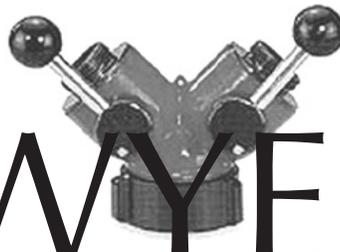


GATED WYE



August 2009 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 307

OSFM adds new Incident Management Team members

State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson is pleased to announce the following new members to Oregon's three Incident Management Teams (IMT). The below list includes new trainees and pool members.

Red Team

- Joe Raade, South Lane County Fire & Rescue, Logistics Chief
- Lance Lighty, Eugene Fire and EMS, Deputy Plans Chief
- Rick Iverson, McKenzie Fire & Rescue, Communications Unit Leader
- Michael Kelley, McKenzie Fire & Rescue, Assistant Communications Unit Leader

Blue Team

- Eric Schult, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Plans Chief
- Don Schallberger, Hillsboro Fire Department, Deputy Plans Chief
- Frank VanWinkle, Astoria Fire Department, Assistant Communications Unit Leader
- Jason Blount, Hillsboro Fire Department, Resource Unit Leader

Green Team

- Bryan Anderson, Corvallis Fire Department, Assistant Communications Unit Leader

Trainees and Pool members

- Douglas Lilja, Philomath Fire & Rescue, Logistics and Resource Unit Leader Trainee
- Kevin Shanders, Portland Fire & Rescue, Logistics Trainee
- Michael Kinkade, Forest Grove Fire & Rescue, Plans Trainee
- Shane Wooten, Albany Fire Department, Plans Trainee
- Chris Hunt, Corvallis Fire Department, Safety and Plans Trainee
- Milt Villegas, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue, Safety Pool
- Mark Taylor, Bend Fire Department, Safety Trainee

The Office of State Fire Marshal thanks these new and current IMT members for their dedication to help the citizens of Oregon in times of disaster.

Interested in joining a team? Visit http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/ERU_IMTeams.shtml for details and applications.

Campus Fire Safety Month

Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski has proclaimed September as Campus Fire Safety Month in Oregon.

The Governor's proclamation reinforces National Campus Fire Safety Month and encourages officials to evaluate fire safety, both on- and off-campus, and take necessary steps to ensure students have fire-safe living environments.

Schools across the country will be holding events to educate and inform students about what they can do to help ensure they are not the victim of a preventable fire.

Nationally, according to Campus Firewatch, since January 2000, 134 people have died in student housing fires and many students living in campus-related occupancies, including fraternity and sorority housing as well as residence halls, are not adequately protected with automatic fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems.

For more on campus fire safety, visit <http://www.campus-firesafetymonth.org/index.html> or <http://www.campusfiresafety.org/home>.

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



“I also encourage citizens to contact their local officials and voice their support of their community becoming a ‘Firewise Community’.”

There’s a reason they’re called debris BURNS

According to Keep Oregon Green (KOG), the majority of wildfires in Oregon are human-caused. Leading all other categories in human-caused wildfires is escaped debris burns. KOG statistics show in 2008, 30% of wildfires were the result of debris burns. This is followed by equipment use, recreation (including campfires), and smoking.

It is clear to me that debris burning in Oregon is not the way to go. There are too many ramifications in too many areas to justify allowing this dangerous practice. From the costs associated with fighting the resulting wildfires from escaped debris burning, to air quality issues, property damage, and personal injury debris burning just comes at too high of a price for all Oregonians.

I realize debris burning can be a divisive issue. But now, at the height of our wildfire season I can think of a few safer alternatives that responsible property owners have to dispose of their yard debris.

- 1) Chip or shred it and use it as mulch. I realize most homeowners may not have a chipper so I encourage neighbors to get together and rent one.
- 2) Compost the debris
- 3) Take the debris to a proper disposal or recycle location
- 4) Contact their city or county offices to find alternatives to debris burning

I also encourage citizens to contact their local officials and voice their support of their community becoming a ‘Firewise Community.’

