

GATED WYE



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Okulitch receives prestigious Burn Prevention Award

The American Burn Association (ABA) honored OSFM's own Judy Okulitch with the 2012 Burn Prevention Award at their annual conference in April. Okulitch is the Youth Fire Prevention and Intervention Program Coordinator for the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal. On hand for the presentation were 3,000 of her fellow ABA members.

Okulitch was recognized for her work in juvenile firesetter intervention spanning two decades. In addition to establishing statewide multidisciplinary networks of professionals serving youth who misuse fire, and their families, she has been instrumental in leading a number of pioneering efforts at the national level.

"I am very humbled to receive this award. There are many people who work tirelessly every day to prevent fire and burn injury in this country. It is through partnerships and collaborations that we achieve great results in prevention. I am honored to have worked with so many wonderful partners in my career. This award will be a constant reminder of their passion for fire and burn prevention."

In addition to her scores of other accomplishments, Okulitch developed and coordinated numerous resources for schools including an elementary and middle school fire awareness curriculum, a statewide campaign on reporting school fires, and facilitated the development of a School Guide to Evacuation Planning. Congratulations, Judy! You are a credit to the OSFM.



American Burn Association Chairman B. Daniel Dillard presents OSFM Youth Prevention and Intervention Program Coordinator Judy Okulitch with the annual Burn Prevention Award.

Fireworks media event June 22

The OFSM, in partnership with Clackamas County Fire District #1, is hosting a fireworks safety media event at 9:30 a.m., June 22, 2012, at the Clackamas County Fire District #1 Regional Training Center in Clackamas, Oregon.

Other partners participating in the event include Portland Fire & Rescue, the Oregon Parks Department, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Oregon Burn Center, Eye Health Northwest, and the Bureau of Land Management.

The event focuses on the annual theme, "Keep it Legal, Keep it Safe," and includes a live fireworks demonstration highlighting the proper use of legal fireworks, general fireworks safety, and identifying fireworks that are illegal in Oregon.

For more information, contact Anita Phillips at 503-934-8264.

Free fireworks education and enforcement resources are available from the OSFM. See related article on page 3.

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



The “3-Es” of the Office of State Fire Marshal

One of my prime directives as State Fire Marshal is to ensure that the Office of State Fire Marshal and all of its components and operations are efficient, effective, and economical.

These are terms often used in a variety of circumstances, and sometimes as catchwords or phrases. So, what does all of this really mean? Are the people in the conversation comparing “apples to apples” or “apples to oranges?”

It is helpful to turn to the meaning of words and phrases, to clearly define terms being used. This allows conversations to focus on desired outcomes.

So, here are some definitions from my iPhone definition “app” (yes, there’s an app for that):

- Ensure – make certain that (something) shall occur or be the case.
- Efficient – performing or functioning in the best possible manner with the least waste of time and effort.
- Effective – successful in producing a desired or intended result.
- Economical – giving good value or service in relation to the amount of money, time, or effort spent; careful not to waste money or resources. Prudent and thrifty management; not wasteful or extravagant.
- Competent – having the necessary ability, knowledge, or skill to do something successfully. Efficient and capable.
- Capable – having the ability, fitness, or quality necessary to do or achieve a specific thing; able to achieve efficiently, whatever one has to do; competent.

Certainly there should be a strong connection and congruency between the 3-Es. In most

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**State Fire Marshal
Mark Wallace**

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instances, ensuring all three are achieved must come with a degree of compromise. For example, the most effective operation is often not the most economical operation.

Unfortunately, there can be a degree of mutual exclusiveness when a balance between the three is not achieved. Opinions, beliefs, biases, experiences, and many other factors make achieving the best possible balance difficult, at times. Therefore, it will always be a work in progress.

As I work toward the best possible outcome, I remind myself of my philosophy of operation:

- Do the Right Thing
- Do Your Best
- Treat People the Way You Would Like to be Treated

Fireworks toolkit available for public safety agencies

The OSFM's Keep it Legal, Keep it Safe fireworks toolkit is available free to any public safety or law enforcement agency. The toolkit contains education and enforcement resources including:

