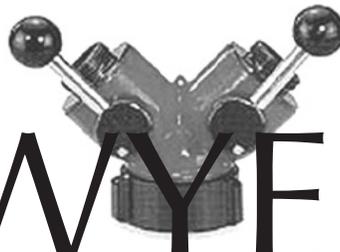


# GATED WYE



February 2010 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 313

## Gabliks named DPSST director

Governor Ted Kulongoski named Eriks Gabliks the new Director of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) on January 26, 2010. Gabliks had been serving as the Interim Director of DPSST since November 2009.

Since 2005, Gabliks has served as Deputy Director of DPSST. He has been with the department in various roles since 1990.

Gabliks earned a Bachelor of Science from Western Oregon University and an Executive Masters degree in Public Administration from Portland State University (PSU). He is also a graduate of both the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program and the State & Local Leaders Program at the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at PSU.

"Eriks has the dedication, skills and integrity to lead this department and continue to improve our public safety training and standards," said Governor Kulongoski. "His experience both in the Oregon fire service and within the department have prepared him well to take on this important position."

## Many turn out for Fire Service Appreciation Day

Support for the Oregon fire service manifested itself in a strong turnout by fire officials, government leaders and members of the public for Fire Service Appreciation Day January 27.

More than 150 visitors turned out to hear comments of thanks and praise for the daily sacrifice and efforts of those tasked with keeping Oregonians safe from fire.

In his speech, Oregon State Police Superintendent Tim McLain talked about his respect and appreciation for the increasing brotherhood between the fire service and law enforcement.

State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson also gave recognition to those working behind the scenes in the fire service such as administration, training, and other areas whose efforts are

just as significant but often go unnoticed. "It's these folks that make the wheels turn and allow those on the front line to focus on their life saving tasks when called on," said Simpson.



*The Oregon Fire Choir sings the opening song for the 11 a.m. ceremony*

Adding to the day's significance, OSP Superintendent McLain administered the oath of office to Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Jim Walker. At noon, OSFM staff, family, friends, and fire service members dedicated a memorial to past OSFM employees who passed away while serving with the agency.



*Chief Deputy Jim Walker and family (left) with SFM Simpson prior to the swearing in*

The OSFM sincerely thanks all of the organizations, departments and others who helped make this day a tremendous success.

You can view a photo gallery of the day's events by clicking [here](#).

# From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



OSFM provides support to the fire service and to schools for teacher training on the curricula because of the high value placed on prevention education.

## Partnerships lead to success

I am always impressed with the dedication of your departments and districts in developing strong partnerships with your local school districts. Together we share the goal of ensuring the fire safety and education of the next generation of Oregonians.

This past month, over 16,000 *Guide to Classroom Safety* posters were mailed to schools. For the third year, OSFM staff worked with the Oregon Fire Marshals Association to distribute information to eliminate the most common hazards found during fire safety inspections. This year the poster included information on reporting school fires and evacuation planning.

These posters are one example of the many ways the fire service is working to provide high quality and consistent messages on inspecting and protecting one of our communities' most valued investments...our schools.

An article in the Department of Education's (ODE) newsletter, *The Superintendent's Pipeline*, featured a fire awareness curricula for elementary and middle schools that meets Oregon's Health Education Standards and ORS 336.071. This curricula is another example of the partnership between OSFM, fire service educators, and ODE's health teachers. (See related article on page 3.)

Oregon's schools are required to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to be safe at home, at school, and in the community. Fire prevention and safety along with fire, earthquake, and tsunami preparedness are assessed in Grades 3, 5, and 8. It is more important than ever when conducting school programs that the fire service deliver educational and age appropriate messages. To be successful, these messages must align with the health education standards and be consistent with the classroom teaching.

OSFM provides support to the fire service and to schools for teacher training on the curricula because of the high value placed on prevention education. Thank you for all you do to support these partnership programs that benefit our children.



## State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson

Office of  
State Fire Marshal

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Salem Oregon  
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[www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM)  
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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](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.

## Trainings scheduled for school fire safety curricula

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) has partnered with the Healthy Kids Learn Better cadre and local fire departments to provide Oregon's new fire awareness and disaster preparedness training for Oregon schoolteachers. This positive partnership model for professional teacher development has resulted in the integration of fire safety education into the health education program in many schools. The cadre is funded by a group of Oregon agencies. The OSFM has committed funds and staff to support the training because of the high value it places on prevention education.

