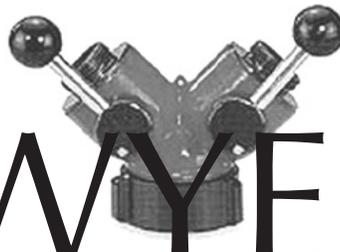


# GATED WYE



August 2010 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 319

## Safety alert regarding antifreeze in residential sprinklers

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has issued a [safety alert](#) recommending residential fire sprinkler systems containing antifreeze should be drained and the antifreeze replaced with water.

The alert follows a research study and an initial set of fire tests conducted after a fire incident raised concerns about antifreeze solutions in residential sprinkler systems.

The incident involved a grease fire in a kitchen where a sprinkler with a high concentration of antifreeze deployed. The fire resulted in a single fatality and serious injury to another person.

"Until we can provide further information based on additional research that is currently underway, we are urging the public to continue the use of sprinklers but to follow our interim safety guidelines by removing antifreeze if it is in their sprinkler system," said NFPA President James M. Shannon.

Shannon said, based on testing conducted, 70/30% glycerin and 60/40% propylene glycol antifreeze may provide an unacceptable risk of harm to occupants in certain types of fire

scenarios, in particular kitchen grease fires.

There were successful tests where kitchen grease fires were extinguished or contained with a 50/50% glycerin solution, but it was felt there should be additional testing to more fully understand if there is a risk associated with 50/50% glycerin solution.

NFPA hopes to provide further guidance based on additional testing before the freezing winter months.

"We are providing this safety alert as interim guidance based on the information we have right now," said Shannon. "As soon as more information is available, we will update the public."

The Office of State Fire Marshal suggests owners of fire sprinkler systems contact their fire sprinkler maintenance company and follow their recommendations.



## Join schools for *Do the Drill*

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is encouraging Oregon fire departments and districts to contact their local schools and participate in the upcoming *Do the Drill* campaign during Fire Prevention Week, October 4-8.

*Do the Drill* focuses on conducting safe and effective fire evacuation drills for schools.

The fire evacuation drill guideline is one of four drill guidelines (earthquake, shelter-in-place, and lock down) included in the OSFM's *School Resource Guide to Evacuation Planning*.

The guide was developed in partnership with representatives from the Oregon Fire Marshals Association, Oregon Code Committee, Oregon Emergency Management, the Oregon Department of Education, School Resources Officers Association, and Special Districts of Oregon.

The OSFM will distribute the guide to all fire departments, districts, and public schools in Oregon by late August.



# From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



**“ I know the fire service is losing a lot of great people along with a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience. ”**

## Big shoes to fill

Since the first of the year, it seems there hasn't been a week that's gone by without a retirement notice coming across my desk or popping up in my email.

Whatever the reason, I know the fire service is losing a lot of great people along with a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience.

Some that come to mind include Pendleton Fire Chief John Fowler, Lane County #1 Fire Chief Marty Nelson, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Chief Jeff Johnson, and TVF&R Assistant Chiefs Kirk Hale and Paul LeSage.

Chief Fowler did major work with the planning sections for the state incident management teams and Chief Nelson was a leader in the development and success of the Fire Chiefs Tool Box training.

While Chief Hale gives the OSFM much credit in getting Oregon recognized as a 'Green' or 'Ready' state for intrastate mutual aid by the Department of Homeland Security, he played a significant role in making this happen. We are also in debt to Paul LeSage for his tireless work with the Insurance Services Office and developing Standards of Cover for the Oregon fire service.

Not the least on my list is TVF&R Chief Jeff Johnson. Chief Johnson's legacy to the Oregon fire service will be difficult to duplicate. He served as the president of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, Western Fire Chiefs Association, and the International Fire Chiefs Association.

He played a significant role in stabilizing the Fire Insurance Premium Tax for the OSFM and for firefighter training at DPSST. He chaired Oregon's State Interoperability Executive Council to improve radio interoperability throughout the state.

Though we lose a lot with these departures, I'm excited about what the next generation of leaders will bring to the fire service table. I'm glad our new leaders have big shoes to fill because it raises the bar for achievement and professionalism for the entire Oregon fire service.

My sincere thanks to those outgoing leaders. To those filling their shoes, I say - keep it going!



**State Fire Marshal  
Randy Simpson**

**Office of  
State Fire Marshal**

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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 e-mail [richard.hoover@state.or.us](mailto: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.