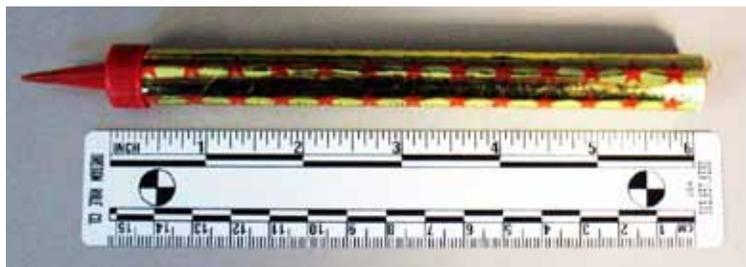
- Printable citation forms
- Fireworks statutes and rules
- Inspection guidelines for retail sales outlets
- Educational flyers
- A Pocket Guide to Fireworks Enforcement
- Tips on identifying legal and illegal fireworks

You may [access the toolkit on the OSFM website](#). For more information, contact Nicole Lewis at 503-934-8285.

Recommendation from the OSFM on “cake sparklers”

The OSFM was recently asked for a legal determination on “cake sparklers,” and if they are regulated under Oregon fireworks laws.

Cake sparklers are essentially small fireworks fountains about six inches long that emit sparks six to eight inches high, and burn for 30 – 45 seconds. A request for an opinion was sent to the OSFM after someone saw them being used by an Oregon restaurant in place of birthday candles when serving cake to customers.



The OSFM contacted the Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), who stated they prohibit these cake sparklers from being labeled for indoor use due to safety concerns. The CPSC also conducted a chemical analysis of two different models and found each contained a prohibited chemical.

Due to the composition of these cake sparklers, they are classified as fireworks fountains by both

the CPSC and the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory.

In Oregon, fountains are regulated consumer fireworks and should not be confused with unregulated novelty items merely because they are labeled as cake sparklers or champagne bottle sparklers. Although they may be purchased at a retail fireworks stand for personal use, using them in a commercial setting requires a fireworks display permit.

Also, since these should only be used outdoors, fire departments can prohibit these items from being used indoors, according to [Oregon Fire Code Chapter 1](#), or the [fireworks statute](#).

For more information, contact License and Permits Manager Anita Phillips at 503 934-8264 or anita.phillips@state.or.us.

Oregon Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program

Scientific evidence on the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) indicates Oregon is at risk for an earthquake and tsunami similar to the one that devastated Japan in early 2011. The CSZ is likely to generate a similar seismic event in the next 50-100 years. With 3.8 million residents to protect, Oregon's public safety organizations are identifying how they can be ready, and looking for the resources to do so.

The Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program (SRGP) through the Office of Emergency Management (a Division of Oregon Military Department), provides grants to school districts and public safety agencies to seismically reinforce their buildings. It combines best practices from FEMA grant programs using a simplified application process. It does not require matching funds and uses Oregon specific seismic hazard data to prioritize projects based on benefit cost analysis.

Program history - ORS 455.400 requires seismic vulnerability evaluations of public schools and critical response facilities. Many of these facilities require rehabilitation to meet seismic safety standards. Ballot measures approved by voters in 2001 amended the Oregon Constitution allowing the state to lend credit through general obligation bonds for seismic rehabilitation. In 2009, the Legislature approved \$30 million in general obligation bonds for seismic rehabilitation, then added an additional \$7.5 million in 2011. To date, 13 Oregon fire agencies have been awarded grants totaling \$5.3 million in seismic improvements, station retrofits, and upgrades.

Program eligibility - The SRGP is a competitive grant program providing state funds, on a reimbursable basis, for seismic rehabilitation of critical public buildings including schools, hospitals, fire stations, law enforcement offices, and other state, county, municipal, and district facilities.

Eligible SRGP project activities include:

- Structural improvements and non-structural improvements (e.g. installation of anchor bolts, restraining straps, and bracing systems) of existing facilities to increase resistance to earthquake forces at the Immediate Occupancy Performance

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Level established by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

- Architectural and engineering costs for final designs, once the project has been awarded;
- Technical monitoring (e.g., site visits and technical meetings); and,

Excluded - Project management (staff not on payroll). Ineligible seismic rehabilitation projects include maintenance activities and projects that do not meet the requirements of applicable federal, state, and local laws, such as demolishing an existing structure, mitigation reconstruction, or demolition/rebuild. Projects in the Tsunami Inundation Zone and projects not addressing seismic deficiencies of an entire building will also not be approved.

Though all funding has been awarded this biennium, it's a good time to begin identifying and planning projects that would qualify in the future.

For more information on the SRGP, contact Program Coordinator Kiri Carini at 503-378-2911 x22245 or kiri.carini@state.or.us.