The curricula, *What Would You Do?* (Grades 1-5) and *It's Up To You!* (Grades 6-8), were developed through a collaboration of fire educators and health teachers to ensure alignment with the Department of Education's Health Education Standards, and Oregon statutes (ORS 336.071) regarding fire education. Health education standards require health teachers to teach fire safety education, as well as earthquake and tsunami lessons. Oregon Revised Statute 336.071 requires 30 minutes per month of fire education in Oregon schools. The new curricula meet both standards and serves as an incentive for school districts to adopt it and make it available.

The curricula replaces the *Fire Safety Skills Curriculum* and provide structured fire education on the reality of fire, fire prevention and safety, fire use through history, personal responsibility, fire-related media, and the impact of media on students' perceptions of fire.

Scheduled training locations and dates:

- Roseburg Area, Douglas County ESD-Roseburg, February 4, 2010
- Eugene Area, Lane County Fire District #1-Veneta, February 9, 2010
- Portland Area, Rice School, March 17, 2010
- Southwest Region, Grants Pass Public Safety Department, TBA
- Central Region, Woodburn Fire District, TBA

We extend special thanks to the following individuals who participated in our curriculum training for fire educators and/or who have been instrumental in coordinating teacher trainings in their communities: *Sean Barrett - Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, Jon Koenig - Woodburn Fire District, Paul Iverson - Woodburn Fire District, Brian Pike - Grants Pass Department of Public Safety, Heather Miller - Lane County Fire District #1, Chris Lyman - Deputy State Fire Marshal, Jeff Cranford - McMinnville Fire Department, and Liz Labichello - Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue.*

For more information about the curriculum and trainings, click [here](#).

If your department is interesting in supporting the curriculum training for the 2010-2011 school year, call Judy Okulitch at 503-934-8230 or Helen Feroli at 503-934-8240.

## OSFM seeking Sparky award nominations

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is calling for nominations for the 2010 Golden and Silver Sparky awards.

The Golden Sparky recognizes a fire service member for outstanding achievement in fire prevention or public fire safety education. The Silver Sparky recognizes a civilian for outstanding achievement in prevention or public fire safety education.

The nomination deadline is April 19, 2010. Nomination forms are available by clicking [here](#). Submit completed forms with an explanation and examples of the nominee's achievements. Additional submission information is included on the nomination form.

Awards will be presented Saturday, May 22, 2010 during the Oregon Fire Service Meritorious Awards Banquet at the Salem Conference Center in Salem, Oregon.

For more information, contact Laura Drager at 503-934-8211 or [laura.drager@state.or.us](mailto:laura.drager@state.or.us).

# Why become a certified fire investigator?

by Deputy State Fire Marshal  
Charles Chase, IAAI-CFI, CFEI



In 1983, it was a common misconception that spalled concrete was indicative of ignitable liquids being used; as was annealed mattress springs and some types of crazed glass. All since have been proven NOT to be indicative of anything other than a good hot fire!

## Fire Investigator

Part detective, scientist, engineer, and law enforcer, the fire investigator represents an assortment of multiple careers rolled into one. The fire investigator must explore, determine, and document the origin and cause of the fire, establish what human actions were responsible for it, then bring authoritative testimony to the courtroom to win a conviction in cases of arson.

Fire investigation is one of the most difficult of the forensic sciences to practice. Unlike most forensic disciplines, even the basic question of whether a crime has been committed is normally not obvious. And it's you the fire investigator who makes that determination. How you came to your conclusion may be scrutinized. Your conclusions may be attacked in court, and your integrity challenged.

In a court of law, the judge and jury will consider you to be an 'expert.' But what is an 'expert,' and how do you know if you are one? Can you prove it?

An expert or professional witness is one, who by virtue of education, training, skill, or experience, is believed to have expertise and specialized knowledge in a particular subject, beyond that of the average person. When turned to by the courts, an 'expert' is presumed to speak with such knowledge and proficiency that others may officially (and legally) rely upon their specialized opinion (scientific, technical, or other) pertaining to events, evidence, or facts within the scope of their skill.