The national Firewise Communities program is a multi-agency effort designed to reach beyond the fire service by involving homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others to protect the people, property, and national resources from the risk of wildland fire - before the fire starts. More information is available at <http://www.firewise.org/>.



State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson

**Office of
State Fire Marshal**

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Salem Oregon
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www.oregon.gov/OSP/OSFM

503-373-1540

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Codes & Technical
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ext. 269

Community Education
ext. 273

Community
Right-to-Know
ext. 214

Data Services
ext. 236

Emergency Planning &
Response
ext. 227

Emergency Response
ext. 238

Fire & Life Safety
ext. 204

Firesetter Intervention
ext. 230

License & Permits
ext. 264

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.

Simpson photo courtesy of ODOT Photo and Video Services.

Fire Prevention Week 2009

The National Fire Protection Association has declared October 4 – 9 as Fire Prevention Week 2009. This year's theme 'Stay Fire Smart! Don't Get Burned' focuses on ways to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns.

The Oregon Burn Center reports in a typical year:

- 60% of their patients are adult males (ages 18-105), who are burned using gasoline/ other ignitable (flammable) liquids on trash, debris, or camp fires & barbecues.
- 30% of their patients are children under age 5, who suffer scald burns usually from hot coffee, tea, or food.

To assist with reducing these painful burn injuries the Office of State Fire Marshal has created two new safety brochures focusing on gasoline safety and kitchen safety.

These brochures and other materials supporting home fire safety are available free to all Oregon fire departments or districts.

To order materials, contact Candice Clark at candice.clark@state.or.us or 503-934-8266. Materials may also be ordered from the OSFM website at www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/CommEd_FPW.shtml.

Hubbard fire and police ramp up fireworks enforcement

In an effort to curb a growing issue of illegal fireworks use in the town of Hubbard, the Hubbard Fire District and City Police collaborated on education and enforcement during last month's July 4th holiday.

According to Hubbard Fire District Assistant Chief Bill Hansen, fire and police officials teamed up on enforcement and education making numerous contact with citizens who were observed with illegal fireworks.

With the help of volunteer firefighters, Chief Hansen confiscated the illegal fireworks and issued warnings that further violations would result in citations.

Other agencies reported the following results from their enforcement activities:

- Happy Valley Police Department issued \$30,000 in citations for illegal fireworks.
- Sherwood Police Department had extra patrols and responded to 27 calls regarding illegal fireworks. The department issued 16 citations and seized hundreds of dollars worth of illegal fireworks.

The OSFM continues to seek examples of fireworks prevention and enforcement efforts from agencies around the state. Efforts will be highlighted in future editions of the Gated Wye and posted to the OSFM website.

Please submit your education and enforcement examples to Sharon Kraw at sharon.kraw@state.or.us or contact her at 503-934-8285.

Update on the new Oregon Response Reporting System

The OSFM and its partners have completed beta testing of the new web-based response reporting system and reported all shortcomings and defects to the software development vendor. System validations and rules are complete and the vendor is finalizing documentation for fire departments that need to link their NFIRS 5.0 compliant system to the new Oregon web-based system.

If you choose to continue to use your current fire reporting system, it needs to be compatible with NFIRS 5.0. Please remember to review your fire department's system for compatibility during the transition to NFIRS validations and requirements. If you have questions regarding compatibility of your current system, please contact Claire McGrew at 503-934-8236.

Users of the current Oregon All Incident Reporting System (OAIRS) can attend training on the new web-based reporting system the second and third weeks of October 2009. Firm dates for training will be announced in the September Gated Wye.

Clackamas Fire District hosts hazmat training

In a training exercise sponsored by a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant, Clackamas Fire District #1 (CFD) hosted a regional training over three days that simulated a release of anhydrous ammonia.

