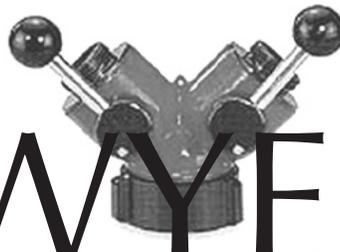


GATED WYE



November 2008 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 298

State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr to retire

State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr has announced her retirement effective December 1, 2008. Her retirement concludes 29 years of service to the Oregon fire service.

Accomplishments during Nancy's tenure have been many," said Governor Ted Kulongoski. "She has improved firefighter safety at conflagrations and during emergency mobilizations by developing all-risk incident management teams; she guided the state urban search and rescue task force to full operational readiness, and implemented training and standards to ensure competent and consistent fire code administration. Nancy has set a high standard for the future of Oregon's fire service and emergency response."

Orr joined the state fire marshal's office in 1986 after serving for seven years as a fire prevention officer with the Hillsboro and Albany Fire Departments.

As a division of Oregon State Police, she managed the Office of State Fire Marshal's statewide fire and life safety code enforcement and fire investigation services, served as the division's fire safety education coordinator, and as the public information officer. Orr served as the

Chief Deputy from 2001 to 2004 prior to being named the State Fire Marshal in June 2004.



"We will greatly miss State Fire Marshal Orr," said Oregon State Police Superintendent Tim McLain. "She has committed 29 years to the citizens of Oregon, and has been an incredibly effective advocate for the fire service. Nancy is the consummate professional. She is passionate about the discipline, passionate about her responsibilities, and she has established a track record of leadership that will be difficult to emulate."

"It has been an honor and my good fortune to have served with the finest professionals in public safety and fire prevention in the country," said Orr. "I'm proud of the work we've done to better protect Oregonians from fires, hazardous materials and natural disasters. Leaving after 29 years is bitter-sweet."

"Nancy has elevated partnerships and cooperation with allied state agencies, associations and state fire marshals throughout the nation," said Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson. Many OSFM staff members feel her list of achievements includes her devotion to employee professional development. However you look at her career of work, her focus and commitment will be a challenge to duplicate by anyone who follows in her steps."

Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson will assume interim duties until a replacement is named.

(For information on SFM Orr's retirement reception see page 3.)

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



“We saved lives, we were good friends and we had fun.”

Final thoughts on twenty-nine years

The subject filling my heart and mind as I consider this last column is gratitude.

Gratitude that exactly 29 years ago the city of Hillsboro hired me to do fire and crime prevention. Though the police officers I worked with were inspiring and compassionate, my office was in the fire department, and it was the daily proximity and enthralling culture of the firefighters that engaged my passion.

Their performance on the fireground was as spectacular as a triple play. They kept the station and apparatus immaculate and were prepared for anything. They had wicked fun. They asked me if I could do something to prevent toddlers drowning in backyard pools. I was captivated.

It was a golden age for fire safety education in Oregon. The state’s smoke alarm law was brand new. We learned educational methodology from college professors and put on conferences that built an international network of public educators. We tested whether doorknobs actually got hot in a fire. Jim Crawford taught us how to evaluate the effectiveness of our programs and we put on statewide campaigns and influenced the messages at NFPA. We saved lives, we were good friends and we had fun.

I’m grateful for more than 20 years at the Office of State Fire Marshal, beginning with an extraordinary supervisor, Susan Browning, and State Fire Marshal Olin Greene, a national fire prevention champion. Olin said, “Go ahead,” to every idea I proposed, from protecting the hearing impaired in motels by amending the smoke alarm law to asking the Emergency Board to approve a new juvenile firesetter intervention program. They both gave me so many opportunities and good advice.

When I was hired here, a team was writing the *Oregon Fire Safety Skills* school curriculum. No state had pulled off a public education project of this scope. We had a key player at Department



**State Fire Marshal
Nancy Orr**

**Office of
State Fire Marshal**

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of Education and a handful of teachers willing to write and field trial lessons. Keep Oregon Green provided pallets of donated paper. Lou Gugliotta designed the marketing plan. The fire service across the state adeptly conducted teacher orientations and delivered the curriculum to every public and private elementary school teacher. It still stands as an only in the nation.

I learned two key qualities about the Oregon fire service as a result of that initial assignment:

First, you are willing to risk change when those changes forward our mission. There was some strong resistance to school teachers, instead of firefighters, teaching fire safety. Years later, I saw similar resistance to incident management teams helping local chiefs handle large-scale disasters.