OSFM new employee

John Phillips
Research Analyst
Data Collection and
Research Unit



John grew up in Omaha, Nebraska and graduated from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Geology. He later moved to Boise, Idaho where he worked for a private environmental consulting firm before going back to school at Boise State University and earning a degree in Computer Information Systems. He then worked for the Idaho Department of Corrections as a research analyst for several years. After living in Idaho for 21 years, John relocated to Salem, Oregon in 2011 and began his current position with OSFM. John enjoys the mountains.

"I've been here seven months now and I'm starting to get used to everything. It's a lot different than Boise, not to mention Omaha. I love the rain and enjoy my job."

DATA Connection

News from the Data Collection & Research Unit

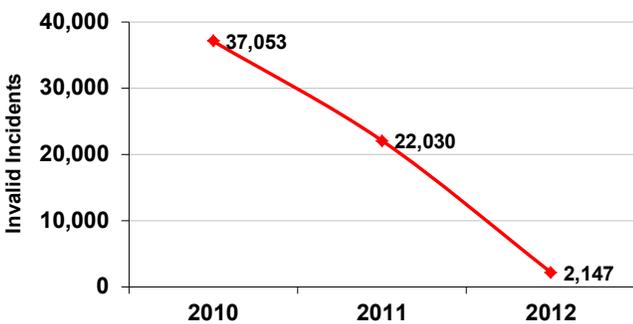
Improving Incident Data

As fire agencies report incident data to the OSFM, the state's online reporting system checks each incident for completeness based on National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) standards. Incidents are given a validity score based on their level of completeness. Only incidents that are 100% complete, or "valid" under the NFIRS standard, are sent to the national level. The remaining "invalid" incidents are maintained and used for analysis at the state level, based on the information provided.

One of the goals of OSFM's Data Collection & Research Unit is to improve incident reporting and completeness by reducing the number of invalid incidents and improving overall validity scores. In achieving this goal, we become armed with information necessary to drive and support education and prevention programs. We are also able to identify and support changes in the fire and building code, and address consumer product recalls.

Overall, most fire agencies do a good job of ensuring their incident reports are complete. Many agencies are actively working on improving their incident data and ensuring that each incident is 100% complete.

From 2010 to 2011, there was a 41% decrease in incomplete incidents. So far, in 2012, the downward trend of incomplete reports is continuing.



In 2010, out of 259,551 reported incidents, 37,053 (14.3%) are incomplete.

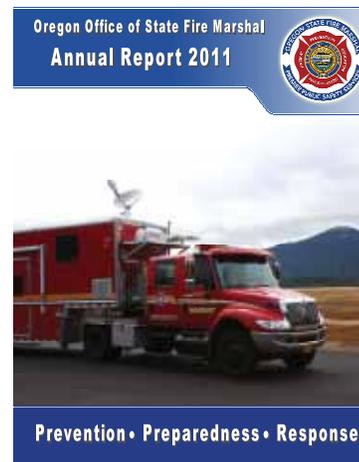
In 2011, out of 267,281 reported incidents, 22,030 (8.2%) are incomplete.

At the time of this article, out of 49,779 reported incidents to date this year, only 2,147 (4.3%) are incomplete.

As you can see, there has been clear progress towards our goal of improving incident reporting and completeness. We aim to continue this trend in quality data reporting by providing helpful tools and ongoing support and assistance with incident reporting.

One of the best tools available for fire agencies to ensure their data is complete is the Incomplete NFIRS Incident Report List. This is a report that can be accessed through the state's online reporting system which will identify any incomplete incident reports and their deficiencies.

Fire agencies that currently do not have access to the state's online reporting system can contact the Data Collection & Research Unit to obtain access.



2011 Annual Report

The OSFM 2011 [Annual Report](#) is now available on the [OSFM website](#) (7MB). The report is a review of OSFM's major activities and accomplishments in prevention, preparedness, and response during 2011. Notable OSFM emergency responses are also identified, along with general information about fire statistics in Oregon. A supplement to the report will soon be released that contains more statistics and information regarding fires and hazardous materials incidents in Oregon.

Questions? Please contact the Data Collection & Research Unit at 503-934-8250, toll free at 877-588-8787, or email osfm.data@state.or.us.

OSFM issues advisory on sky lanterns

The Office of State Fire Marshal has issued [Technical Advisory No. 12-02](#), declaring aerial luminaries to be regulated as limited display fireworks.