During the exercises, CFD#1 responders had the opportunity to interact with State Regional Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams from the Portland metro area, including Portland Team 6, Gresham/Multnomah Team 3, and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Team 9. "This was a great opportunity for our state Hazmat Teams to participate in a multi-agency exercise with local responders," said Oregon State Fire Marshal Emergency Response Unit Manager Mariana Ruiz-Temple.

J. Patrick Johnson who survived an anhydrous ammonia explosion and fire at a Louisiana warehouse in 1984 served as chief instructor for the training. "Its hazard classification is a nonflammable gas, but under the right conditions it will ignite," cautioned Johnson while sharing his story during the training and exercise. Johnson was one of two firefighters in the warehouse when it exploded. One firefighter was killed and Johnson suffered burns on 72 percent of his body. Since then, he has been helping emergency responders better prepare to respond to anhydrous ammonia leaks.



"This is the perfect example of how HMEP grants can be used to help emergency responders better prepare for hazardous material incidents," said Terry Wolfe who manages the grants for the OSFM. "I would like to see more agencies apply for funding to sponsor these types of activities. In my opinion, it's the best type of training an emergency responder can receive."

For more information on sponsoring exercises through the HMEP grants, or other HazMat related training, contact Terry Wolfe at 503-934-8219, or email terry.wolfe@state.or.us.

Illegal special effects display causes stunt injury

Due to a recent near fatal event involving special effects fireworks, the Office of State Fire Marshal is reminding fire departments and districts of the requirements for public display permits for any special effects or fireworks.

Background: In May, a stunt man was critically injured while filming a stunt involving explosives a few miles east of Salem. The company responsible claimed to have trained pyrotechnicians with authority to perform the effect under an ATF manufacturer/importer license. The company did not have a special effects permit from the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM).

Filming took place in a vacant house that was scheduled for fire training exercises later that day. In a mistake of timing, the special effects were set off earlier than planned and the stunt man ended up with 3rd degree burns over 40% of his body.

The special effect that injured the stunt man was a variation of a gas mine. While the OSFM does not know the exact amount of black powder used we do know the company removed one pound of black powder from their storage magazine and also used ethanol and blasting caps.

The OSFM, with input from the Oregon Fire Code Committee, an engineering company and a fireworks company, developed guidelines for use of gas mines. The guidelines specify the maximum amounts of fuels to be used and more importantly, direct that gas mines never be used indoors and kept a minimum of 200 feet from people.

Had a permit been requested, this incident likely would not have happened.

Examples of when a public display permit is required:

- A professional fireworks display – using 1.3G fireworks
- A limited display – these are often used by individuals wanting to use aerial 1.4G fireworks – provided they have enough distance and approval by local officials.
- Any venue where special effects are used. Special effects can range from concussion

mortars, to gas mines, to fireworks or other devices used at concerts or theaters.

If someone approaches your fire department or district requesting to set off any type of fireworks in any type of venue, and you are not sure if it requires a permit, please contact the OSFM License & Permit Services at 503-934-8264, for assistance.

North Lincoln Fire & Rescue launches recruiting campaign

The North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 has launched an ambitious three-month campaign titled *Answer the Call!* to recruit new volunteers and retain current volunteers.

With funds provided by a *Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant (SAFER)*, North Lincoln is finalizing a DVD and radio announcement that promotes the unique opportunities the department has to offer. A billboard, the third leg of the campaign is already installed along Hwy 101 near the Tanger Outlet mall.

North Lincoln Fire Assistant Chief Doug Kerr wrote the SAFER Grant identifying the concept of the project. After grant approval North Lincoln Fire commissioned Rescue 8 Productions of Lincoln City developed the concept into the *Answer the Call!* campaign.

"As part of our campaign we plan to visit businesses in the area and show the DVD to employees to get people interested in what we do," said Assistant Chief Doug Kerr. "I think once we get a chance to talk to them directly we can show them the tremendous amount of satisfaction that comes with serving your local citizens."

North Lincoln Fire is also planning on developing a generic recruiting DVD that can be customized by other departments in Oregon.

