GATED WYE

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OSFM 2016 Golden and Silver Sparky awarded

State Fire Marshal Jim Walker presented the Office of State Fire Marshal's highest awards for achievement in fire prevention and fire safety education during the Oregon Fire Marshals Association conference March 16, 2016.

The Golden Sparky award is given to a member of the fire service and this year it was presented to North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 Public Information, Education, and Safety Officer Jim Kusz.

Jim developed a children's game show called Fire Fact Feud, complete with a set he built. He also created an impromptu one-act fire safety play that has become a popularly requested item in his school visits on fire prevention.

Jim also created an adult safety education program for Oregon Coast Community College that deals with wildfire, structure fires, gas leaks, earthquakes, tsunamis, and severe weather events.

Red Cross Cascade Region representatives Michelle Taylor and Andrew Swift accepted the Silver Sparky award on behalf of their work and partnerships for their Home Fire Preparedness campaign that has focused on Oregon neighborhoods with the highest incidence and risk of fire related death and injury.

Since October 2014, Red Cross Cascade Region volunteers have canvassed more than 12,000 Oregon homes to offer home fire safety information, create family disaster plans, and install more than 2,800 free smoke alarms throughout Oregon. Nationally, this effort is credited with saving 39 lives to date.

The OSFM congratulates Jim Kusz and the American Red Cross Cascade Region for their hard work, dedication, and outstanding contributions to fire prevention and fire safety education.

Michelle Taylor accepted the Silver Sparky award on behalf of the American Red Cross Cascades Region; at right is Golden Sparky recipient Jim Kusz from North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1.

From the desk of the state fire marshal

> "Those most at risk continue to be the very young and our older residents."
>
> – Jim Walker

Data focuses our vision

In 2008, Vision 20/20 – National Strategies for Fire Loss Prevention, held its first meeting in Washington D.C., bringing together experts from across the nation to discuss gaps in fire prevention. Since then, Vision 20/20 has held national symposiums every two years.

Last month two representatives from Oregon, Bend Fire Department Deputy Fire Marshal Susie Maniscalco and OSFM Fire and Life Safety Education Manager Claire McGrew, attended the 2016 symposium and returned with a key message about data and the importance it plays in fire prevention education.

Expert presenters at the Vision 20/20 Symposium agree that data collection and research have incredible value in determining the location and relative impact of fire prevention and safety on local communities. With 94% of Oregon fire service agencies reporting their NFIRS data to the OSFM, it has provided us with a more detailed analysis of our state's most frequent cause of fire and allows us to determine our target audience.

I highly recommend that all Oregon fire agencies continue focusing fire prevention strategies on areas that make the biggest impact. Look at your high-risk target audiences and continue to encourage the use of smoke alarms, home escape planning, and home fire safety visits. Those most at risk continue to be the very young and our older residents.

If your department hasn't already reviewed it, please take time to review the national plan outlined by Vision 20/20 on their website at www.strategicfire.org. Together through unified efforts, we can have a positive impact in decreasing the frequency of fires and their damaging effects.

I also want to thank our staff members for putting together a highly successful public education conference last month. There were some great presenters and great topics that allowed the more than 100 attendees to walk away with information and knowledge to continue their public education efforts to keep all of our communities fire safe.

State Fire Marshal Jim Walker

Office of State Fire Marshal

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Analytics & Intelligence
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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.

Recreational vehicle safety brochure available

Spring is the prime season for Oregon residents to begin their vacation travel and the OSFM is offering a free brochure on recreational vehicle fire safety.

The multifold bilingual (English and Spanish) brochure has tips on recreational vehicle fire and carbon monoxide safety. Safety information covers cooking appliances, electric heaters, general electrical issues, generators, and more.

You can preview the brochure in detail by clicking on the image at right.

Order this and other free fire safety education material through the OSFM online order form.

We recommend fire agencies distribute these at campsites and RV parks in their service area.

Revised mobilization plan available

The 2016 Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan has been updated and approved for publication. Paper copies will soon be available through your local OSFM deputy state fire marshal. You can also download a PDF version from the OSFM website.

Campus Fire Safety Workshop set for May

The OSFM is hosting a free Campus Fire Safety Workshop, Thursday, May 5, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the OSFM headquarters, 4760 Portland Road N.E., Salem.

The workshop includes an overview of basic campus fire safety principles including how to:

- Work effectively with campus administrators
- Reach college students and what messages to share with them
- Ensure fire protection systems are inspected on an annual basis
- Access available campus fire safety resources and training

The workshop is designed for those who are accountable for fire safety at colleges and universities, and includes information about fire safety in off-campus housing. There will be time to interact and share ideas with other campus representatives.