## Wanted - 20 Fire Educators and Preschool Teachers

The Office of State Fire Marshal is partnering with the [Home Safety Council](#) on a research project to evaluate Start Safe: A Fire and Burn Safety Program for Preschoolers and their Families. The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Home Safety Council President MeriK-Appy, is looking for 20 fire educators and Head Start/Preschool teachers to participate in the program. Ms. Appy will train participants on the curriculum at the Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Conference August 17, 2010 in Eugene, Oregon. The workshop is scheduled from 10:30 a.m. till noon.

There is no registration fee and participants will receive the curriculum at no cost. Workshop participants do not have to register for the entire conference unless they plan to attend other sessions.

Register for the workshop by calling Helen Feroli, 503-934-8240 or Judy Okulitch at 503-934-8230. This is a great opportunity to work with one of the leading fire educators in the country. Space is limited.

## Update: Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Conference

Dr. Jerald Block has been added to the list of presenters for the Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Conference August 17-18 in Eugene, Oregon. Dr. Block will speak about the events that led up to the 1999 attack on Columbine High School by two members of its graduating class.

Dr. Block will discuss the Columbine students' involvement with explosives (bombs) and how limiting their access to technology may have inadvertently helped elicit suicidal and homicidal rage in the killers.

Dr. Block's presentation will bring to a close the two day conference that focuses on youth's involvement with fire in the media, computer gaming, and technology. This conference is the first of its kind to provide fire educators and intervention specialists with the opportunity to discuss how to retool fire education and intervention to fit the media driven culture of today's youth.

Don't miss this training opportunity! [Online registration is available](#) for \$199 (plus processing fee). Registration covers tuition, workshop materials, two continental breakfasts and two luncheons.

## Deputy state fire marshal offers thanks

In July, North Douglas Fire & Rescue and the Douglas Forest Protective Association (DFPA) were called to a [structure fire in Rice Hill, Oregon](#). When crews arrived, the home was too far gone to save and crews extinguished the remains of the home.

The owner was not home at the time of the fire, but at least 12 animals including cats, kittens, dogs, and a parrot perished as a result of the blaze.

The Office of State Fire Marshal was requested to investigate the fire in which multiple county fire districts assisted including:

- Fair Oaks Fire District Chief Paul Yegge

- North Douglas Fire & Rescue Fire
- DFPA
- Winston-Dillard Firefighter Sam McCullough and
- Riddle Firefighter Rich Hollaway and the Riddle Fire Department, which loaned their 100-foot aerial ladder truck to take aerial photographs of the fire scene.



*Riddle ladder truck assisting at the fire investigation scene.*

As a representative of the Office of State Fire Marshal, I offer a profound thank you to all the departments that assisted with the fire investigation.

– Oregon Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Chris Lyman

## A voice from the fire service



by Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue  
Assistant Chief Kirk Hale

### Oregon gets the 'green light'

This past spring, the [International Association Fire Chiefs](#) (IAFC) listed Oregon as a 'Green' status state, affirming our ability to provide mutual aid resources and assistance across state lines when needed. This significant accomplishment is thanks in large part to Oregon State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson and Emergency Response Manager Mariana Ruiz-Temple.

After numerous national disasters (Oklahoma City, The World Trade Center, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita), the country needed a national mobilization system to better respond to and manage disasters of this magnitude. Lessons learned from these events pointed to the need to establish a seamless process for interstate mobilization, integration, and utilization of fire service resources and assets in the event of similar disasters.

In 2005, the [Department of Homeland Security](#) (DHS) tasked the IAFC to build a national mobilization system for the fire service.

The IAFC accepted the challenge and established two major programs – 1) the Intrastate Mutual Aid System (IMAS), which deals with managing resources within a state; and 2) the Mutual Aid System Task Force (MASTF), which deals with state-to-state (interstate) mutual aid.

Before the IAFC's efforts, many states did not have a policy or practice in place to move resources from agency to agency within their state. Now, the IMAS has assisted many of those states in developing effective in-state resource deployment systems.

The IAFC's Green status is not easy to earn. Each state approved by the IAFC to deploy across state lines, must meet certain requirements, including the ability to deploy certified, trained/skilled individuals, and adequately equipped resources in a timely manner. Each state must have an approved field operations guide as well.

For the past 18 months, the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has worked to earn this Green status. The OSFM provided after action reports on intrastate deployments and the development of the Oregon Field Operation Guide. Oregon State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson provided the leadership and guidance to accomplish the many required tasks.

Having Green status demonstrates to IAFC and DHS that Oregon is prepared and capable to deploy fire resources within the state and to other states, if requested. However, requests for interstate deployments still must go through the EMAC process or contractual agreements with states, along with approval of the Oregon governor.

