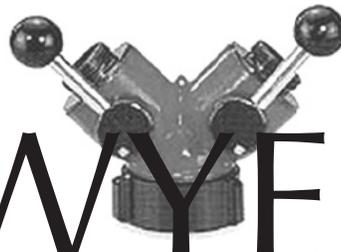


# GATED WYE



September 2011 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 332

## Task forces deploy to three conflagrations in August

Oregon task forces and incident management team members were busy at the end of August when three conflagrations were declared in just over a week's time.

The first declared conflagration was August 19, for the North River Road fire just east of the city of Rogue River. The OSFM called up task forces from Lane and Klamath counties along with elements of the OSFM Green Incident Management Team. Three outbuildings were destroyed prior to the task forces arriving on scene. At least 40 homes were threatened but none were lost. The fire burned 565 acres.

On August 22, a second conflagration was called for the Elk Fire west of Madras. Task forces from Clackamas and Marion counties were activated along with elements of the OSFM Green Incident Management Team. At least 22 homes were threatened but none were lost. The fire burned more than 1,000 acres.

The third conflagration was declared for the High Cascades Complex on the Warm Springs Reservation. The OSFM deployed eight task forces from Clackamas, Columbia, Hood River/Wasco, Lane, Linn,

Marion, Washington, and Yamhill counties, along with 11 members of the OSFM Red Incident Management Team. Approximately 290 structures (190 homes) were threatened.

appropriate amount of management resources necessary for the task at hand. There will still be incidents in which entire IMTs will be needed. It just so happened, with these particular



*Structural forces at work on the High Cascades Complex. (Photo by John Ketchum)*

These deployments were unique in that the OSFM did not activate complete incident management teams. "I realize these IMT deployments are different from past conflagrations," said State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace. "We are trying to fine-tune our deployment strategies for IMTs. "We need to deploy the

conflagrations, we were able to 'right-size' the management elements to match the resources on the ground."

As of this writing (Sept. 2) no homes were lost and, due to decreased structural threat, task forces were being demobilized.

*Fire races towards a structure on the High Cascades Complex. (Photo by John Ketchum)*



# From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



“ I plan on continuing to attend as many statewide and regional meetings as possible. ”

– SFM Mark Wallace

## Hitting the road

Even though I’ve completed my second month as your State Fire Marshal, I am still working on meeting people, building relationships, and listening. As much as possible, I am taking advantage of regularly scheduled meetings and forums to meet the largest number of people in the shortest time possible. And I plan on continuing to attend as many statewide and regional meetings as possible.

My initial multi-day trip included areas of the southwestern region of the state. I drove 1,588 miles and talked with 96 different people representing 49 agencies (mostly fire departments) last month. In the process, I stopped by a number of fire stations, both volunteer and career, with no one at the stations at the time. If your department was one of those, I’m sorry I missed you.

Remember that children throughout the state will be going back to school soon. Now is the time to remind people to watch for them as they make their way to and from school each day. Early in the school year is a great opportunity to build a better relationship with your school districts as you strive to keep the children you protect and serve safe from the wide variety of hazards and risks they face daily.

Fire Prevention Month is right around the corner, so now is the time to plan activities and obtain materials to expand your reach into your community.

Lastly, I’d like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received. I have heard many good comments about the OSFM staff and the service they provide. I am very proud to be your state fire marshal and feel very fortunate for the opportunity to work with a large group of great people as we continue to strive to keep Oregon as safe as possible from the impacts of fire and hazardous materials incidents. It is the people that provide “Premier Public Safety Services” and we continue to strive to maintain that standard in all that we do.



**State Fire Marshal  
Mark Wallace**

**Office of  
State Fire Marshal**

**Oregon State Police  
4760 Portland Rd. NE  
Salem Oregon  
97305-1760**

**[www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM)  
503-934-8200**

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Fire & Life Safety  
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& Intervention  
ext. 230

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.

## Wallace takes oath of office

**O**n August 30th, Oregon State Police Superintendent Chris Brown administered the official oath of office to Mark Wallace making Wallace Oregon's 9th State Fire Marshal.

The small ceremony was held in the Governor's Ceremonial Office at the state capitol in Salem.



*OSP Superintendent Chris Brown administers the oath of office to new State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace.*

Wallace has 42 years in the fire service, having worked in every functional position. He spent his first 32 years of service in Colorado and the past 10 years as fire chief for the McKinney Fire Department in Texas. Wallace has been a fire chief since 1987, leading four departments prior to being selected as the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

## Oregon Field Operations Guide

**T**he Office of State Fire Marshal has released its first Field Operations Guide (FOG) intended to provide the Oregon fire service with a reference tool for Incident Command System responsibilities and organization charts.