Register online. The deadline is April 28, 2016. Early registration recommended, as space is limited. For questions or more information, email osfm.ce@state.or.us or call 503-934-8228.

New Smoke Alarm Installation Program requirement

Beginning April 1, 2016, any fire agency requesting to participate in the OSFM Smoke Alarm Installation Program (including alarms for the Deaf and hard of hearing) will be required to be NFIRS compliant. This means:

- The applying agency cannot be missing more than one month of incident data over the previous 12 month period
- Agencies must abide by the NFIRS standard and report responses to all fire incidents
- Failure to report incident data for at least a year after approval will make the agency ineligible for future programs

For questions, call 503-934-8228 or email osfm.ce@state.or.us.

Free Smoke Alarm Installation Program webinar

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal is offering free one-hour webinar training on our Smoke Alarm Installation Program (SAIP), which is required for fire agencies who wish to participate in the program.

The program provides free smoke alarms, educational materials, and funding assistance to Oregon fire agencies who wish to conduct a SAIP project in their jurisdiction.

Topics covered include:

- Planning a smoke alarm installation project
- Replacing smoke alarms and batteries
- Oregon smoke alarm law
- Smoke alarm types and installation
- Installation briefing
- Program requirements
- Applying for the program, ordering smoke alarms, and educational materials
- Project funding

Upcoming webinars

April 26, 2016, 2 p.m. Register online

June 28, 2016, 11 a.m. Register online

This information can also be found on the OSFM website. For questions, contact osfm.ce@state.or.us or 503-934-8228.

AFG grant period is open

The FY 2015 Fire Prevention and Safety Grant application period opens April 4, 2016 and will close on May 6, 2016.

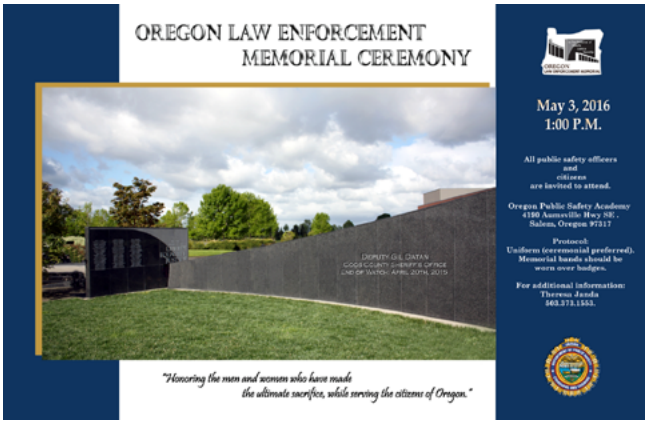
The Federal Emergency Management Agency is urging departments to begin preparing their application now by reviewing the Notice of Funding Opportunity and the technical assistance tools which are available online.

Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony

This year's Oregon Fallen Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony will be held at 1 p.m., Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem.

This year, Deputy Gil Datan of the Coos County Sheriff's Office will be added to the Oregon Law Enforcement Officer Memorial.

Deputy Datan died while on forest patrol in April 2015. He was attempting to go up a steep embankment on his ATV when it rolled over and landed on top of him.



All public safety officers and citizens are invited to attend. Uniform protocol: Ceremonial uniforms are preferred, memorial bands should be worn over badges.

For more information, contact Theresa Janda at 503-373-1553. Additional information on the law enforcement memorial is available online.

DATA *Connection*

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

A local fire agency is dispatched to an incident, but cancelled prior to their arrival.

How do you code that?

Situations where a fire agency is notified of an incident to which it begins a response but is canceled prior to arriving on the scene of the incident, are considered canceled en-route calls.

The canceling of a response can be done through a variety of methods for a variety of reasons. Examples would be when an alarm company verifies that a fire alarm was accidentally activated, or when police arrive to a traffic accident first and inform dispatch that fire resources are not needed.

In 2015, there were more than 28,000 canceled en-route calls reported from fire agencies across Oregon. As the table below demonstrates, this number has been steadily increasing.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total Reports	18,923	19,364	24,134	26,513	28,479
Invalid Reports	1,518	854	495	356	215
Invalid %	8.0%	4.4%	2.1%	1.3%	0.8%

Source: Oregon Fire & EMS Bridge™

However, a diminishing number of these reports have not been compliant with the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) coding rule, causing them to be invalid. This is important because invalid reports are not submitted to NFIRS at the national level. While the percentage of invalid incidents is now less than 1%, our aim is to eliminate them altogether.

The correct incident type code for a call that was canceled en-route is '611 – Dispatched and canceled en-route.' Anytime the incident type code is 611, the action taken must be '93 – Canceled en-route.' Under the NFIRS rule, entering any other actions taken code will cause an error. Conversely, if an incident type code other than 611 is selected, but the actions taken is 93, an error will result as well.

