

# MEETING MINUTES



Oregon Fire Casualty Review Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, November 21, 2013

Time: 10:00 a.m. – noon

Location: Office of State Fire Marshal, 4760 Portland Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305, Mt. Hood conference room

Members:

Candice Clark, OSFM – Data Unit  
Dave Gulledge, OSFM – Data Unit  
David Burns, US CPSC  
Jeff Cranford, McMinnville Fire Department  
John Phillips, OSFM – Data Unit

Krista Fischer, OSFM – YFPI  
Kristina Deschaine, OSFM - FLSS  
Stephanie Stafford, OSFM - AFPS  
Tim Birr, OFSC

Dave Gulledge called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. on November 21, 2013.

## Agenda Items:

### Review of May Minutes

- The August 15, 2013, OFCRC meeting was cancelled due to poor attendance.
  - Dave explained that both the OFCRC and the Oregon Life Safety Team (OLST) plans to recruit for additional members.
- Members approved the May 16, 2013 minutes.
  - To view visit: [www.oregon.gov/osp/SFM/docs/Data\\_Services/Meetings/05-16-2013minutes.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/osp/SFM/docs/Data_Services/Meetings/05-16-2013minutes.pdf).

### 2014 Fatality Study Development

Dave reported that the last fatality study was produced in 2010 with recommendations using 2004-2008 data.

- He informed members that there was discussion earlier this year about reproducing it every five years with the same data sets to see if the recommendations were implemented if so what were the results and if they weren't implemented why.
- Dave would like the committee to start working on the new fatality study to be produced in 2015 using data from the last five years. He asked members for feedback on what to do with the next study.
- Members approved producing it every five years.
- Tim suggested combining the fatality and injury report.
- David asked if the cost of damage could be included in the report.
  - Dave replied that we are able to capture both the estimated pre-incident value and the estimated fire loss damage.

Dave explained one issue we are having that affects the data set for this study is the lack of some fire agencies report fatalities and injuries.

- Dave discussed the need to develop a best practice/SOG document on what, when, and why you need to report.
- He reported that we currently share this information through the Hot Spots, Gated Wye, Data Connections, and on the OSFM web site.
- Dave informed members that we provide classes on incident reporting to fire agencies.
- He explained that the long-term goal is to get all the departments reporting and reporting completely. Once all the departments are 100% on-board with reporting then start to focus on the non-required elements.

## **Current Fire Casualties**

Members reviewed the *2013 Fire Fatality Tracking* spreadsheet, and the NFIRS reports for the current fire casualties.

- Dave informed members that there isn't anything significant to report and that the trend is the same with nothing out of the ordinary.
- David asked if he could get notified when a fatality involves a motor home, travel trailers, etc. fires because typically when there is a motor home fire there is going to be another source of ignition such as smoking that ignites the furniture on fire or that involves a candle.
- He would also like to receive notification on fatalities involving electrical failure, malfunction fires.

Dave referenced the *Oregon Residential Structure Fires with Civilian Injuries 01/01/2013 – 10/31/2013* handout and highlighted some statistics.

- See attached *Residential Structure Fires with Civilian Injuries 01/01/2013 – 10/31/2013* handout.
- The most common activity at the time of injury is attempting to control the fire.
- Cooking-related equipment continue to account for most of the fire injuries.
- Males account for most of the injuries.

## **Other Business**

- Dave reminded members that the February 20, 2014, OFCRC meeting will be held from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at OSFM, Mt. Hood Conference Room.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

## Oregon Residential Structure Fires with Civilian Injuries 01/01/2013 - 10/31/2013

During this period there were 116 civilian injuries that occurred in 103 residential structure fires. Where information was provided or identified the data indicated the following:

- Eighty-one percent (116 of 143 or 81.1%) of all civilian fire injuries occurred as a result of fires in residential structures.
- Nearly two thirds of injuries (63.8%) occurred in 1-or-2 family dwellings.
- Males accounted for 62.1% of injuries.
- The majority of injuries (59.5%) were minor.
- The most common activity at the time of injury (24.1%) was attempting to control the fire.
- 62% of the time a smoke detector was present, and 38% of the time a smoke detector was present and operated.

For this same time period in 2012 there were 123 civilian injuries that had occurred in 98 residential structure fires.

