

CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1



February 29, 2008

Fire District Information Regarding the Area

Awards Banquet

Clackamas Fire District #1 held its annual awards banquet at The Abernethy Center in Oregon City on Saturday, February 23, 2008. The annual awards banquet is designed to recognize employees who performed exceptionally well or went above and beyond the regular call of duty for that year. One hundred and sixty-five people attended this year's banquet and 25 awards were given out including Volunteer Fire Fighter of the Year and Career Fire Fighter of the Year. Two employees, Apparatus Operators Jared Phillips and Adam Ofstad, received the highest award that the Fire District gives out, which is the Medal of Valor. The Medal of Valor is given to an employee who goes above and beyond the regular call of duty and puts themselves in a life threatening situation, risking their own safety, to save the life of another. On February 6, 2007, both Jared and Adam rescued an elderly man who had fallen and was hanging over the edge of a 100ft. + cliff. With help from others on their crew, Jared and Adam were able to rescue the man from the side of the cliff and bring him to safety.

Another highlight of the evening was a motivational speech given by nationally recognized high school basketball coach and Oregon City resident, Brad Smith. Coach Smith shared with all of the fire fighters and their family and friends the importance of teamwork and training.

Awards Received

Career Firefighter of the Year
Dave Elle

Volunteer Firefighter of the Year
Les Andersen

Award of Distinguished Service
Rob Rector

Award of Appreciation
Sean Brown
Jack Tanz

Fire Chief's Achievement
Mace Childs
Dave Armstrong
Bob Dixon

Meritorious Awards

Mike Carlsen
Don Davis
Jim Syring
Lynsey Hillesland
Heather Goodrich

Special Unit Citation

EMS Division

Ken Horn
Karl Koenig
Curtis Guttman
Craig Warden
Kyle Gorman

Special Unit Citation

Rescue 3 & Engine 3

Lt. Rob Rector
FF Adam Ofstad
Lt. Spencer Lambing
AO Sean Brown
FF Jared Phillips

Training Award Received

Capt. Tom Crowder, one of the District's training officers, received the Northwest Fire Trainers Association Instructor of the Year Award. All of the fire service trainers in the Portland Metropolitan area are eligible for this award. His achievement is significant when compared to the potential candidates.

New Hires

The Fire District has two new employees. The first is Dave Phillips who is the District's first designated organizational Safety Officer. He formerly worked for Gresham Fire & Rescue as a captain. The other new employee is Michael Colvin, Jr. who is a Fire Inspector in our Fire Prevention Division. Michael comes to the District from the State Fire Marshal's Office where he served as a Deputy Fire Marshal.

Promotional Ceremonies

Congratulations to the following employees who were promoted and sworn-in at the promotional ceremonies on February 4 and 25. Promotions included: Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal Kari Shanklin, Lieutenant/Deputy Fire Marshal Doug Whiteley, Captain Scott Carmony, Captain John Hopkins, Apparatus Operator Brent

Olson, Apparatus Operator Scott Butzer. The following new employees were sworn in: Fire Inspector Chris Scott, Fire Inspector Michael Colvin, Jr. and Safety Officer Dave Phillips.

Chief's Roundtable Meetings

Several opportunities were provided for personnel to attend Chief Kirchhofer's Roundtable meetings. Two roundtables were held so that all personnel had the opportunity to attend should they wish to do so. Chief Kirchhofer opened the meetings with an overview of the budget, current staffing, staffing for the future, organizational priorities, etc. A question and answer period followed. These were well attended and good discussions took place.

New Prop for the Training Center

The Training Center will be receiving a trench prop for use in trench rescue training. Trench rescue is one of the many technical rescue disciplines of the Fire District's technical rescue team. The prop would be used year round and provide a very safe and controlled training location.

New Apparatus

The Fire District has a new piece of apparatus that will be housed at Station 8, which is the fire station on 130th Ave. Water Rescue 8 is now in service and will be used to tow the Almar rescue boat. It also carries a portable fire pump that will allow the boat to flow fire suppression hand lines or supply water for shore-based firefighting. It will also be able to carry the Clackamas County Water Rescue Consortium's rapid deployment craft, which is an inflatable rescue raft that increases the technical rescue capabilities for swiftwater, ice or dive rescue operations. Other equipment that will be on the rescue unit includes: a 9,000 pound portable winch with mounting points on all sides of the rescue, a full complement of technical river and rope rescue equipment, and a 6-kilowatt PTO generator with demountable scene lighting.