The logic of the NFIRS rule is that if the agency is canceled prior to arriving on scene, no other actions could have taken place because they never got there to take any other actions.

Conversely, if an agency did arrive on scene, they had to have done something as they were not canceled en-route.

Knowing that there can be many nuances to reporting these or other types of incidents, OSFM's Analytics & Intelligence Unit is available during normal business hours to assist Oregon fire agencies with any coding questions.

There are additional resources available to assist fire agencies with coding questions and issues.

The NFIRS Complete Reference Guide can be downloaded from the U.S. Fire Administration/ NFIRS website.

You may also access the NFIRS Support Center online or call 1-888-382-3827 or email fema-nfirshelp@fema.dhs.gov

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

Registration open for the 2016 OVFA Conference

Registration is now open for the 58th annual Oregon Volunteer Firefighter Training Conference co-hosted by Lebanon Fire, Scio Fire, and Jefferson Fire at the Samaritan Health Center in Lebanon, Oregon. Scholarships are available. All registrations include breakfast and lunch for each day, a conference T-shirt, challenge coin, and OVFA banquet ticket. Additional banquet tickets can be purchased in advance for guests.

The OVFA encourages you to bring your family to enjoy the area attractions, attend the welcome BBQ and trap shoot event on Wednesday night, the vendor night on Thursday, and the awards banquet on Friday night.

A variety of classes (from one to four days) are being offered.

Visit the OVFA website for more information and to register.

NFPA webinar on lithium ion battery energy storage systems

Currently, standards developers, authorities having jurisdiction, emergency responders, and the energy storage system industry do not have a clear direction regarding the hazards of ESS installations and have few, if any, technical studies, reports, or scientific literature to rely upon when making decisions regarding the safe installation of these systems.

The Hazard Assessment of Lithium Ion Battery Energy Storage System Webinar summarizes a literature review and gap analysis related to Li-ion battery ESSs, as well as full-scale fire testing of 100 kWh Li-ion battery ESSs.

The free webinar is Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 9:30-11:00 a.m. (PDT). Register online

Fire alarm panel recall

The Consumer Products Safety Commission and Gamewell-FCI have announced the recall of fire alarm panels due to failure to alert of a fire, smoke, or carbon monoxide.

The recall is for Gamewell-FCI fire alarm panels ILI-MB-E3 and ILI-S-E3 in commercial buildings and limited to specific configurations of Signaling Line Circuit (SLC) devices. To occur, the SLC must include at least two of the following detectors in any combination: Acclimate, 4-Warn, Photo/CO, and iFAAST.

When configured in a certain way, the panels can become non-responsive and connected detectors in the area can fail to detect and respond to an alarm.

The issue would only occur if the detectors are addressed within the same FlashScan polling group. Detectors installed in a different combination are not affected.

Consumers should immediately contact the distributor to obtain the free repair of a firmware upgrade. Contact Gamewell-FCI at 800-274-4324 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or online at www.gamewell-fci.com and click on “Safety Recall” for more information.

Approximately 1,000 of these units were sold at authorized dealerships from May 2015 through August 2015.

Chemical of the month

Methane CH_4

Description:
- Synonyms: Marsh gas, Methyl hydride.
- Colorless, odorless gas.
- Hazard Class: (2.1) Flammable gas, (6.3) Acute health hazard
- CAS: 74-82-8
- UN: 1971

NFPA Information:
- Health – 1
- Flammability – 4
- Reactivity – 0
- Special Notice – None

Uses and Occurrences:
- Occurs in natural gas and coal gas from decaying vegetation and organic matter.
- Production of methanol, acetylene, hydrogen cyanide, and ammonia.
- Used as a fuel in the form of natural gas.

Reactivity and Fire Risk:
- Flammable gas, flash point: -306^{o}F
- LEL: 5.0%, UEL: 15.0%
- Extinguish fires by shutting off the source of the gas, use water spray to cool exposed containers.
- Static discharge may cause explosive ignition.
- Incompatible with strong oxidizers.

Health Hazards:
- Simple asphyxiant, high concentrations of gas can cause an oxygen-deficient environment.
- Symptoms of oxygen deficiency include: respiratory difficulty, ringing in ears, nausea, headaches, dizziness, indigestion, and at high concentrations, unconsciousness or death.

Personal Protective Equipment:
- Adequate ventilation maintaining oxygen levels above 19.5% and methane below 5%.
- If oxygen levels are below 19.5% use supplied air respiratory protection.
- Wear safety glasses and appropriate protective clothing for handling cylinders.