Ignition Heat Source	Injuries	%
Radiated or conducted heat from operating equipment	11	9.5%
Hot or smoldering object	10	8.6%
Electrical arcing	9	7.8%
Heat from powered equipment	9	7.8%
Lighter	9	7.8%
Cigarette	7	6.0%
Candle	6	5.2%
Match	5	4.3%
Heat, spark from friction	4	3.4%
Flame/torch used for lighting	2	1.7%
Heat from other open flame or smoking materials	2	1.7%
Heat source: other	2	1.7%
Conducted heat from another fire	1	0.9%
Heat from direct flame, convection currents	1	0.9%
Heat spread from another fire	1	0.9%
Hot ember or ash	1	0.9%
Lightning discharge	1	0.9%
Molten, hot material	1	0.9%
Pipe or cigar	1	0.9%
Spark, ember, or flame from operating equipment	1	0.9%
Undetermined	32	27.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Equipment Involved</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>%</b>
Range, stove	14	12.1%
Clothes dryer	4	3.4%
Kitchen and cooking equipment	3	2.6%
Heat pump	2	1.7%
Lamp, lighting	2	1.7%
Personal and household equipment	2	1.7%
Power sander, grinder, buffer, polisher	2	1.7%
Cigarette lighter, pipe lighter	1	0.9%
Furnace, central heating unit	1	0.9%
Grill, hibachi, barbecue	1	0.9%
Lamp: tabletop, floor, desk	1	0.9%
Lawn mower	1	0.9%
Medical equipment	1	0.9%
Oxygen administration equipment	1	0.9%
Power cord, plug; detachable from appliance	1	0.9%
Undetermined	6	5.2%
Not reported	73	62.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Ignition Factor</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>%</b>
Heat source too close to combustibles.	15	12.9%
Abandoned or discarded materials or products	9	7.8%
Electrical failure, malfunction	6	5.2%
Equipment unattended	5	4.3%
Misuse of material or product	5	4.3%
Flammable liquid or gas spilled	4	3.4%
Accidentally turned on, not turned off	3	2.6%
Factors contributing to ignition	3	2.6%
Leak or break	3	2.6%
Operational deficiency	3	2.6%
Playing with heat source	3	2.6%
Cutting, welding too close to combustible	2	1.7%
Failure to clean	2	1.7%
Installation deficiency	2	1.7%
Mechanical failure, malfunction	2	1.7%
Short-circuit arc from defective, worn insulation	2	1.7%
Arc from faulty contact, broken conductor	1	0.9%
Equipment not used for purpose intended	1	0.9%
Fire spread or control	1	0.9%
Improper container or storage procedure	1	0.9%
Natural condition	1	0.9%
Storm	1	0.9%
Unspecified short-circuit arc	1	0.9%
None	15	12.9%
Undetermined	25	21.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Property Use</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>%</b>
1 or 2 family dwelling	74	63.8%
Multifamily dwelling	25	21.6%
Residential, other	4	3.4%
Boarding/rooming house, residential hotels	3	2.6%
Manufacturing, processing	2	1.7%
Business office	1	0.9%
Church, mosque, synagogue, temple, chapel	1	0.9%
Eating, drinking places	1	0.9%
Graded and cared-for plots of land	1	0.9%
Hotel/motel, commercial	1	0.9%
Outbuilding or shed	1	0.9%
Residential street, road or residential driveway	1	0.9%
Restaurant or cafeteria	1	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Age of Victim</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>%</b>
18-49	58	50.0%
50+	48	41.4%
<18	9	7.8%
Not reported	1	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>%</b>
Male	72	62.1%
Female	44	37.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Ignition Fire Origin</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>%</b>
Bedroom - < 5 persons; included are jail or prison	29	25.0%
Cooking area, kitchen	24	20.7%
Function areas, other	11	9.5%
Vehicle storage area; garage, carport	11	9.5%
Bathroom, checkroom, lavatory, locker room	5	4.3%
Laundry area, wash house (laundry)	5	4.3%
Common room, den, family room, living room, lounge	4	3.4%
Courtyard, patio, terrace	4	3.4%
Exterior balcony, unenclosed porch	4	3.4%
Structural area	3	2.6%
Other area of fire origin	3	2.6%
Dining room, cafeteria, bar area, beverage service	2	1.7%
Chimney (conversion only)	1	0.9%
Egress/exit	1	0.9%
Engine area, running gear, wheel area	1	0.9%
Hallway corridor, mall	1	0.9%
Outside area	1	0.9%
Storage area	1	0.9%
Undetermined	5	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Civilian Casualty Severity</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>%</b>
Minor	69	59.5%
Moderate	31	26.7%
Severe	9	7.8%
Life threatening	5	4.3%
Undetermined	2	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Civilian Casualty Activity</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>%</b>
Fire control	28	24.1%
Escaping	13	11.2%
Activity, other	11	9.5%
Sleeping	10	8.6%
Rescue attempt	8	6.9%
Returning to vicinity of fire before control of fire	6	5.2%
Irrational act	5	4.3%
Unable to act	2	1.7%
Returning to vicinity of fire after control of fire	1	0.9%
Undetermined	19	16.4%
Not reported	13	11.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Detector Presence</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>%</b>
Present	72	62.1%
None present	24	20.7%
Undetermined	16	13.8%
Not reported	4	3.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<b>Detector Operation</b>	<b>Injuries</b>	<b>%</b>
Detector operated	44	61.1%
Detector failed to operate	14	19.4%
Undetermined	14	19.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100.0%</b>