Robert Kennedy said, "Progress is a nice word. But change is its motivator. And change has its enemies."

How fortunate there are so few enemies of change among us.

Second, the Oregon fire service can and will work together to accomplish anything it believes will better protect the citizens we serve. Anything.

It's been my honor to work with you on many initiatives that have followed: world class firesetter intervention, the incident management teams, firefighter safety, stable funding for our state fire programs, a system of competency requirements to administer fire codes, local emergency planning committees, and the urban search and rescue task force.

An early mentor, pre-fire service, told me that a well-lived life is to love, be loved, and have meaningful work to do. I'm so grateful for a career in public safety, where I've been able to contribute to a mission that is significant in others' lives every day.

Thank you for your guidance, support, confidence and friendship through 29 years. You've given me the opportunity to make a difference. And it's been a lot of fun, too. Your extraordinary competence and your remarkable personal and professional dedication to the public's safety has been, and will continue to be, my inspiration.

Orr retirement reception set for November 19

A reception is planned November 19, 2008 for retiring State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr. Members of the Oregon fire service, state agencies, partners and stakeholders are invited to attend.

The event begins at 3:00 p.m. in the Hall of Heroes at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem. (Directions: http://www.mapquest.com/mq/6-Ut0TaesfY*T96_KUe*Tg)

Guest book comments are gladly accepted and a photo presentation is planned. Please submit comments or photos to Laura Drager at 503-934-8211 or email laura.drager@state.or.us. All photos will be returned. Photo deadline is November 10; guest book comments are due November 17.

In lieu of awards or plaques, please make a donation to the Oregon Fallen Firefighter Memorial Foundation.

Sandy bans novelty lighters

In a unanimous vote, the Sandy city council passed an ordinance banning the sale of novelty lighters in city limits. Sandy is the first city in Oregon to establish such a ban.

For the past two years, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has been sounding the alarm about these dangerous devices and is working on 2009 legislation instituting a statewide ban.

"We commend the Sandy city council for taking this step to help protect the children and families of their city from the hazards of toylike lighters," said OSFM Juvenile Firesetter Program Coordinator Judy Okulitch. "We hope this action illustrates to members of the Oregon legislature the seriousness of this safety issue and moves them to adopt a statewide ban to protect all Oregonians."

Should Oregon adopt a statewide ban, they would be the third to do so behind Maine and Tennessee.

For more information on toylike lighters, visit http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Novelty_Toylike_Lighters.shtml.

OSFM recruiting for Incident Management Team positions

The Office of State Fire Marshal is recruiting for pool positions on the Oregon Incident Management Teams (IMT). The state IMTs are Type 2 teams organized to manage structural protection during wildfires and address logistical, fiscal, planning, operational, safety, and community issues related to structural protection or all-risk incidents.

Pool members are fully trained in Incident Command Positions and may be called-up on a rotational basis to augment IMTs during deployments.

Current pool positions available include:

- Planning Section Chief
- Resource Unit Leader
- Logistics Section Chief
- Finance Section Chief

There are also vacancies for Deputy Incident Commander and Resource Unit Leader on the Green Team.

For more information or applications, visit the OSFM website at http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/ERU_IMTeams.shtml#NEW__2009_Open_Recruitment. You may also contact Tina Toney at 503-934-8212 or email tina.toney@state.or.us.



IMT members coordinating with a Department of Corrections representative during the Vernonia floods in December 2007

Oregon Fire Code Committee disapproves single-use gas container

The Oregon Fire Code Committee is alerting members of the Oregon fire service that the single-use gas can marketed as ITzAGASCAN is not an approved container for storage or dispensing flammable liquids in Oregon.

The ITzAGASCAN product consists of a collapsible exterior cardboard box with an interior plastic bladder. The pour spout snaps into the plastic bladder. The manufacturer describes the product as a disposable single-use container for the transport of fuel.



The Oregon Fire Code Committee determined ITzAGASCAN unsafe because it does not meet the requirement for a tight closure per the fire code.

For more information, contact Deputy State Fire Marshal John Caul at 503-934-8269 or email john.caul@state.or.us.

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Fire or no fires reports due monthly

Oregon fire departments are reminded fire reports and no fires reports are due monthly to the Office of State Fire Marshal's Data Services unit.

A department having no reportable fires for a particular month can report that fact in one of two ways, by sending an email stating '**(department name) had no reportable fires for (month),'** to osfm.data@state.or.us or by filling out the top section of the blue *Data Report Order Form* and mailing it to OSFM Data Services, 4760 Portland Road NE, Salem, OR 97305.

