I take this unfortunate statistic personally, and have to ask myself – are we doing enough?

Thirty-four of the 50 fatalities last year were related to residential fires. Residential fire safety is the area our agency tends to focus efforts. Since this is where the highest percentage of fire deaths occur, we believe residential settings are where we can have the biggest positive influence.

Although I am proud of the fire prevention and safety efforts of our staff and Oregon fire agencies, fatality data like this is proof we can never rest on past successes. We must keep pushing forward, creating new messaging and ways to educate.

We must think of new ways to reach our audiences and others who are most vulnerable to fire, and adapt our education efforts to achieve more behavior change. However, all of us know this is an uphill battle.

Last year, we collaborated with many agencies on a very successful Fire Prevention Month Campaign where fire safety messages were delivered through social media, radio, and TV stations. We also hosted contests through social media to drive awareness and participation.

Every year during the spring and fall time change, we focus on the “test your smoke alarm” message using social and traditional media.

We worked with many fire agencies to assist them with smoke alarm installation programs and provided them with more than 2,000 smoke alarms to be installed in homes that need them.

Although not a regular partner in smoke alarm

see **Walker** page 3

“... we must keep pushing forward, creating new messaging and ways to educate.”

– Jim Walker



**State Fire Marshal
Jim Walker**

**Office of
State Fire Marshal**

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503-934-8240



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Walker

continued from page 2

installations, the American Red Cross launched a national effort to reduce residential fire deaths, and the OSFM collaborated with them on their smoke alarm installation efforts in Oregon.

For the first time in a number of years our Fire and Life Safety Education Branch is fully staffed, which will allow us to increase our education of older adults who make up a majority of the fire deaths. This is something we will continue to focus on.

As of February 23, 2015 according to submitted fire agency reports, there were 291,784 incidents in Oregon last year: 12,149 fires, 1,233 hazmat incidents, and 200,947 EMS incidents.

Clearly, Oregon fire agencies are busier than ever, but we must not let that distract our attention from our designed purpose of keeping our citizens safe from fire. The best we can do is keep our fire prevention and safety message at the forefront, remind them that fire prevention and safety is their responsibility, but also ensure all of us in the fire service have given everyone knowledge to act safely.

Now is not a time for the OSFM or Oregon fire agencies to rest. We should take every fire fatality personally and continue to look for the most effective ways to deliver our fire prevention and safety messages and engage our residents to act on these messages for the safety of everyone.

March time change is a chance to update your smoke alarm messaging:

“Change your clock, test your battery”

Since 2002, [Oregon law](#) has required all ionization-only smoke alarms that are solely battery powered to come equipped with a 10-year battery and a hush mechanism. Some alarms with 10-year batteries are made to be tamper-resistant. Because of these requirements, the historical national slogan of “Change your clock, change

your battery,” may not apply to many Oregon households that have alarms with 10-year batteries. Similar but alternative messages can reflect Oregon’s law and the growing presence of long-life batteries.

Oregon State Fire Marshal Jim Walker urges Oregonians to remember that smoke alarms are a vital component of home fire safety, stating that, “Working smoke alarms save lives.” He goes on to ask “Is your smoke alarm tested and maintained to save you and your family?” This question highlights the importance of helping Oregonians to become more knowledgeable about both the type of alarm they have and the type of battery required to keep it working.

Additionally, data submitted to the OSFM indicates that the leading cause (50%) of smoke alarm failure is missing or disconnected batteries, further reason for updating smoke alarm messaging to reflect Oregon’s 10-year battery and hush mechanism requirements for ionization-only smoke alarms. Pushing the hush mechanism to silence nuisance alarms rather than removing batteries, and the concept of a 10-year battery that does not need replacing, are educational points that can address this leading reason for smoke alarm failure.

The OSFM and the [Oregon Life Safety Team](#) are encouraging all Oregon fire agencies to update their smoke alarm safety messages to reflect this difference in Oregon law.

- “Change your clock, test your battery.” Test smoke alarms before automatically changing the battery.
- Follow manufacturer’s recommendations for the type of battery to use in your smoke alarm.
- Smoke alarms older than 10 years should be replaced.