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)  
1033 Fire Investigator Professional Qualifications  
should be read by any person conducting

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fire investigations. This standard outlines the professional qualifications needed to conduct fire investigations.

## CFI Equals Credibility

Being a certified fire investigator (CFI) may be important on many occasions. As a certified fire investigator, you have a recognized level of training, experience, and knowledge. This certification is acknowledged by most courts.

There are a variety of fire investigator certifications available:

- The National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) offers a certification based upon passing a written test. This test is based on fire science principles and investigative techniques. Passing the test grants the candidate a CFEI (certified fire and explosion investigator) certification.
- The International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) offers a certification based on a matrix of training, education, experience, and time of service. After successful completion, the candidate is eligible to take the certification test. Upon passing the test, the candidate becomes a CFI (certified fire investigator).
- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives also offers a certification program, however it is typically limited to members of law enforcement.

In conclusion, in this day of expert versus expert in a court of law, the advantages of having a certified level of training and experience is extremely helpful. The public does not understand the complexities of fire investigation and relies on 'experts' such as you to help them understand. Don't you owe it to yourself, your agency, and your profession to be as highly trained as possible?

By becoming a CFI, you are demonstrating that you are professional and credible, and hold the certifications to prove it.



## DATA Connection

News & technical tips from the Data Services Unit

### Why should I report my incidents to the state?

The fire service, the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM), your own department, and other agencies all have critical needs for your incident data. For example:

- The OSFM and various agencies need incident data to educate the public on death and injury prevention, property protection, and services provided by the fire service. We provide data to fire departments, communities, and other health and safety organizations to assist in grant qualification and other funding. Data is also used to identify and support changes in fire and building codes, and in addressing consumer product recalls.
- Your department uses the data to measure operational effectiveness, identify problems and training needs, and improve resource allocation. By analyzing incidents and examining trends, you can answer questions such as: *How are our response times? What is causing firefighter injuries? Do we need an education program to address a specific fire cause?* Data is also required to apply for grants.

**For the fire service to be effective today, the need for good documentation is crucial for showing its worth in this time of budget constraints and cuts.**

– Marion A. Long, National Fire Data Center, U.S. Fire Administration

- Every fire chief is required to provide the OSFM with a complete report of all fires within their jurisdiction (ORS 476.210). When a fire is of undetermined or of suspicious origin, or involves a death or serious injury, the investigator must report it to the OSFM within seven days of the incident (ORS 476.220). This allows us to respond to requests for information regarding recent incidents.

- Your department's data is an important part of the Oregon fire picture, portrayed in the OSFM's annual report. Your data is also submitted to the National Fire Incident Reporting System to be included in overall U.S. fire analysis.
- Incident data is also used to measure the importance of what the fire service does. This provides better understanding on the roles and value of the fire service which may result in more resources and financial support. Missing or inaccurate data results in a bigger struggle for the fire service when justifying budgets, resources, and cost effectiveness.

Your attention to complete, accurate, and timely incident reporting makes all the difference. We appreciate it.

### Fire Bridge is LIVE!

After more than six years in the making, Oregon's new web-based fire reporting system, Oregon Fire Bridge, went live January 1, 2010. We are very pleased with the transition from the Oregon All Incident Reporting System (OAIRS) to Fire Bridge.

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### **Kudos to...North Bend Fire Department, the first to enter a 2010 run in Oregon Fire Bridge!**

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By January 31, more than 2,000 incidents were entered into Fire Bridge. Thank you for your enthusiasm and efforts to make Oregon Fire Bridge a success!

Fire Bridge allows real-time data at your fingertips. The system is user-friendly and promotes greater accuracy. It's also a powerful record-keeping, scheduling, and reporting tool. Many fire departments are already using special features of the program such as staff training and compensation tracking. We are working on importing the last ten years of OAIRS data into Fire Bridge and expect to be finished by April.

For questions and answers on Fire Bridge see **Fire Bridge** page 6

# Fire Bridge

continued from page 5

## Fire Bridge Q&A

### **Q. What reports can I produce in Fire Bridge?**

**A.** Fire Bridge has a powerful tool called 'Report Writer.' In 'Report Writer,' you may choose from 58 standard reports, or create a custom one. To access standard reports, click on 'Report Writer' in the top toolbar, then 'Fire Reports' in the left menu bar. Browse the expanded list and click the desired report. These reports have pre-defined fields, although you can further define the criteria for each of the fields. To create a custom report, select 'Create Adhoc Report,' which allows you to define all the fields in your report. Our data staff is available to help with the features of 'Report Writer,' or set up a report to meet special requirements.