For more information, contact Assistant Fire Chief Doug Kerr at 541-994-3100 or email dkerr@nlfr.org.

Fire grant update

by Hines Firefighter/Grant Writer
Jonathan Manski



We are faced with a grant stagnancy period, as the lull between award notifications and pending opportunities is upon us.

Pending pre-award notifications from the 2008 Fire Prevention & Safety Grant continue at a very slow pace. Latest news is that actual awards should start soon after you read this article.

By now, your applications for the 2009 AFG program have either gone forward to peer review or have been declined by the computer scoring process. Notification of a denial generally begins by the 3rd or 4th round of award announcements. Peer review of the applications should have been completed by the end of July. Successful applicants should start hearing something near the end of August.

FY 2009 Station Construction Grants (SCG) received 75 submissions from Oregon departments. Modification and construction projects from Oregon totaled more than \$138 million in federal share requests. Only \$210 million dollars are available for the entire program nationwide, but what a pleasant surprise showing from our state. Nice work folks in taking the initiative. Nationally 6,013 applications requesting almost \$10 billion dollars was submitted by the application closing date. Peer review for this program started the last week of July.

Finally, the 2009 Safer Grant is the last of the standard trilogy for fire departments. Waiting for the open period should provide plenty of productive time for grant writers to hone up on their project ideas and narratives. This could be an especially important grant opportunity for those volunteer organizations that are having recruitment and retention issues. We are, aren't you?

Good luck; and the waiting continues.

For the latest information on FEMA grant programs visit their website at www.firegrantsupport.com.

OSFM Emergency Planning and Response strategic plan

This is the first in a series of monthly articles highlighting the strategic plan for each unit in the Office of State Fire Marshal.

The Office of State Fire Marshal's Emergency Response Unit (ERU) was created three years ago to better serve the Hazmat Teams, Incident Management Teams and Urban Search and Rescue Task Force programs. During that time the unit focused on streamlining processes and improving the working relationship between the

teams and the Office of State Fire Marshal.

In April the ERU conducted a survey of the fire service and team members to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the ERU. Based on the responses, ERU staff developed a strategic plan, outlined below, to improve service to the Oregon Fire Service and citizens of Oregon.

2009-2011 Emergency Response Unit Strategic Plan

Goals and Action Steps:

Streamline procurement processes

- Standardize and improve forms to enable use by all teams
- Acknowledgement in 72 hours to originator
- Commit to establishing turn-around times that are responsive to originator needs and are consistent with State purchasing procedures
- Create a database to track every purchase and inventory

Respond to calls, emails and inquiries within 72 hours

- Use available tools, including auto reply and voice mail, to leave accurate information about availability and alternate person

- Update and organize the website to provide team access to secure items

Create and implement a marketing strategy

- Identify the target audience
- Create a consistent message
- Develop multi-media tools for delivering information about the unit
- Monitor progress with stakeholders

Better integrate teams' response capabilities

- Establish a task force of representatives from the teams to explore means and make recommendations on how to integrate
- Design and conduct a drill that includes IMT, US&R, and HazMat.
- Send quarterly update to teams.

NFPA looking for Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is seeking nominations for the 2010 Educator of the Year Award. NFPA is looking for fire and life safety educators who:

- Work for a local fire department
- Use NFPA's Risk Watch®, Learn Not to Burn®, Remembering When™ or Fire Prevention Week materials
- Use NFPA materials in a consistent and creative way
- Demonstrate excellence and innovation, reaching out to the community with NFPA materials
- View NFPA as the source for safety information

The 2010 Educator of the Year receives a \$1,000 honorarium and travels to Las Vegas, in 2010 for the NFPA annual conference.

The local fire department will receive a \$1,000 donation to support public education activities.

The award is designed to give educators the recognition they deserve for taking a lead role in making their communities safer.

Applications are available at <http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files//PDF/Public%20Education/Educatoroftheyear.pdf>. The deadline is February 26, 2010. NFPA will announce the 2010 Educator of the Year at the NFPA annual conference.