The OSFM has several resources available free to any Oregon agency to enhance their smoke alarm public education efforts. Visit the [OSFM Fire and Life Safety Education webpage](#) to view, order, or download fire safety materials.

For questions, contact the Fire and Life Safety Education Branch at osfm.ce@state.or.us or 503-934-8228.

Two NFA classes coming to Oregon in June

The OSFM, in partnership with the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, is hosting two National Fire Academy classes in June at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem.

Best Practices in Community Risk Reduction June 2-3, 2015

This course demonstrates nationally recognized principles that can lead to community risk reduction programs that can measure success in local communities.

There is a pre-course assignment due one week before class that should take one hour to complete.

Target audience for the course includes fire and emergency services personnel who help develop and deliver fire prevention and community risk reduction programs, fire and emergency services staff with an interest in advancing risk reduction efforts in their community, and allied health and community service personnel who help develop and deliver risk reduction programs.

There are no prerequisites.

Commissioning New Occupancies June 4-5, 2015

This course enables students to develop strategic approaches to solving the management challenge of getting a building or occupancy commissioned. This ensure the code official is confident all life safety and fire protection systems and features are working together properly, and that the structure is ready for human use.

Selection criteria: Individuals who are, or expect to be, responsible for verifying a building or occupancy to receive a certificate of occupancy.

Local jurisdictions are encouraged to submit applications of both their fire and building officials to attend a course together. Priority selection will be given to at least five pairs of such officials per course.

There are no prerequisites.

For either course, [access the DPSST online registration form](#). Before attending any class at DPSST, you must have a [Student Identification Number issued by FEMA](#).

Dorm room lodging and meals are available free at DPSST for those traveling more than 75 miles one-way. You can request dorm room housing AFTER you receive a confirmation email that you have been registered for the class. For questions, contact Thelma Denney at 503-378-2408 or thelma.denney@state.or.us.

National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day is May 2, 2015, and the National Fire Protection Association is encouraging citizens and communities to commit a couple of hours or the entire day to join others throughout the nation making communities a safer place to live.

Challenge friends, family members, a faith-based group, or youth organization to create a project.

Efforts will raise awareness and help protect homes, neighborhoods, and entire communities, while increasing safety for wildland firefighters during future wildfires.

This is a great kick-off to May's Wildfire Awareness Month.

You can find more information on the [NFPA website](#).



DATA Connection

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



A piece of apparatus leaves the station en route to an incident. What kind of incident are they going to and **how do you code that?**

How to properly code an incident is one of the most common concerns with incident reporting. The main principle when reporting incidents using the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) is that the incident is coded based on what is found upon arrival. Properly coding incident reports is essential for the data to be meaningful. It is equally important to document and report responses to every incident. Unfortunately, not all fire agencies in Oregon report all of their responses.

Oregon law (ORS 476.210 and 453.342) requires every response to a fire or hazardous material incident to be reported to the Office of State Fire Marshal. These incidents, however, generally account for the smallest percentage of fire agency responses. Reporting only fire and hazmat incidents gives an inaccurate picture of what your fire agency actually does.

In addition, this limited data portrays an inaccurate picture to state and federal entities which could result in a negative impact on your local community.

Important decisions about resource allocation, budgets, educational program development, and grants at the state and federal level are based

not only on the information the OSFM receives from local agencies, but on information we don't receive.

Using information we have received over the past several years, we know on average fires account for 4% of what fire agencies do, while emergency medical calls account for 70%.

The story of what the fire service does begins with information gathered and shared by local fire agencies. The OSFM and US Fire Administration share those stories as well, but the stories we tell are limited to the data we receive.

Some jurisdictions are very busy providing the highest level of service to their citizens and can easily demonstrate that with incident data, e.g. how quickly the agency typically responds to emergencies, or how much property is saved by their agency.

In contrast, other agencies may be just as busy, but lack the ability to demonstrate their true worth to those they serve because the data is not being captured.

The OSFM is a committed partner with every fire service agency in Oregon and can assist with telling your local agency's story, but we have to have the information to do so.

We conduct regular, ongoing analysis of incident data to identify trends and issues local fire agencies may be facing. This is what makes reporting every response so important. Without that information the state and federal government are left with an unrealistic picture of what is actually happening on the ground.