In the past year, fire code officials have asked about the selling and use of aerial luminaries, generally called sky lanterns, and whether fire regulations address their use and safety.

Sky lanterns are airborne paper lanterns and also called UFO balloons, mini hot air balloons, khoom fay, wish lanterns, and kongming lanterns. Although a long tradition in Asian cultures, their use is spreading to Europe and the U.S. They are mainly used for celebrations, festivals, and parties. In Oregon, they are being advertised and sold as novelty fireworks by retailers.



These sky lanterns may fly up to a mile high and travel significant distances depending on prevailing winds. When the fuel source dies out, they float to the ground. A study by the State of Hawaii found the lantern fuel source may still produce flames upon contact with the ground, and may continue for five to six minutes.

These items are defined in Oregon law as fireworks. Because they do not meet the definition of consumer or retail fireworks, the OSFM will regulate these as limited display fireworks. This requires those proposing to sell or use sky lanterns to have the proper permits, associated documents, and necessary approval of fire code officials.

Visit the OSFM website to read the full text of the advisory, along with OSFM recommendations for local fire code officials.

For questions or other information, contact Deputy State Fire Marshal John Caul at 503-934-8269 or john.caul@state.or.us. You may also contact Anita Phillips at 503-934-8264 or anita.phillips@state.or.us.

Fire grant update

by Hines Lieutenant/Grant Writer Jonathan Manski

Oregon submissions to the 2011 Fire Prevention & Safety Grant program continue to show a downward trend in applicants. This year, of the 19 applications, 13 were from fire departments and six from institutions. Compare the overall submissions for the past few years:

Year	Oregon	Nationwide
2011	19	1,463
2010	28	2,070
2009	45	2,145

The 2012 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program (AFG), slated to open in June, has started holding grant workshops around the state.

At the workshop I attended last month, Brian Ipsen, Region 10 Fire Program Specialist, indicated that this year, FEMA is adding another tool to help make attending a workshop easier without incurring travel. They will be hosting a series of "short session" webinars designed for experienced AFG applicants.

Without having to expend precious funds for travel to attend a workshop, this should make it a no-brainer for departments to participate and get all the updates. Check the workshop schedule [here](#).

The 2011 Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response awards have just started being released. As of now, no Oregon awards have been announced. The first priority of the program's financing is to rehire laid-off firefighters.

For the latest grant information, [visit the FEMA grants website](#).

Mobilization plan online

The [2012 Fire Service Mobilization Plan](#) is now available online. The 2012 plan reflects updates as proposed by the Mobilization Plan Committee to State Fire Marshal Mark Wallace.

For questions, contact Mariana Ruiz-Temple at 503-934-8238 or mariana.ruiz-temple@state.or.us.



Benzonitrile C_6H_5CN

Description:

- Synonyms: Phenyl cyanide, cyanobenzene
- Clear colorless liquid with an almond-like odor
- CAS No.: 100-47-0
- EPA Section 302 EHS: Not listed
- EPA Section 112R: Not listed
- EPA Section 304 EHS: Not listed
- OSHA PSM: Not listed

NFPA 704 Information:

- Health: 3
- Flammability: 2
- Reactivity: 0
- Special: None

Uses and Occurrences:

- Synthesized, not naturally occurring
- Useful as a solvent

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Flash point: 160-162° F
- LEL: 0.9%; UEL: 11.3%
- Autoignition temperature: 1022° F
- Vapor density (air = 1): 3.6
- Specific gravity (water = 1): 1.01
- Boiling point: 374-375° F
- In the presence of mineral acids may produce moderately toxic benzoic acid
- Toxic nitrogen oxides and hydrogen cyanide may form in a fire
- Incompatibles include strong oxidizers, strong acids, and strong bases

Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: None listed (TWA)
- IDLH: None listed
- Can cause cyanide poisoning
- **People who work with or around this material should be trained in first aid measures for cyanide overexposures (Avantor MSDS)**
- Symptoms of cyanide poisoning include reddening of the eyes, pupil dilation, salivation, nausea without vomiting, anxiety, confusion, vertigo, convulsions, paralysis, respiratory failure, and death
- May be a deceptively healthy pink to red skin color

- Irritating to eyes and skin

Fire Fighting Measures:

- Extinguishing media: "Alcohol" foam, Dry chemical, carbon dioxide, water may be ineffective
- Do not extinguish the fire unless the flow can be stopped (NOAA Cameo Chemical)
- Use water in flooding quantities to cool containers