In developing the FOG, the OSFM used a number of resources including California Firescope, Oregon US&R operations manual, Oregon HazMat Standard Operating Guidelines, and other National Incident Management System documents.

The FOG was paid for in part by the Federal Emergency Management Agency with support from the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

For copies of the FOG, contact Becky Oberfoell at 503-934-8405 or [becky.oberfoell@state.or.us](mailto:becky.oberfoell@state.or.us).

## New chemical monitors headed to hazmat teams

**T**raining and final testing is underway on the new CEREX Micro HOUND-FR Gas Analyzer detector/monitors soon to be part of equipment caches for all OSFM Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Teams.

The new CEREX detector/monitors are the result of four years of partnership, research, and development between members of the Oregon fire service, the OSFM, and CEREX Monitoring Solutions, Inc. of Atlanta, Georgia.

The CEREX Micro HOUND-FR is a laboratory designed, high resolution, ultraviolet spectrometer configured to fit into a briefcase-sized carrying case. It was specifically designed with OSFM's HazMat first responders in mind and dubbed "Micro HOUND FR" for its comparatively small size and capacity to "sniff" out chemicals.

The Micro HOUND-FR does not require expendable supplies to operate, periodic calibration, or warm-up time when switched on. These features are anticipated to reduce annual maintenance costs by hundreds to thousands of dollars compared to current technology using electrochemical sensors or photo ionization.

"This technology advances our hazmat teams' capabilities by leaps and bounds," said OSFM Emergency Response Resource Coordinator Bruce Armstrong. "The CEREX monitors will compliment our current monitors which are restricted by their design and sensors. With the new CEREX monitors, hazmat technicians can potentially reduce the equipment needed to a single device, yet still be able to detect a broad spectrum of potentially dangerous chemical gases."

CEREX monitors detect multiple ultraviolet light absorbing compounds simultaneously. The monitor compares the chemical signatures against its internal library of nearly 40 chemicals. The detectors can differentiate chemicals, from extremely low concentrations (parts per billion) to extremely high concentrations, without compromising the monitor's capacity.

Each state hazmat team will receive training on the new monitors. After the initial round of training, regular refresher classes will be scheduled.

# Chirping away at the problem

by Hillsboro Fire Department  
Public Information /Education  
Officer Storm Smith



"Why do the batteries always go dead in the middle of the night?" said one resident as we installed a fresh battery in his smoke alarm. It was the seventh home we had entered in less than an hour to replace old or missing smoke alarms and batteries in our monthly Smoke Alarm Blitz. Hillsboro Fire and Rescue public education staff and bi-lingual volunteers, supplemented occasionally by firefighters, regularly canvas neighborhoods that are at highest fire risk according to fire incident data.

Armed with dual sensor alarms provided by a grant from the Office of State Fire Marshal, Hillsboro Fire staff go door-to-door asking residents whether their smoke alarms are working. They then volunteer to check them on the spot if they haven't been checked in the last 30 days, and install fresh batteries or new alarms. The data collected shows the misuse/neglect rate in these neighborhoods is high.

"On average, we'll check 50 homes in a two hour period, get into 34 of them, and install eight to nine alarms and six to eight batteries, which works out to about a 47-percent unprotected rate," said Public Information/Education Officer Storm Smith. "When residents let us in, we talk about what they are currently doing in their home and suggest the best practices for keeping their home safe," Smith added. "It's the basic stuff."



**A Hillsboro resident checks his newly install smoke alarm.**

Feedback is always positive.

"Residents really appreciate the fact their fire department is out trying to make sure they are safe," said Bruce Montgomery, Fire Safety Educator. "We've found homes with missing alarms, 30-year old alarms hanging by a single wire, alarms with no batteries and, in one case, a unit that was so

covered in residue from cigarette smoke that its alarm could only make a tiny squeak," he added.

"Our bi-lingual volunteers are essential to success with the Latino community," said Smith. "Without them, non-English speaking homeowners are often reluctant to trust strangers at their door wearing a uniform and badge."

As for why alarm batteries always go dead in the middle of the night, Smith said, "We joke that it's a conspiracy and no one knows why."



## Oregon fire departments and schools encouraged to partner on Start Safe

With the start of the new school year just a few days away, community representatives and fire service personnel across Oregon are scheduling trainings for their local staff on "Start Safe: A Fire and Burn Safety Program for Preschoolers and Their Families."