When should an incident report be completed?

Anytime fire agency resources respond to an incident or call for assistance.

What incidents should be reported to the OSFM?

Every incident the agency responds to, even if it's not a fire or a hazmat call.

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

Fire department loses \$50K in gear to theft

Reprinted by permission of KMTR-TV Eugene, Oregon

Mohawk Valley Rural Fire District (Marcola, OR) lost \$50,000 in life-saving equipment to theft last month.

Items stolen include two heart monitor/defibrillator units, according to Chief Dennis Shew.

“It’s disheartening because the majority of our firefighters are volunteers and these are the tools they need to do their job to protect the people of the valley and citizens,” Shew said. “It just hinders our capabilities a little bit and makes life tougher for us when we do have the calls.”

The department has five fire stations serving 4,000 people in the Mohawk Valley northeast of Springfield.

Shew declined to identify the station or stations where the thefts took place February 10. He said the robber or robbers broke through the door.

The thief or thieves rummaged through fire vehicles and made off with extrication equipment, portable radios, chainsaws, nozzles – even bullet-proof vests.

“Any knives or guns, or police activity that might be involved (in one of our department responses), people put those on,” Shew said. So obviously that’s a safety issue for our personnel, because we don’t have a backup of supplies of those.”

The Lane County Sheriff’s Office is investigating. You can [view the KMTR broadcast](#) of this story online.

2015 SERC/LEPC Conference May 12-14, Seaside, Oregon

A great opportunity for local emergency planning members, emergency managers, first responders, industry members and more. Learn about the Community Right to Know Act and how Oregon is addressing it.

Registration is free!

Limited scholarships are available for lodging and mileage; contact Sue Otjen at 503-934-8227 or sue.otjen@state.or.us.

Kidde recalls more than 4 million fire extinguishers

The Consumer Products Safety Commission, in cooperation with Kidde, has announced a recall of Kidde Zeal disposable fire extinguishers.

A faulty valve component can cause the disposable fire extinguishers to not fully discharge when the lever is repeatedly pressed and released during a fire emergency, posing a risk of injury to the consumer. Kidde has received 11 reports of the recalled fire extinguishers failing to discharge as expected. No injuries have been reported.

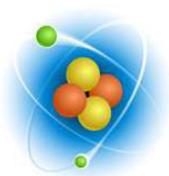


This recall involves 31 models of Kidde disposable fire extinguishers with Zytel® black plastic valves. The recalled extinguishers are red, white, or silver and are either ABC or BC rated. The ratings can be found to the right of the nameplate.

Manufacture dates included in the recall are July 23, 2013 through October 15, 2014. A 10-digit date code is stamped on the side of the cylinder, near the bottom. Digits five through nine represent the day and year of manufacture in DDDYY format. For a complete list of model numbers affected by the recall, [visit the Kidde website](#).

Consumers should immediately contact Kidde for a replacement fire extinguisher.

The extinguishers were sold at Home Depot, Menards, Walmart, and other department, home, and hardware stores nationwide, and online from August 2013 through November 2014 for between \$18 and \$65, and about \$200 for model XL 5MR.



Isopropanol (Isopropyl Alcohol) C_3H_7OH

Description:

- Synonyms: 2-propanol; rubbing alcohol
- Colorless liquid with a rubbing alcohol odor
- CAS No.: 67-63-0
- EPA Section 302 EHS: Not listed
- EPA Section 112R : Not listed
- EPA Section 304 EHS: Not listed

NFPA 704 Information:

- Health: 1-2
- Flammability: 3
- Reactivity: 0
- Special: None

Uses and Occurrences:

- Used as a solvent for coatings, in gasoline additives, cleaning agent, and in personal care products

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Stable – Recommended storage conditions
- Flammable
- Flash point: 53° F
- LEL: 2%; UEL: 13%
- Autoignition temperature: 750-852.8° F
- Vapor density (air = 1): 2.1
- Specific gravity (water = 1): 0.79
- Boiling point: 180-181° F
- May form peroxides on prolonged storage
- Reacts with air or oxygen to form dangerously unstable peroxides. Contact with 2-butanone increases the rate of peroxide formation (Cameo Chemicals)
- Incompatibles include oxidizing agents, acids, acid anhydrides, aluminum, and moisture
- May react with cellulose based absorbents