2008 Emergency Response Guidebook:

- Shipping name: Benzonitrile
- Hazard Classes: Toxic Substance (6.1)
- UN/NA: 2224; Guide # 152 Toxic (Combustible)
- Spill: Initially isolate 150 feet in all directions

2010 Oregon Fire Code: Table 2703.1.1(1)

- Combustible liquid Class IIIA
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per control area:
- Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 330 gallons
- In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 660 gallons
- In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 660 gallons
- In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 1320 gallons
- Group when MAQ exceeded: H-2 or H3

Incident Reporting and Information:

- Facilities reporting benzonitrile on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey: one
- Hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986: None

References include:

- [Cameo chemicals – Benzonitrile](#)
- [Avantor Performance Materials, Inc. – MSDS Benzonitrile](#)
- ScienceLab.Com - MSDS Benzonitrile
- Acros Organics BVBA – MSDS Benzonitrile
- [EPA List of Lists, July 2011](#)

For questions or suggestions contact Aleta Carte at 503-934-8262 or email aleta.carte@state.or.us.

Government to government with Oregon's Commission on Indian Services



The Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) was created in 1975 to improve services to Indians in Oregon. A lack of existing state services for Indians, along with shifts in Indian population, shifts in government responsibilities, and the fact that 21 states had a commission or office of Indian affairs (15 with smaller Indian populations than Oregon), motivated then-Senator Vic Atiyeh to propose SB 386 creating a Commission on Indian Services.

Prior to its establishment, there was no suitable mechanism in state government to consider Indian concerns. LCIS serves as the main forum for Indian concerns, a point of access for state government programs and Indian communities, and as a catalyst for change, where needed.

In conjunction with the LCIS-sponsored kick-off to American Indian Week, Governor Kitzhaber signed a proclamation declaring May 13-19, American Indian Week in Oregon. This year's kick-off theme was "The Nine Federally Recognized Tribal Governments in Oregon: Discover, Explore, Connect." Tribal leaders and other tribal representatives were at the capitol to provide information about their governments and to talk about their sovereign status.

Annual tribal information training at the capitol provides cultural training, history, and information on the sovereign nation status of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes.

Oregon's fire service and the Office of State Fire Marshal frequently work with tribal governments in a variety of capacities, whether it is educational outreach, consulting on codes, or providing support during emergency events such as last year's High Cascades Complex fire. This follows directives to agencies included in SB 770, which passed in 2001, and supports ORS 182.152-168, which requires state agencies to work cooperatively with tribal governments.

For more information, visit the [Oregon's Commission on Indian Services website](#).

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Position opening

Deputy Fire Marshal – Albany Fire Department

The Albany Fire Department is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the position of deputy fire marshal. This is a regular, full-time position.

Salary Range:

Deputy Fire Marshal I: \$4,627 - \$5,814

Deputy Fire Marshal II: \$4,972 - \$6,304

Closing date is June 15, 2012, at 5:00 p.m.

The application process includes the following two requirements:

1) Completing an application on [NeoGov](#) and applying for the open Deputy Fire Marshal position on the [city of Albany's web site](#).

2) Completing an online application and entry level FireTeam test on the [National Testing Network website](#).

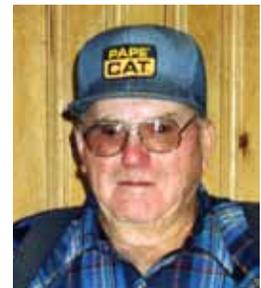
For more information, contact Albany Division Chief/Fire Marshal Mike Trabue at 541-917-7703 or mike.trabue@cityofalbany.net.

In memoriam

Leonard Harms

1926 - 2011

Harms began his career in firefighting with his father at Moses Lake Air Base in Wilbur, Washington. After losing his father in the line of duty, Harms moved to Lakeview with his wife Lorraine.



After much insistence by "old timers" in the fire department, in 1960 he consented to become the first fire chief for Thomas Creek / Westside RFPD.

Harms was the chief of an all-volunteer fire department that protected 110 square miles, with two fire stations 7.5 miles apart. After 39 years as fire chief, Leonard retired in July 1999.

Donations can be made in memory of Leonard to: TC/WS RFPD, P.O. Box 425 Lakeview, Oregon 97630; Jama Harms Memorial Scholarship Fund, 103 S.E. Street Lakeview, Oregon 97630; or Westside Cemetery c/o Carla Albertson 15588 Westside Road Lakeview, Oregon 97630.