Inspection and Storage Tips:
- Cylinders should be stored upright and secured in a dry, well-ventilated area away from sources of heat, ignition, and direct sunlight.
- Cylinders should not exceed 125^{o}F.
- Non-sparking tools and ventilation systems should be used.
- Cylinders should be separated from oxygen cylinders and other oxidizers.
- "No Smoking or Open Flames" signs should be posted.
- Full and empty containers should be segregated.

UFC Information:
- Flammable Gas
- S occupancy exempt amounts allowed per control area:
  - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 750 square feet.
  - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 1,500 square feet.
  - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 1,500 square feet.
  - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 3,000 square feet.
- For storage of quantities exceeding the allowed exempt amounts for an S occupancy, the storage facility must conform to H-2 occupancy requirements as outlined in the Uniform Building Code.

Incident Reporting and Information:
- There are approximately 22 facilities in Oregon currently reporting methane on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey.
- There have been 13 hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986 involving methane.

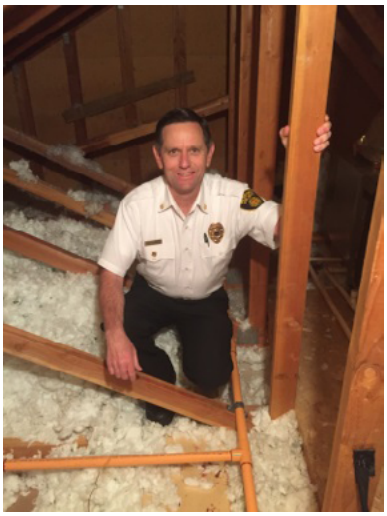
For questions or suggestions, call 503-378-6835.

Medford fire marshal retrofits home with fire sprinklers

by Deputy Chief/Fire Marshal Greg Kleinberg

While investigating home fires through the years, I have seen complete fire devastation all too often. I know how fast conditions become life-threatening inside a home. I have also observed too many close calls where people were seriously injured or people were just a few breaths or seconds away from perishing.

I always made sure there were multiple smoke alarms installed in my home and knew it was essential technology in giving one a greater chance of surviving a home fire; however, I know smoke alarms are not enough. A significant percentage of fatal fires occur each year in homes where there are verified working smoke alarms (40% of home fire deaths). Smoke alarms, as important as they are, also do nothing to control or extinguish a fire.



Medford Fire-Rescue Deputy Chief/ Fire Marshal Greg Kleinberg with his self-installed home fire sprinkler system.

With my family's safety in mind, I decided to retrofit our home with a fire sprinkler system. Our home is a single-story 1,740 sq. ft. structure built in 1995. It is wood framed with a lightweight floor joist system and a roof truss system. The attic and underfloor areas are accessible.

To avoid a blackflow device requirement, I designed a looped flow-through system which ensures there is flow of fresh water through the fire sprinkler piping to avoid stagnant water concerns. I used concealed sprinkler heads to make the system aesthetically pleasing and chose an extended coverage design, with each fire sprinkler covering up to a 16′ x 16′ area.

I marked the ceiling in each area where I would locate a sprinkler head.

I put the riser (the pipe between the underfloor water supply line and the fire sprinkler line in the attic) in a small bedroom closet. From there I glued the pipe and fittings, being careful not to install the sprinkler heads until the glue near the head locations hardened to avoid plugging up the sprinkler heads with excess glue. I marked the final center point of the heads and bored a hole through the sheetrock from below. The sprinkler heads were installed and then I fastened the pipe to the ceiling framing with hangers.

After all of the piping and heads were installed, I pressurized the system with water at normal working pressure and checked for leaks. After the temporary pressure gauge showed no pressure drop over time, I scheduled a rough-in inspection. After passing the inspection, I insulated over the piping system with batt insulation to keep the piping system in the heated space and then spread the blown-in insulation back over the batt insulation.

With the fire sprinkler piping system complete in the attic, I began working under the house. I installed a 1″ T-connection in the underfloor water supply line. I then attached the fire sprinkler line to the T-connection and turned on the water at the meter to check for leaks. I made sure the underfloor insulation was put back in place.

The cost of the project was $1,247 for the fire sprinkler system components, $156 for batt insulation, $92 for the permit, and $35 for the water meter upgrade. Each year we will be saving 5-10% on our annual homeowners insurance cost as our insurance company understands the risk benefit that home fire sprinklers provide. I spent approximately 45 hours on the project.

While it is true that retrofitting a house with a fire sprinkler system is more challenging than installing a fire sprinkler system in a new home, it was well worth the effort. It brings my family peace of mind to know that as we are sleeping, the fire sprinkler system is ready to activate if needed. It's like having a firefighter present and ready 24/7 to extinguish any unexpected fire.

Eds. Note: If you are interested in more details, contact Chief Kleinberg at 541-774-2300.