Health Hazards:

- IDLH: 2000 ppm
- Eye, skin and respiratory irritant
- Inhalation of vapors may cause central nervous system depression

Fire Fighting Measures:

- Soluble in water
- Extinguishing media: Appropriate foam, dry chemical, carbon dioxide, water fog
- Vapors may travel to a source of ignition and flash back

- Vapors are heavier than air and may spread along the ground and collect in low areas
- Use water spray to cool containers

2012 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- Shipping name: Isopropanol or Isopropyl alcohol
- Hazard Classes: Flammable Liquids (3)
- UN/NA: 1219; Guide # 129 Flammable Liquids (Polar/Water Miscible/Noxious)
- Spill: Initially isolate 150 feet in all directions
- Tank or rail car: Isolate ½ mi in all directions

2014 Oregon Fire Code: Table 5003.1.1(1)

- Flammable liquid Class IB
- 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

Incident Reporting and Information:

- Facilities reporting isopropanol or isopropyl alcohol on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey: 39
- Hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: Three

References include:

- [Cameo chemicals – Isopropanol](#)
- [CDC Niosh Pocket Guide – Isopropyl alcohol](#)
- [Sigma-Aldrich – SDS Isopropyl alcohol](#)
- [Airgas USA - SDS Isopropyl alcohol](#)
- [LabChem - SDS Isopropyl alcohol](#)
- [Avantor Performance Materials, Inc. – MSDS 2-propanol](#)
- [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 employees



Rachel Fellis
Licensing Assistant
License and Permits Unit

Rachel grew up in Perrydale, Oregon and graduated from Perrydale High School. She then attended Chemeketa Community College where she received her Associate's Degree.

In July of 2001 she joined the US Army and served two tours overseas, spending one year in Kosovo and another year in Afghanistan. On return from Afghanistan, she spent the 2005 legislative session working at the capitol in Salem as a legislative assistant for Representative Brian Boquist.

Rachel started working for Oregon State Police Identification Services in 2006 and moved to the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office in 2014.

She has been married to her husband Matt for three years and they live with their dog, four cats, and a snake. She and her husband love to travel around the Pacific Northwest as well as spending quality time with her two nephews, Jonathan and Zane.

"I am very excited to become a part of the staff at the Office of State Fire Marshal and am eager to learn more about this agency and the work that is done here. I have met so many wonderful people!"

Kristin Schafer
Compliance Specialist 2
Healthcare Unit



Born and raised in Salem, Oregon, Kristin graduated from McKay High School and went to work in the private sector as a finance manager. In 1999, she started working for the State of Oregon as a Manager for the Oregon Marine Board.

Over the past 15 years, she has held a variety of positions for several state agencies including the Department of Human Services, Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Department of Motor Vehicles. She has extensive experience in management and policy.

She has two grown kids, a German Shepherd, and two horses. In her free time, she works with the Adaptive Riding Institute to provide equine therapy for special needs children. As an avid barrel racer with several awards, Kristin also enjoys her involvement with a local horse rescue organization.

"I am thoroughly enjoying working at OSFM and look forward to a long career with the agency."

Gus Frederick
Training and Development
Specialist 2
Fire and Life Safety
Education Branch



Gus is a native Oregonian, born in Salem in 1954, 100 years after his hometown of Silverton was founded. He is by training a filmmaker and photographer, although by necessity he has broadened that term to multimedia artist.

A long-time local history enthusiast, he continues to be fascinated with many of the incredible stories from the Silverton Country. To this end he has published three books on local history.

He remains deeply involved in his community of Silverton, serving as Lecturer for the Silverton Grange, as a member of the Board of Directors for the Silverton Country Historical Society, promotion chair for the annual Homer Davenport Community Festival, and as a City of Silverton Planning Commissioner, an appointed volunteer position. He currently lives in a 1917 craftsman-style bungalow on Silver Street with his cat and his 78 rpm record collection.

"I am looking forward to my daughter's upcoming visit from New Mexico where she works as a cardiac nurse and will be half as old as me in April."