One other MASTF component that has recently come into play for fire chiefs in disaster assistance is the 'Go Team' program, funded by DHS and managed by the IAFC. It consists of two chief officers selected from each of the 10 FEMA Regions around the country, who have been trained and equipped to respond quickly and early in a crisis, upon a local fire chief's request. The concept is to provide immediate assistance to the local fire chief or agency following a disaster; to assist them early and help them mitigate the situation or help the local fire chief prepare to work with an incoming incident management team. A request for a Go Team member can be made whenever a fire chief is overwhelmed, (e.g. possibly after a firefighter fatality). More information on the Go Team program may be found on the IAFC website. Click on the 'IAFC's Go Teams up and Running' link.

The Oregon fire service owes Mariana Ruiz-Temple and Randy Simpson many thanks for their tremendous effort in helping get Oregon designated Green. Their work and preparation will make Oregon better able to manage major emergencies within the state, as well as set the stage for deploying out of state on disaster assistance. These deployments can also bring back much needed real life experiences and knowledge to share throughout Oregon. The day will come when we will be overwhelmed by a disaster, find our resources depleted, and need to raise the SOS to other states.

*Note from SFM Simpson: Chief Hale is very generous in giving credit to the OSFM. In reality, this status would have never been achieved without Chief Hale's hard work, time, and dedication to the process. He deserves as much credit as anyone.*

## DATA Connection

News & technical tips from the Data Unit

### The seasonality of Oregon fires

Analysis of Oregon fire incident data<sup>1</sup> reveals that 40% of the year's fires occur during the summer months (July through September). Fire incidence peaks in July at about 69 fires per day, and is at its lowest during the fall and winter months (October through March) at 25 fires per day. (See chart at right.)

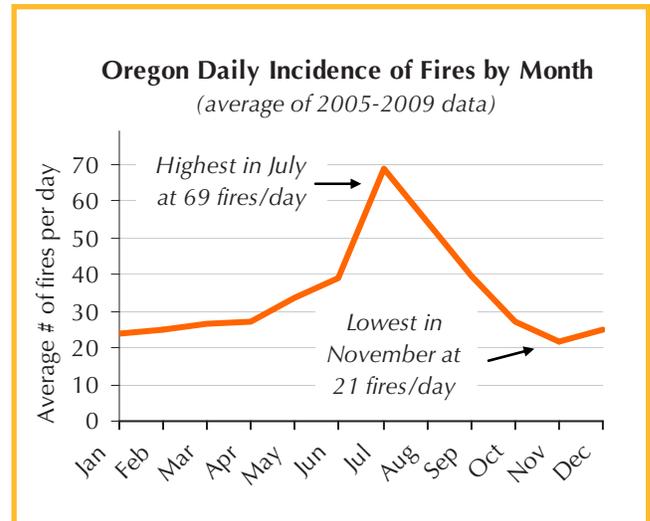
Not surprisingly, fireworks and outside fires contribute to most of the seasonal variation. More fires are reported on July 4<sup>th</sup> than any other day of the year, due to fireworks use. Outside fires account for 65% of summer fires, as compared to only 24% of winter fires. When the weather is warm and dry, people spend more time outdoors, and human behavior accounts for a large portion of the increase in outside fires. Cigarettes start 1 out of 3 outside fires during the summer months. Juvenile-set fires also peak in the summertime, when children are out of school.

Nationally, spring is the season with the highest daily average of fires. However, cooler climate and high precipitation in Oregon's largest metropolitan areas correlate to low rates of outside fires during spring.

Structure fires increase in the colder months. Structure fires account for 50% of Oregon fires during the fall and winter months, compared to only 25% of fires during the spring and summer. Heating, cooking, and cigarettes are common causes of structure fires during the fall and winter.

Seasonality of fires is largely due to common behaviors and causes repeated each year. By understanding seasonality in your jurisdiction, you can reduce fires by targeting the right prevention efforts to the right time of year.

<sup>1</sup> All statistics in this article are based on 2005-2009 incidents reported by Oregon fire agencies to the Office of State Fire Marshal.



***“The fire service has the opportunity to plan and implement specific public education, fire prevention, and other fire-related programs that address seasonal changes in fire incidence.”***

– U.S. Fire Administration

### Incident report quality control

All your incident reports must be ‘100% Valid with No Errors or Warnings’ to be accepted into the national database. However, even at 100% validity, there is important data you should not neglect to record on your incident form:

- Did you provide as specific information as possible? ‘Undetermined’ and ‘Other’ codes should be used sparingly.
- Did you enter estimates of property and contents value and loss?
- Did you enter smoke alarm information?
- Did you enter sprinkler information?
- Did you geocode your incident? Making a habit of entering latitude/longitude coordinates for each run will pay off when the day comes that your agency wants to map incident data for deployment analysis.