Submitting monthly fire or no fires reports enables the OSFM to meet national quarterly reporting requirements established by the United States Fire Administration.

For more information, contact Vi Pelley at 503-934-8237 or email vi.pelley@state.or.us.

Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund and annual property tax statements

Oregon property tax statements are now being mailed. Between counties, communities, and individual property types there are many variations.

In the past, owners of lands classified as forestlands paid a minimum assessment of \$18.75. Landowners with structures or other improvements, such as landscaping and fencing, paid a surcharge of \$47.50. These funds support the Oregon Forest Land Protection Fund (OFLPF), a landowner-financed emergency fund set up to pay for the extra costs of fighting major wildfires, such as air tankers and contract fire crews. These funds do not cover structural firefighting costs.

Explanations clarifying the funds and recent increases of these funds may be included with property tax statements. Fire districts and departments may receive calls from confused landowners. An in-depth explanation on the funds and the need to increase assessments is available on the Oregon Department of Forestry Website: http://www.oregon.gov/ODF/AGENCY_AFFAIRS/Surcharge_Feature_Story.shtml.

The site features a question and answer section specifically clarifying:

Q: I am paying the improved lot surcharge; does that mean my house and other buildings are protected from fire?

A: No. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) does not fight structure fires. ODF firefighters work to keep wildfires from spreading to structures, and also to keep structure fires from spreading to the forest. But protecting houses and other structures is the job of municipal and rural fire departments.

Fire departments in much of the state have partnerships with the Oregon Department of Forestry and are encouraged to direct citizen questions to the nearest Oregon Department of Forestry office.

Lakeside Fire Department receives firefighting boat

The Lakeside Fire Department, located north of Coos Bay, has received a firefighting boat to help protect homes along Tenmile Lake. The boat was donated through the Federal Excess Property Program.

“This will greatly enhance our protection ability for homes along the lake that are very difficult to access by road,” said Lakeside Fire Chief Ted Ross.

The 26-foot boat has an enclosed cabin with seating for six firefighters. Columbia River Fire & Rescue, previous owners of the boat, equipped it with lighting, siren, radios, radar, satellite GPS, front mount deck gun, diver rescue platform, fire pumps, and other safety equipment.



The Lakeside fire boat shown with equipment before repairs and restoration

Built in 1980, the boat is undergoing repair and refurbishing. A local tow boat and barge builder, Sause Brothers is donating hull preparation and paint labor, while Koontz Marine Machining is donating specialty machine work.

The Bureau of Land Management has donated a fire pump and hose reel and Columbia River Fire donated two working pumps and another for spare parts.

“The list of donations and help goes on and on,” said Chief Ross. “All the help we have received with this has been wonderful.”

North Curry County departments team up for Fire Prevention Week

For the second year in a row, the Port Orford Volunteer Fire Department, Sixes River Fire Department, and Langlois Fire Department worked together to create and distribute a special 8-page publication providing fire prevention safety tips and honoring members of the local fire departments for Fire Prevention Week.

Volunteers from all three departments helped to distribute 1,000 copies to local post offices, libraries, banks, grocery stores and other businesses.

“There is a terrific amount of cooperation between the fire service, law enforcement and ambulance services in north Coos

County,” says Port Orford Fire Chief Gayle Wilcox. “This publication allows us to get out the fire prevention message as well as recognize all those who serve in public safety.”

Remaining copies are distributed at events throughout the year to increase awareness of home fire safety.



New USFA reports available

The United States Fire Administration has the following new reports available online:

- Residential Structure and Buildings Fires Report <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2008releases/100808.shtm>
- Highway Vehicle Fires Topical Report <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2008releases/100908.shtm>
- USFA and NIST Complete Study of Thermal Imaging Technology <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/media/press/2008releases/100908b.shtm>

Fire act grant update

by Hines Firefighter/Grant Writer Jonathan Manski

The federal fiscal year cutover from 2008 to 2009 has placed a temporary halt to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) award process and any notifications during the remainder of September and October. The pause is due to the Office of Management & Budget's annual verification that the Department of Homeland Security's grant operations are conducted as directed by Congress, and finalizing the 2007 late Fire Act Grant awards. The temporary delay has also held up the start of the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant program. Odds are that a full return of award notifications for AFG will resume by the first week of November.