### **Q. I use another vendor for my fire data reporting. How do I send my data to OSFM?**

**A.** It's quick and easy to import outside data files into Fire Bridge. Just get a user name and password from us (if you haven't already), and we can help you through the procedure. We can also show you how to take advantage of some of the tools and features of Fire Bridge. You may also continue to e-mail us your '.txt' or '.csv' files, at least once a month, and we will import them for you.

If you have any questions, contact the Data Services Unit at OSFM.Data@state.or.us or call us at 503-373-1540, extensions 234, 237, or 244.

## Burn Awareness Week

**B**urn Awareness Week is February 7-13, 2010 and Shriners Hospitals for Children is using the week to kick off their campaign focused on preventing gasoline and scald burn injuries.

To assist your department with these safety messages, the Office of State Fire Marshal has gasoline safety and cooking/scald safety brochures available at no cost.

To request brochures contact Candice Clark at 503-934-8266 or email [candice.clark@state.or.us](mailto:candice.clark@state.or.us).

You can also download or view the brochures by clicking [Cooking/Scald Safety](#) or [Gasoline Safety](#).

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## Fire grant update

by Hines Firefighter/Grant Writer  
Jonathan Manski



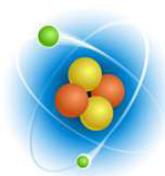
**T**his is a short notice for submission of the 2010 Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program projects. A small portion (\$10 million) of this grant allocation is competitive. This program provides funding for construction or renovation of state, local, or tribal governments' principal EOC. You can find specific information [here](#).

Many months of delay has finally paid off in a big way in the first round of Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) awards for Oregon. In the first round alone, 21 awards have been given to deserving fire departments, worth almost \$2 million. That's Oregon's largest single-round award since the program inception in 2001. Wow, this could be a really big year for those who put in the effort. For many of us, the payoff from hours of hard work and high anxiety has finally arrived. For others the agony continues.

A lot of departments (but not all) have already received their 10 questions. As in past years, there will be additional rounds of award announcements. Remember, don't rule out your hope of success until you actually receive a rejection letter, likely also to be released later this month. Now think about this, the 2010 AFG program normally should begin in about 3 months!

An extended application period allowed 42 Oregon fire department submissions for the 2009 Staffing for Adequate Fire & Emergency Response (SAFER) grant program. Nineteen applications submitted for *Hiring* requested a little more than \$10.5 million and 23 applications for *Recruitment & Retention* of volunteer firefighters totaled more than \$6.9 million. This is an increase and perhaps clear indication of the state of the economy and reflects recent career firefighter layoffs affecting Oregon departments. These hiring funding requests reflect a substantial increase compared to the last few years of grant applications in the SAFER program in Oregon.

For the latest information on FEMA grants, click [here](#).



Chemical of the month by Alec Carte

## Methyl bromide $\text{CH}_3\text{Br}$

### Description:

- Synonym: Bromomethane
- Colorless, odorless gas with a sweet, chloroform-like odor at high concentrations
- Clear, colorless to straw-colored liquid under pressure or below  $38.12^\circ\text{F}$
- Boils at  $38.41^\circ\text{F}$
- Toxic gas; chronic health hazard; flammable gas; reactive
- CAS No.: 74-83-9
- DOT: Toxic Gas, Hazard Class 2.3
- UN/NA: 1062

### NFPA Information:

- Health: 3
- Flammability: 1
- Reactivity: 0
- Special: None

### Uses and Occurrences:

- Produced naturally by certain plants and marine organisms
- Manufactured by reacting methanol with hydrogen bromide
- Uses: Previously used as a pesticide; precursor in the manufacture of other chemicals
- Ozone depleting chemical

### Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Flammable
- Flammable range: LEL: 10%; UEL 16%
- If leaking or spilled methyl bromide catches fire do not extinguish flames
- Toxic, flammable vapors can travel from leak and explode if reignited
- Reacts with aluminum and its alloys to form compounds that are spontaneously flammable in air
- Incompatibles include: zinc, magnesium, tin, oxidizers, ammonia

### Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: 20 ppm (ceiling)
- $\text{LC}_{50}$ : 850 ppm, 1 hour rat
- Immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH): 2000 ppm
- May be fatal if inhaled. Vapor can cause pulmonary edema, liver, kidney, and central

nervous system damage

- Chronic exposure can cause blurred vision, confusion, hallucinations and fainting
- Harmful amounts may be absorbed through the skin
- Eye contact may cause conjunctivitis, with redness and swelling

### Exposure controls/Personal Protection:

- Emergency responders should use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and full protective equipment
- Use explosion-proof local exhaust ventilation or other engineering controls to keep the concentration below the TLV
- Wear protective clothing, splash goggles, face shield and gloves
- Use an approved respirator if appropriate

### Handling and Storage:

- Protect cylinders from physical damage
- Store below  $125^\circ\text{F}$
- Keep in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area
- Store away from incompatibles

### 2007 Oregon Fire Code:

- Toxic gas
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per S occupancy control area:
  - Unprotected by approved storage cabinets, gas cabinets, or exhausted enclosures: 810 cu ft at NTP, 500 gallons liquid
  - Within approved storage cabinets, gas cabinets or exhausted enclosures: 1620 cu ft, 500 gallons liquid

### Incident Reporting and Information:

- There are two facilities in Oregon currently reporting methyl bromide on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- There has been one hazardous materials incident reported in Oregon since 1986 involving methyl bromide

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For questions or suggestions contact HazMat Information Specialist Alec Carte at 503-934-8262, or email [aleta.carte@state.or.us](mailto:aleta.carte@state.or.us)

# Chaplains perform essential roles for fire departments

by Master Chaplain  
Steve Brodehl



Recently, the Gated Wye asked that I share with you the perspective of a fire department chaplain. As a chaplain with Hillsboro Fire and Rescue and Washington County Fire District #2 over the past several years, I have been allowed to passionately serve not only my department personnel, but our local communities.

The fire service we grew up in (especially if you can remember the past 30-40 years), is no longer the agency of today. The days of advancement through longevity and personal relationships has been replaced by professional expectations and excellence at every turn, even for those of us serving in the more 'non-traditional' roles.

Our communities can now anticipate well-trained, skilled department personnel who respond to just about any emergency. Whether it's a home fire or the more common medical emergency, the same high expectations exist.

Recent years have brought a new awareness to all of us. We recognize that the extent of each incident touches more than just the victim or the property. It often slams directly into those surrounding the call. Who are these people: it may be the wife of an elderly man as he lies at her feet attempting to find his breath; the family that watches as fire swallows their personal belongings; maybe its friends or neighbors that made the 911 call and now stand in shock, not knowing what to do or say.

When these events play out, fire departments across the country now dispatch well-trained chaplains to assist with the humanity surrounding these calls. Chaplains are performing with skills gained through aggressive training, now available to any department or agency. Oregon fire departments have great training opportunities for novice and experienced chaplains alike.

Training breeds professionalism. Whether your department is a small rural agency or it serves a larger population, meeting the needs of humanity with skills immersed in training is available.

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What about critical incident stress management for department personnel? How about their private and personal spiritual needs? Yes, the well-trained chaplain is available to assist here as well. (These sensitive issues are met only at the request of department personnel, not at the discretion or direction of the chaplains themselves).

If you would like to know how to start a chaplain program or to find out more information, feel free to contact me. I am happy to meet and discuss anything about the Chaplaincy that you may ask. Contact me at 503-681-6166 or [stevebr@ci.hillsboro.or.us](mailto:stevebr@ci.hillsboro.or.us).

*Editor's note:*

*Chaplain Brodehl was honored as the 2009 Fire Department Chaplain of the Year for North America at the Federation of Fire Chaplains annual conference in October.*

*If you are interested in reading more about the international Chaplain award from 2009, click [here](#).*

## Fire & life safety certification



***Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Jones presents Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue Division Chief/Fire Marshal Dan Hammel with his Fire and Life Safety Specialist I recognition in December.***



***Clackamas County Fire District #1 Deputy Fire Marshal Doug Whiteley displays his Oregon Fire Marshal recognition certificate with Fire Plans Examiner endorsement presented by Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal Dave Jones in December.***