Start Safe gives preschool teachers and fire educators the tools to reach preschool children and their families. Children in this age group are among the at-risk group for fire and burn related injuries.

Trainings are scheduled September 7, 2011 in Bend (Deschutes/Crook County), and September 23, 2011 in Roseburg (Douglas County).

The Office of State Fire Marshal's Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Program, in partnership with the Home Safety Council and Safe Kids Oregon, provide Start Safe training and program materials at no cost.

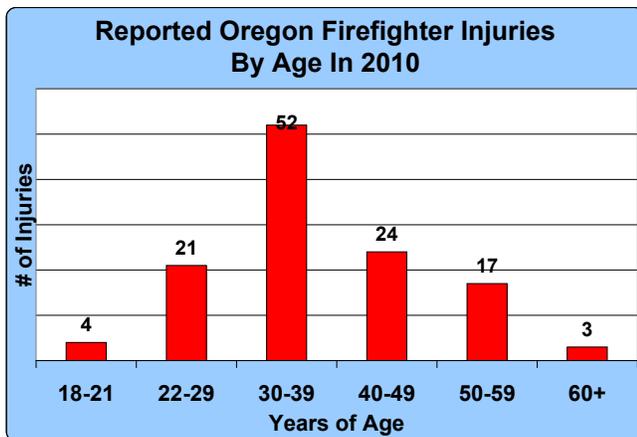
If your department and community preschools are interested in a training, contact Judy Okulitch at [judy.okulitch@state.or.us](mailto:judy.okulitch@state.or.us), or 503-934-8230; or Krista K. Fischer at [krista.fischer@state.or.us](mailto:krista.fischer@state.or.us), or 503-934-8240.

# DATA Connection

News from the Data Collection & Research Unit

## Reporting Fire Casualties

Fire casualty data is essential to identify harmful trends involving civilians and firefighters. Identifying these trends helps combat preventable injuries and deaths.



### What is a fire casualty?

A fire casualty is a civilian or firefighter who is injured or killed as a direct result of a fire. These are injuries or deaths from natural or accidental causes sustained while involved in the activities of fire control, attempting rescue, or escaping from the dangers of fire. This includes victims who die within one year from injuries sustained in a fire.

An injury is physical damage to a person that requires either treatment by a practitioner of medicine within one year of the fire, or at least one day of restricted activity immediately following the fire.

### When do I report?

In the National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), the Fire Service Casualty Module should be completed anytime a firefighter is injured or killed while on duty. The Civilian Fire Casualty Module should be completed anytime a civilian is injured or killed as a direct result of a fire. If a civilian death or injury is not directly related to a fire, it may be reported in the EMS Module with the same incident, but should not be reported as a fire casualty. The most common, incorrectly reported fire casualties are fatal traffic accidents where there is no fire.

### Who goes on what module?

Under NFIRS standards, civilians include emergency personnel who are not members of the fire department, (e.g. police officers, utility workers). Only employees or members of the fire department should be entered in the Fire Service Casualty Module. All others go in the Civilian Fire Casualty Module.

### Where do I enter the data?

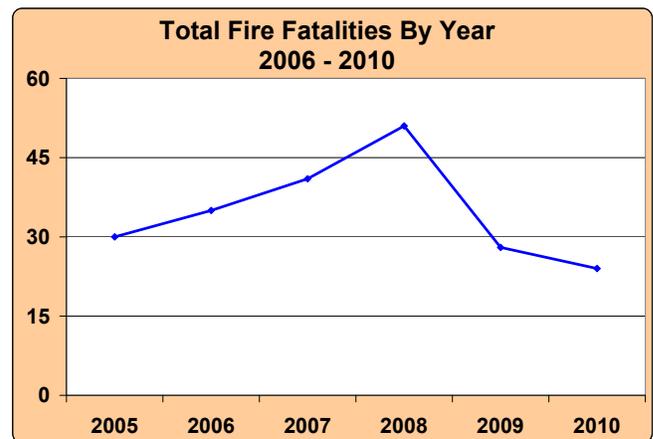
When completing NFIRS reports, fire casualty data should be entered in **two** locations:

- 1) Section H1 of the Basic Module, and
- 2) The appropriate Casualty Module (the Civilian Fire Casualty Module for non-fire department personnel or the Fire Service Casualty Module for fire department personnel).