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Water Rescue 8

Enterprise Zones

The Fire District's Board of Directors is in the process of preparing a policy regarding the renewal and expansion of Enterprise Zones (E-Zones) in the Fire District. An Enterprise Zone is a specific geographic area targeted for economic revitalizing. E-Zones encourage economic growth and investment in distressed areas by offering tax advantages and incentives to businesses locating within the zone boundaries. The disadvantage for the Fire District is that with the businesses not paying any property taxes the Fire District receives no funding yet is still providing fire service to that area. Doing this for a short period of time can be managed, but renewals and expansions provide a hardship for the Fire District. A draft policy was presented to the Board at the February board meeting. It was the Board's consensus to fine tune the policy and present it again at the March board meeting.

Novelty (Toylike) Lighters

The Oregon Fire Safety Coalition is in the process of preparing legislation that would prohibit the sale and distribution of novelty (toylike) lighters. Many lighters today look like animals, miniature cars, musical instruments, paint brushes, etc. These lighters are dangerous in the hands of children or adults who are unable to distinguish the difference between a toy and a lighter. Prohibiting the

sale of these lighters would protect children and their families from the risk for burn injury, property loss and possible death. The District's Board of Directors approved supporting legislation that would outlaw the sale and distribution of novelty (toy like) lighters.

Communications System Update

HB 5100 passed the House Ways & Means Committee in mid-February. It is a \$76 million plan to provide a new communications system that will connect many rural areas of the state (including The Dalles, Bend, Klamath Falls, the Oregon Coast, etc.). This is Part I of the Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network's (OWIN) plan to upgrade the old systems operated by the state.

Standards of Response Coverage Document Update

A draft of the District's updated Standards of Response Coverage document has been completed. This document evaluates the Fire District's efficiency and effectiveness regarding emergency response travel times to structure fires and emergency medical services incidents. The District is continually measuring its performance to determine ways in which it can improve response times. It has been presented to the Board for review and will formally be adopted at the March board meeting. Special thanks go to Operations Assistant Lori Fawcett for her hard work and many hours she put forth in preparing the document.

Volunteer Association Update

At the board meeting on February 25, BC Oliver and Volunteer Coordinator Ron Smith provided an updated status report and strategic direction for the Volunteer Association. BC Oliver shared that almost one-half of the Volunteers who were suspended for not meeting requirements have been reinstated. Volunteers were presented with certificates for completing their training for First Responder Operations for Hazmat, Wildland Interface Firefighter and NFPA Driver.

Blood Drives

The Fire District has scheduled two blood drives over the next two months. These drives will help replace units used by Leonard Schurter who was injured in a serious farming accident earlier in February. Leonard is the father of Firefighter Kevin Schurter.

If you are interested in participating, the information for the blood drives is shown below.

Date: Friday, March 7, 2008
Time: 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Location: Mt. Scott Fire Station
9339 SE Causey Avenue
Happy Valley, OR

Date: Friday, April 11, 2008
Time: 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Location: Mt. Scott Fire Station
9339 SE Causey Avenue
Happy Valley, OR

You may schedule your appointment on-line.

Directions to scheduling your appointment:

1. Go to www.givelife.org.
2. Enter the sponsor code, which is **ccfd1**. Once you have clicked on "search," you will be shown the two choices for blood drives.
3. Click on your preferred date.
4. Click on preferred time.
5. You will be asked to login and create a profile.
6. Once the profile is completed, you will receive a confirmation e-mail and be scheduled into the system.

A reminder will be sent to you the day before your scheduled appointment.

If you have any questions regarding the blood drives, please contact AO Burk Slater at 503-742-2600 or Karen Strejch at 503-742-2646.

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Program Highlight – Fire District's Testing Process

The testing process for any position begins in the Human Resources Department up to months in advance depending on the position being hired for.

A timeline is the first step in the process—this helps to identify all critical components and helps in keeping the process on track and meeting all deadlines. The process includes approval of the testing process by the Fire District's Civil Service Commission for all Civil Service positions. Advertising, arranging evaluators, creating schedules and compiling all needed materials must be done per the timeline. After the actual testing days, scoring and list compilation is completed and a report is given to the Civil Service Commission along with the list for their certification. Chiefs' Interviews are conducted, followed by conditional offers of employment and pre-hire screening including Wellness, Physicals, Psych checks and Background checks. All candidates are given the opportunity to review their testing scores with Human Resources as a learning experience and growth opportunity.

We are currently exploring recruitment opportunities and providing workshops and practice sessions. The workshops have been offered to internal candidates considering participating in a promotional process and at Metro Fire Officer Academy. The practice sessions and/or classes include Physical Agility practice for potential new hires and an Apparatus Operator Academy for current district personnel looking at participating in the promotional process.

Timing and careful planning are important components to any testing process. However, it is the numerous district personnel who make this process a success. Without each and every one of them, this process would not even get off the ground. During this time of new growth within the district it is imperative that we identify qualified people to join

our team. Because of their dedication and passion for this organization we continue to strive to create a positive future for the district.

LOCAL STATION ACTIVITIES

District-wide

Total number of calls during January – 1,320