The more complete your report, the more confidence we have in the statistics that portray Oregon's fire picture. Your data provides key information to support grant applications, standards of cover, prevention programs, and legislative issues.

Questions? Contact the Data Unit at 503-373-1540, extensions 234, 237, or 244.

## Two shirts cause fireworks blast in Idaho

*Editor's note: This article is a summary of a story that appeared in the July 7, 2010 edition of the Idaho Statesman. It is reprinted with permission of the Idaho Statesman. To view the complete original news article [click here](#).*

After a fireworks accident on July 3<sup>rd</sup> that injured three, the Mountain Home (Idaho) Fire Department plans to take extra care next year when it prepares for the community fireworks show.

Mountain Home Fire Chief Phil Gridley said a shell exploded in a volunteer firefighter's hands because of static electricity caused by the two shirts he was wearing and exacerbated by humidity above 35 percent. Firefighter Ty Larsen wore a long-sleeved Under Armor shirt beneath a long-sleeved fire-retardant Nomex shirt.

Fireworks experts warn against wearing synthetic fabrics, like the Under Armor shirt, because they can produce static electricity.

Larsen was placing a shell in a launch tube when the shell ignited, setting off a chain reaction of explosions.

A fellow firefighter rushed Larsen to a local hospital for treatment while two other firefighters at the scene were transported by ambulance.

Larsen and the other firefighters were released from the hospital and are recovering.

Gridley consulted Idaho State Fire Marshal Mark Larson who said that jeans and 100 percent cotton shirts are strongly recommended for persons working with fireworks, particularly when the humidity is above 35 percent. The humidity in Mountain Home at the time of the incident was 37 percent, Gridley said.

### Changes to Oregon's field burning laws

The 2009 Oregon Legislature adopted [Senate Bill 528](#) reducing the number of acres grass seed and cereal grain growers in the Willamette Valley can burn. Changes to [field burning regulations](#) began in 2009 and include provisions for training fires in OAR 603-077-0131.

## Fire grant update

by Hines Lieutenant/Grant Writer  
Jonathan Manski



The 2010 Rural Fire Assistance/Volunteer Fire Assistance grant awards have finally been determined and are now posted on the [Oregon Department of Forestry website](#).

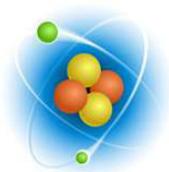
The waiting game is fully entrenched for the 171 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) applications submitted in Oregon for the 2010 program. It's anyone's guess when the 1199a's, cost reductions, or other related announcements will begin to break loose.

Since we have nearly come to the bottom of the initial bucket allocation for the 2009 AFG, some trivia may be useful (at least to me). In Oregon, almost 29% of submitted projects were funded, and slightly more than 12% of the vehicle applications were awarded. That's consistent with the last three years of data. Hopefully, those with grant funding have put the cash to work and are now enjoying the fruits of their labor.

The 2009 Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) grants may have released the bulk of the Recruitment & Retention (R&R) awards by now since it seems that most of the hiring awards have been made. If you have not received a turndown notice for SAFER yet and you submitted for R&R, be ready to check your 1199a link for movement on this portion of the grant. There is still hope. For those watching the grant schedule, the 2010 SAFER grant is next; this is normally opened as a summer program.

Finally, the 2009 Fire Prevention & Safety Grants remain elusive for fire departments. As of today, only three awards have been made to traditional fire department requesters. Community groups, service organizations, and state agencies accounted for four additional awards.

[Visit the FEMA website](#) for the latest grant information.



## Metam Sodium $C_2H_4NNaS_2$

### Description:

- Synonym: Metham sodium
- Chemical name: Sodium methylthiocarbamate
- Active ingredient in pesticides such as: Vapam HL Soil Fumigant; Metam 426; Metam Sodium 42% Technical; Metacide 42; Vapam RUP; Terracide 510; Rid-A-Vec; Country Metham Sodium
- Orange to light yellow-green liquid essentially odorless to fairly strong odor of amine or sulfur
- CAS No.: 137-42-8; CAS No. MITC: 556-61-6
- Properties: Toxic, reactive, water reactive, corrosive
- EPA Section 302 EHS: Not listed