Last month I told you that the AFG program is competitive, but it is important to remember it is competitive at the national level. Each Oregon department is competing for funding against all other departments in the country. When scored against the program guidance and priorities, the highest scoring applications stand the best chance of success.

Since inception of the AFG programs in 2001, 79 Oregon departments have either not applied or never been successful in obtaining an AFG grant. On the other hand, 257 Oregon departments have received grant awards, including five departments that have been awarded a total of more than one million dollars each through AFG. This is a classic case of it won't pay if you don't play.

The process is also political in nature; remember, your congressional staffer will make the congratulatory phone call prior to most grant awards. With more than 53 million dollars awarded to Oregon departments since the program started, it is critically important for you to help our congressional delegation understand where your department would be today without the opportunities the AFG provides.

So far during the 2008 program, 11 Oregon fire departments have received \$1,428,551 in AFG funding, which includes three vehicle awards.

For additional grant information visit the FEMA fire grant website: <http://www.firegrantsupport.com>.



Calcium Hypochlorite $\text{Ca}(\text{ClO})_2$

Description:

- Synonyms: Losantin; calcium salt; chlorinated lime; hypochlorous acid
- White or grayish-white powder with a chlorine-like odor
- Oxidizer; acute and chronic health hazard; corrosive; dangerous when wet; reactive
- CAS No.: 7778-54-3
- DOT Hazard Class 5.1; UN/NA: 1748

NFPA Information:

- Health: 3
- Flammability: 0
- Reactivity: 1
- Special: Oxidizer

Uses and Occurrences:

- Produced by passing chlorine gas over slaked lime
- Disinfection of water
- Bleaching cotton and linen
- Manufacture of chloroform
- Can be used to make a chlorine bomb

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Mixing with grease and fuels can cause fire
- Reacts with water and acids giving off chlorine gas
- Forms explosive compounds with ammonia and amines
- Hypochlorite solutions are unstable and slowly decompose on contact with air
- Sudden heating above 212° F may cause an explosion
- In the presence of small amounts of water can decompose to form unstable dichlorine monoxide
- Incompatibles include: reducing agents, ammonia, air, organic matter, sulfur

Health Hazards:

- Corrosive
- Eye contact may result in corneal damage or blindness
- Severe overexposure can result in lung damage and death
- Inhalation of dust can result in irritation, severe over exposure can lead to lung damage, choking and death

- Ingestion can result in burns, swelling of the throat, convulsions and possible coma

Personal Protective Equipment:

- Emergency responders should use self-contained breathing apparatus and full protective equipment
- Use local exhaust ventilation or other engineering controls
- Wear gloves, apron, splash goggles
- Use a respirator if appropriate

Inspection and Storage Tips:

- Keep container tightly closed
- Keep container in a cool, dry, well ventilated area
- Protect against physical damage

2007 Oregon Fire Code:

- Oxidizer Class 3 (>50% calcium hypochlorite)
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per S occupancy control area:
 - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 10 lbs.
 - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 20 lbs.
 - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 20 lbs.
 - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 40 lbs.
- For storage of quantities exceeding the MAQ for S occupancy, the storage facility must conform to H-2 or H-3 occupancy requirements
- See Table 2703.1.1 for exception (k)

Incident Reporting and Information:

- There are 68 facilities in Oregon currently reporting calcium hypochlorite on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- There have been 13 hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986 involving calcium hypochlorite

For questions or suggestions contact HazMat Information Specialist Alec Carte at 503-934-8262, or email aleta.carte@state.or.us

Corvallis firefighters and OSU sororities take fire safety door to door

Corvallis volunteer firefighters and volunteers representing every Oregon State University sorority visited 218 off-campus student residences in a door-to-door smoke alarm campaign. The volunteers tested 346 smoke alarms in a city-wide effort to improve the fire safety of off-campus housing.



Corvallis firefighters and OSU sorority volunteers visit a home during their door-to-door smoke alarm campaign in October

Of the 346 alarms tested, 27 did not work. Twenty-one of those were restored with new batteries, at no cost. Ten new alarms were installed at no cost by the volunteer crews in dwellings without working alarms.

The Corvallis Fire Department received 50 smoke alarms from the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to help with their campaign after attending the OSFM Door-to-Door Smoke Alarm workshop.

For more information the OSFM door-to-door smoke alarm campaign training, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Training.shtml>.

Unclassifieds

For sale – Eight Uniden Force mobile radios. Model FML600C, low band, 16-channel. Make offer to the Dundee Fire Department by calling 503-554-8442.



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