

# CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1



December 31, 2008

## Information Regarding Clackamas Fire District #1

### **Inclement Weather**

Since mid-December when the inclement weather began, firefighters have been very busy responding to storm related incidents (accidents, alarm system issues, water flow alarms, broken pipes, fires, etc). We have utilized training officers to staff an additional response unit (a 4wd Suburban) for response to non-emergency calls, thereby keeping larger apparatus available for emergency response. So far, two engines have slid off the road in separate incidents resulting in only minor damage. No injuries have yet occurred to our personnel as a result of the weather.

Our unofficial call volume total for the winter to date, December 14-28, is 1,051. This includes a 59 percent call volume increase from last year during this same time. Calls ranged from medical aid calls, wires down, structure fires, motor vehicle crashes, roof collapses, falls, etc. For comparison, during this same period last year, the District answered 662 calls. All calls were answered due to the carefully managed responses by on-duty battalion chiefs, company officers and dispatchers. Our employees did an outstanding job in handling the many incidents that took place during the inclement weather. They went above and beyond during this challenging period.

### **Financial Update**

With our nation in the midst of the worst recession in decades, the Fire District is also adversely impacted. We are estimating a slight reduction in revenue for the current fiscal year (from what was projected during our budget process), as well as a significant slow down in new construction and assessed value growth. The Fire District is proactively addressing the potential shortfall by adopting a fiscally conservative approach and limiting discretionary spending. The Fire District continues to be on solid financial footing and essential services will not be affected at this point. Staff will continue to closely monitor revenue and expenses to ensure that excellence in emergency services is maintained throughout the economic downturn.

### **Cold Weather Reminders in the Event of a Power Outage**

Along with having to contend with cold weather, often times power outages happen as well. Do not use Hibachi's, BBQs or any gasoline or diesel powered appliances and certain space heaters in the house to provide heat as these can produce deadly doses of carbon monoxide. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can cause headaches, blurred vision, lethargy and death. Make sure your heating source is a UL listed indoor heating appliance.

Hypothermia is a concern during power outages or long stretches of cold weather. Be sure to have adequate food, clothing, shelter and sources of heat. Blankets can help, even in poorly heated rooms. Wear layers of clothing and a hat, which will keep in more heat. Move around, as physical activity raises body temperature. Signs of hypothermia include being lethargic, confused and disoriented.

### **Working with Sheriff's Office Regarding Water Rescue Emergencies**

Clackamas County Sheriff Craig Roberts and I met at the beginning of the month to discuss a variety of issues including regional response to water rescue emergencies, flooding disasters and the need for broadening the Sheriff's Office use of the incident command system. I am excited about the prospect of working together with them to implement Unified Command on emergency scenes on a more frequent basis.

### **Upcoming Board of Directors' Meetings**

The December board meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. All agenda items will be included on the January board meeting agenda. As in the past, due to holidays being on the third Mondays in January and February, the board meetings have been scheduled for the fourth Mondays. The next board meeting will be on Monday, January 26, 2009 and the February board meeting will be on Monday, February 23, 2009. All board meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Scott Fire Station located at 9339 SE Causey in Happy Valley. The public is invited to attend.

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### Program Highlight –Office Staff

With the Fire District's growth over the last few years with the addition of the Pleasant Valley Fire Station, the annexation of the City of Oregon City, the hiring of lateral recruits and other personnel, additional office staff also needed to be hired. Please meet the Fire Districts' newest staff additions.



Valerie Harvey

**Valerie Harvey** – Administrative Assistant in the Human Resources Dept., Administration Office  
I grew up in and have recently moved back to Milwaukie. I went to Clackamas Community College where I received my Associates Degree. In addition to my position here, I also work as a Real Estate Broker for John L. Scott in Sandy. My hobbies include spending time with my two sons, boating, snowboarding, trying out new restaurants and being a constant learner. I am very excited to be part of such a great team.



Sandy Maleta

**Sandy Maleta** – Receptionist at the Administration Office  
I grew up in Vancouver and have now lived in Tualatin for 10 years. Before coming to the Fire District, my background was in the printing industry and graphic communications working as a Production Planner and Electronic Prepress Technician. Recently, I worked as the Administrative Assistant for Encore Sales & Marketing, a food brokerage company in Portland. My hobbies include spending time with my family and friends, golfing, singing, beach trips and photography. I am excited about working for Clackamas Fire District #1.



Alexis Pluchos

**Alexis Pluchos** - Administrative Assistant in the Fire Marshal's Office  
I grew up in Gresham, and currently live there. I graduated from Gresham High School and continued my education by receiving my Associates Degree from Mt. Hood Community College. Most recently, I worked as a Real Estate Broker at Persimmon Realty in Gresham. The summer is my favorite time of year because I enjoy being outdoors, especially near water. I am very excited to be working here and look forward to getting to know everyone.

### LOCAL STATION ACTIVITIES

See station summary