### What do I do if there is a fire fatality?

The primary responding fire agency must immediately notify the State Fire Marshal's Office (ORS 476.210), by faxing or emailing a Fire Fatality Report to the State Fire Marshal's Office. Fire Fatality Reports can be found on the OSFM website.

Sometimes fire fatalities may only be able to be determined by an autopsy. In such cases, the death should be reported as a fire fatality in NFIRS and a Fire Fatality Report should be submitted. The NFIRS report can be amended later if the medical examiner determines the death was not due to fire.



Questions? Please contact the Data Collection & Research Unit at 503-934-8200 or email [OSFM.Data@state.or.us](mailto:OSFM.Data@state.or.us).

## Philomath's Pioneer Village earns Firewise designation

Because of its efforts to reduce the vulnerability of homes and landscapes to wildfire, Pioneer Village has earned Firewise Communities/USA® recognition from the National Firewise Communities Program.

"We have benefited greatly from local partnerships including Philomath Fire and Rescue, Benton County Community Development and Oregon Department of Forestry. This recognition now allows us to tap into resources and connect with peer communities on a regional and national level," said Pioneer Village Homeowners Association Board President Jack Rundel.

Pioneer Village worked with Oregon Department of Forestry's Community Wildfire Forester Blake McKinley to conduct a wildfire hazard assessment and develop a plan to address safety concerns. Residents then worked together to implement the plan. "I commend Pioneer Village for taking responsibility to address wildfire safety concerns and helping to make their community more survivable should a wildfire occur," said McKinley.

Philomath Fire & Rescue Chief Tom Phelps and Benton County were both contributors to the Firewise effort.



**Chief Tom Phelps, Philomath Fire, Jodi Moade, Pioneer Village Homeowners Association Safety Committee (PVHASC), Jack Rundel President PVHASC, Terry Johnson PVHASC, Blake McKinley Oregon Department of Forestry Community Wildfire Forester.**

Pioneer Village is the ninth community in Oregon to be recognized as Firewise Communities/USA, and the first in ODF's West Oregon District, which includes Benton, Polk, and Lincoln Counties. They are joining other communities nationwide that have been recognized since the program's inception in 2002.

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## Fire and life safety training and online classes

### Classroom trainings

Title: Company Inspector

When: September 17, 2011

[Jacksonville Fire Department](#)

October 15, 2011

[Harrisburg Fire Department](#)

Registration: Deadline to register is September 10 for the September 17th class, and October 8th for the October 15th class. [Register online through iLearnOregon](#). If you need assistance, contact Anita Horsley at 503-934-8249 or email [anita.horsley@state.or.us](mailto:anita.horsley@state.or.us)

Class details: This training is on Company Inspector Modules 1 through 4. Module 1- Inspection scope of authority, liability, and responsibilities. Module 2 - Fire service access and egress. Module 3 - General provisions of fire protection systems, and electrical hazards. Module 4 -General provisions of housekeeping and hazardous materials.

Title: Fire & Life Safety Awareness I & II

When: October 15, 2011

Where: [Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District](#)

Registration: Deadline to register is October 8, 2011. [Register online through iLearnOregon](#). If you need assistance, contact Anita Horsley at 503-934-8249 or email [anita.horsley@state.or.us](mailto:anita.horsley@state.or.us)

Class details: Module I - scope of authority and assembly occupancies. Module II - fire department access & water supply for fire flow.

### New - Online training

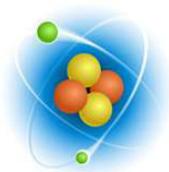
Title: Fire & Life Safety Awareness II

When: Self paced

Where: Online through iLearnOregon

Enroll through [iLearnOregon](#). After signing in to iLearnOregon, search in the course catalog for OSFM-Fire and Life Safety Awareness II ONLINE. Click on the underlined title. If you need assistance, contact Anita Horsley at 503-934-8249 or email [anita.horsley@state.or.us](mailto:anita.horsley@state.or.us)

Course details: The two-hour video enhanced training has two sections covering fire department access, and water supplies and fire flows.