### NFPA 704 Information for MITC:

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

### Uses and Occurrences:

- Soil fumigant

### Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Stable as supplied
- Some pesticide formulations are not flammable others are with a flash point 200° F or greater
- The moisture in soil converts metham sodium to the poisonous gas methyl isothiocyanate (MITC) which provides the fumigant effect
- Conversion produces hydrogen sulfide gas
- EPA Section 302 EHS list: MITC 500 lbs.
- Dilution with acids may generate carbon disulfide liquid or monomethylamine gas
- Carbon disulfide: LEL: 1%; UEL: 50%; Flash point 86° F

### Health Hazards:

- Most serious health hazards are from MITC
- OSHA PEL: Not established
- MITC: Oral  $LD_{50}$  (rat): 55-220 mg/kg
- MITC: Inhalation  $LC_{50}$  (rat): 1.9 mg/l air (1 hr)
- Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH): Not given
- Metam sodium: Irritant; MITC: causes burns; may be fatal if inhaled

### Fire Fighting Measures:

- Extinguishing media: Based on surrounding materials
- Dilution with water may generate MITC and hydrogen sulfide

### 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- DOT Corrosive, Hazard Class 8
- UN/NA: 3266; Guide # 154
- Spill: See Table 1

### 2007 Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(2)

- Corrosive
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
  - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 500 gal/5000 lbs.
  - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 1000 gal/2000 lbs.
  - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 1000 gal/2000 lbs.
  - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 2000 gal/4000 lbs.

### Incident Reporting and Information:

- 16 facilities are currently reporting these pesticides on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- Hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: None
- Other states: Dunsmuir, CA spill 1991
- For risk mitigation measures: [http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/reregistration/soil\\_fumigants/#emergency](http://www.epa.gov/opp00001/reregistration/soil_fumigants/#emergency) Emergency preparedness - First Responder Education "EPA is requiring registrants to provide training information to first responders in high fumigant use areas"

### References include:

- Amvac Chemical Corp MSDS Vapam HI; etc.
- Acros Organics MSDS MITC
- EPA List of Lists, October 2006

For questions or suggestions contact Alec Carte at 503-934-8262 or e-mail [aleta.carte@state.or.us](mailto:aleta.carte@state.or.us)

## Fire & life safety recognition



Photo by Kim Jordan

*Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Jones presents Seaside Division Chief/Fire Marshal Chris Dugan (right) with his Oregon Fire Marshal recognition certificate during the Seaside City Council meeting in May.*



*Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Bob Wright (right) presents Eugene Fire and EMS Deputy Fire Marshal Keith Haggas with his Fire and Life Safety Specialist I certificate during the Eugene Fire Prevention staff meeting in July.*



Photo by Rachel Ford

*Left to right: Ty Darby, Jason Arn, Amber Cross, Edward Bonollo, Kate Stoller, Drew Debois, Tom Mooney, Greg Weisgerber, James Everitt, Dave Jones, Rolanda Ayers, Doug Friant, Karen Mohling.*

*On July 1st, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Jones and Oregon Fire Marshals Association President Doug Friant presented the following Fire and Life Safety Recognitions to members of Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue:*

*Fire and Life Safety I, Inspector Jason Arn; Fire and Life Safety II, Inspector Thomas Mooney, Deputy Fire Marshals Edward Bonollo, Amber Cross, and Rolanda Ayers; Fire and Life Safety Specialist II w/ Fire plans examiner, Inspector Ty Darby and Assistant Fire Marshal Katherine Stoller; Oregon Fire Marshal certificate, Assistant Fire Marshal Greg Weisgerber; Oregon Fire Marshal w/ Fire plans examiner, Deputy Fire Marshals Drew Debois, James Everitt, and Karen Mohling.*

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## OSFM new employee

**Lisa Walker**  
Survey Processor  
CR2K Unit



Lisa grew up in southern Oregon. After graduating high school, she worked various jobs in offices and libraries. In 2001, Lisa moved to the Salem area to be closer to family members.

Before coming to OSFM she worked as an office temp for several agencies including the State Procurement Office and Marion County Board of Commissioners. She enjoys cats, reading, and gardening.

"It's great to be part of an agency that works hard to protect the lives and property of Oregonians," says Lisa.

August 2010, GATED WYE, page 8

## Oregon Burn Center fund-raiser

The Oregon Burn Center Advisory Board is hosting a fund-raiser September 11, 2010, 7 p.m. -11 p.m. at Legacy Emanuel Hospital in Portland.

The evening's theme is 'Your Senior Prom - revisited' and features live music, light appetizers, and a no-host bar. Age 21 and over only. \$100 per couple/ \$50 per single.

Tickets available at Emanuel Hospital gift shop or by emailing [mross@lhs.org](mailto:mross@lhs.org).