Comparison of fire retardant properties

In response to a special request, HazMat Information Specialist Alec Carte developed a comparison of major fire retardants in use today.

A fire retardant is a substance added to a material or applied to a surface to help delay or prevent combustion; usually accomplished by cooling the material, forming a protective barrier, or through chemical reactions.

Two types of fire retardants are described below with examples showing physical properties:

1) **Phosphate ester** fire retardants form a protective char (carbon) layer that acts as insulation to prevent further degradation of the material.

- Resorcinol bis(diphenyl phosphate) is used in many products including televisions, computers and residential upholstery.
Clear transparent liquid
CAS # 125997-21-9
DOT: no information
Manufacturer's MSDS available to customers
- Ammonium polyphosphate is used in many plastics.
White crystals or powder
CAS #: 68333-79-9
NFPA: Health: 1, Flammability: 0, Reactivity: 0
DOT: Not regulated

2) **Metal hydroxide** fire retardants, when heated above a certain temperature, release water vapor in a reaction that absorbs heat (endothermic), thus cooling the product and acting as a vapor barrier to prevent oxygen from reaching the flame.

- Magnesium hydroxide is used in many products including plastics, paints and coatings.
Odorless white powder
CAS # 1309-42-8
NFPA ratings of Health: 1, Flammability: 0, Reactivity: 0
DOT: Not regulated
At 630° F the endothermic reaction decomposes $Mg(OH)_2$ to $MgO + H_2O$.

- Aluminum trihydrate is used in many products including plastics, cables, wires and carpet backing.
Odorless white powder
CAS # 21645-51-2
NFPA ratings of Health: 1, Flammability: 0, Reactivity: 0
DOT: Not regulated
Above 401° F the endothermic reaction decomposes $2Al(OH)_3$ to $Al_2O_3 + 3H_2O$.

References:

Health information of fire retardants:
Washington State Department of Health,
Department of Ecology
Alternatives to Deca-BDE in Televisions and Computers and Residential Upholstered Furniture, final report, available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0907041.html>

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Report on Alternatives to the Flame Retardant DecaBDE: Evaluation of Toxicity, Availability, Affordability, and Fire Safety Issues, a report to the Governor and General Assembly, March 2007.

Web research:

Supresta Fyrolflex RDP Product Bulletin <http://www.supresta.com/pdfs/Fyrolflex-RDP-product-bulletin.pdf>

Phosphate Ester Flame Retardants Consortium <http://www.pefrcnet.org/pefrc.asp>

Special Chem <http://www.specialchem4polymers.com/tc/flame-retardants/index.aspx>

Huber Materials <http://www.hubermaterials.com/magnesiumHydroxide.htm>

Akrochem Corporation <http://www.akrochem.com/pdfs/fire/X-alumina%20trihydrate.pdf>

Niknam Chemicals Ltd. <http://www.aluminahydrate.com/aluminium-trihydrate.html>

Ammonium polyphosphate MSDS <http://www.basstechintl.com/msds/bti01375.pdf>

Oregon Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony set for September 17 at the Oregon Public Safety Academy



The Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training Cordially invites you to attend the Oregon Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony September 17, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

The Memorial will be held at the Oregon Public Safety Academy 4190 Aumsville Highway SE Salem, Oregon 97317



Protocol: Uniform (Class A preferred). Memorial bands should be worn over badges.

For additional information, please contact Julie Olsen-Fink at (503) 378-2297.

OSFM Recognitions



Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Jones (left) presents Tillamook Fire Marshal Rueben Descloux with the Oregon Fire Marshal Recognition with Fire Plans Examiner Endorsement at the July meeting of the Tillamook Fire District Board of Directors meeting.



Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Jones (left) presents Polk County Fire Marshal Jeff Donahue with the Oregon Fire Marshal Recognition with Fire Plans Examiner Endorsement at the District's July staff meeting.