# Fluorine F (exists as F<sub>2</sub>)

## Description:

- Synonyms: Fluorine-19, diatomic fluorine
- Pale yellow gas with a pungent odor
- CAS No.: 7782-41-4
- EPA Section 302 EHS TPQ: 5,120 ft<sup>3</sup>/500 lbs /40 gallons
- EPA Section 304 EHS RQ: 10 lbs
- EPA Section 112R: 10,204 ft<sup>3</sup> /1000 lbs
- OSHA Process Safety Management 100 lbs
- Commonly shipped as a cryogenic liquid

## NFPA 704 Information:

- Health: 4
- Flammability: 0
- Reactivity: 3 or 4 (depending on reference)
- Special: Water reactive

## Uses:

- Some refrigerant gases
- Some lasers

## Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Nonflammable
- Strong oxidizer
- Boiling point: -307° F
- Vapor density: 1.7 (air = 1)
- Specific gravity: 1.5 (water = 1)
- Mixture with fuels may explode
- Reaction with water vapor can ignite
- Reaction may ignite many substances
- Some reactions may cause an explosion
- Reacts with water to form corrosive hydrofluoric acid and oxygen

## Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: 0.1 ppm, TWA
- Inhalation LC50 (rat): 185 ppm/1 hour
- IDLH: 25 ppm
- May be fatal if inhaled – A few whiffs can cause death
- Corrosive to all body tissues

## Fire Fighting Measures:

- Special protective clothing for fluorine
- Gas, vapor or liquid could be fatal if it penetrated normal firefighting PPE
- Extinguishing agents: Varies per reference

- Do not extinguish fire unless flow can be stopped

## 2008 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- DOT toxic, Oxidizing, Corrosive Gas, Hazard Classes 2.3, 5.1, and 8
- UN/NA: 1045; Guide # 124
- Spill: Initially isolate 330 feet in all directions
- Large spill: First isolate 500 feet in all directions (Table 1)
- Small spill: First isolate 100 feet in all directions (Table 1)
- DOT refrigerated (cryogenic) liquid UN/NA: 9192; Guide # 167

## 2010 Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(2)

- Highly toxic
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
  - Gaseous - 20 cubic feet at NTP
  - Liquefied - 4 pounds (g)
  - (g) Allowed only when stored in approved gas cabinets or exhausted enclosures

## Incident Reporting and Information:

- There are 16 facilities in Oregon currently reporting fluorine or fluorine mixed with other gases on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- There has been one hazardous materials incident reported in Oregon since 1986

## References:

1. BOC Gases, MSDS for Fluorine
2. Matheson Tri-Gas, MSDS for Fluorine
3. CDC NIOSH Pocket Guide – CDC website
4. EPA List of Lists, October 2006
5. <http://cameochemicals.noaa.gov/chemical/764>

WISER (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders) from the United States National Library of Medicine is designed to assist first responders in hazmat incidents by providing a wide range of information. [The system is available on line or can be downloaded.](#)

**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)**

## Grant awarded to Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition

The nonprofit Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition (HFSC) has received a Fire Prevention and Safety Grant (through the Grant Programs Directorate of FEMA) to underwrite a multi-faceted U.S. educational program.

The funding will help fire departments increase local activities that improve knowledge of the dangers of home fires and the value of installing home fire sprinkler systems. It will also educate home builders and others to refute common myths and increase interest in the life-saving sprinkler technology.

Highlights of HFSC grant include a national program to provide 50 fire departments with \$1,000 stipends so they can build and present educational side-by-side flashover and sprinkler demonstrations to the public, and \$1,000 worth of local fire safety educational media for another 50 departments.

HFSC will produce a new series of print, broadcast and digital public service announcements (PSA) that will dispel the most common myths about home fire sprinklers. The PSAs will be customizable so fire departments can use them online, on TV and in movie theaters.

As part of its ongoing outreach to all those involved in new home construction, HFSC will offer a new, free, accredited online course on home fire sprinkler installations for home builders, architects and others, and produce a multi-media Water Supply Kit with broad-based information about home system connections, meters, etc.

To sign up for the Built for Life Fire Department Program and for more information about these grant-funded programs, [visit HFSC online](#).

### REMINDER

You can [visit the OSFM's Fire Prevention Week webpage](#) for fire safety information and education resources.

...REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN...



### OREGON FALLEN FIRE FIGHTERS MEMORIAL

SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 AT 1:00 PM

OREGON PUBLIC SAFETY ACADEMY  
4190 AUMSVILLE HWY 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



## Unclassifieds

### Position opening

Deputy Fire Chief - Hoodland Fire District

Hoodland Fire District #74 is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the position of Deputy Fire Chief. The district operates three fire stations for a population of approximately 5,700 year round residents.

The salary may start at \$80,000, but is negotiable based on qualifications and experience. Hoodland Fire District also offers an excellent benefit package. To obtain an application packet, or for more information, contact Hoodland Fire District #74, 69634 E. Highway 26, Welches, OR 97067 or email [hoodland@hoodlandfire.org](mailto:hoodland@hoodlandfire.org)