

# CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1



April 28, 2009

## Clackamas Fire District #1 Newsletter

### **Swine Flu Virus**

The Fire District is closely monitoring the Swine Flu outbreak that began in Mexico and has been identified in the United States. This particular Swine Flu travels from person-to-person in much the same way as seasonal flu occurs in people. As of now, there are no reported cases in Oregon. Updates regarding Swine Flu will be posted daily on the Fire District's website at [www.clackamasfire.com](http://www.clackamasfire.com).

### **Signs, symptoms**

The symptoms of Swine Flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular seasonal flu and include fever (greater than 100 degrees), sore throat, cough, stuffy nose, chills, headache and body aches, and fatigue. Some people with Swine Flu may experience diarrhea and vomiting. Severe illness (pneumonia and respiratory failure) and deaths have been reported with Swine Flu infection in people. Like seasonal flu, Swine Flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions. People entering the United States who are experiencing symptoms consistent with Swine Flu and have traveled to an affected area (see <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm> for affected areas), or have been exposed to someone possibly infected with Swine Flu, during the last seven days should report their illnesses to their health care provider immediately and inform them of their recent travel. People traveling from the United States to affected areas should be aware of the risk of illness with Swine Flu and take precautions.

### **Vaccinations**

There are no vaccinations available for the Swine Flu. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have confirmed that no vaccine will be available for at least six months and probably longer. The seasonal flu vaccine will not work against the Swine Flu. That is why the Fire District and the CDC recommend that everyone take preventative measures to limit the spread of disease.

### **Preventative Measures**

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick or who may be sick.
- Stay home from school, work and errands if you are sick.
- Wash hands often and thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand gel. This should be done especially after coughing or sneezing and after touching doorknobs, light switches, public counters, etc.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- Use tissues to contain respiratory secretions and dispose of them in the nearest water receptacle after having use.

### **BC Tim Dahl Retired**

Battalion Chief Tim Dahl retired March 31, 2009 after more than 28 years with the fire service. He began his career as a firefighter with the City of Happy Valley Fire Department on February 3, 1981. He rose through the ranks and in 1994 became a battalion chief. During this past year, BC Dahl led the District in the process of updating the Strategic Plan. While this continues to be a work in progress, we are grateful for the many hours he contributed to this project. Congratulations on your retirement, Tim!

### **Fire District Budget Committee**

The Board of Directors re-appointed Mary Olson and appointed Tim Powell to serve as citizen representatives on the Fire District's Budget Committee. Each member serves a three-year term. Mr. Powell is filling the vacancy left by David Mansfield. Mr. Powell is an Oregon City resident and has been very active in the community. He has been a City Commissioner and also served on the Planning Commission. He is the first Oregon City resident to serve on a major committee since the annexation last year.

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The District's annual Budget Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mt. Scott Fire Station. It is located at 9339 SE Causey Avenue in Happy Valley. The public is invited to attend.

### **New Trustee Appointed to the Clackamas Emergency Services Foundation**

At the April Board of Directors' meeting, Bob Downing was appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Clackamas Emergency Services Foundation. Bob is an officer with the Oregon City Police Department. He will begin his three-year term with the next meeting in May. He joins a board consisting of 19 Trustees from the community.

The Foundation's mission is "To provide humanitarian assistance to those who have been adversely affected by disaster, tragedy, injury or other misfortune, and to work towards preventing such misfortunes in our community."

Further information regarding the Foundation may be found on our website at [www.clackamasfire.com](http://www.clackamasfire.com).

### **Open Burning Policy Discussion**

Open burning was one of the discussion items at the Fire District's April board meeting. Staff will be engaging all stakeholder groups over the next few months to formulate a regional strategy regarding open burning policy and enforcement. It is a very complicated issue to work through and is made even more complex by conflicting statutes and multiple layers of government (Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Forestry, Department of Environmental Quality, fire districts, etc.)

### **Installation of Smoke Alarms**

On Saturday, April 4, 2009, members of the Rotary Club of Clackamas and Fire District personnel, Deputy Fire Marshal Doug Whiteley and Fire Inspector Mike Boumann, installed smoke alarms at the Riverbend Mobile Home Park on Highway 212. More than 150 smoke alarms were installed during this one event, making nearly 1,600 alarms installed by these two community partners since 2003.



**Reminder:** Only **working** smoke alarms save lives! Smoke alarms that are properly installed and maintained play a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries, and have contributed to an almost 50% decrease in fire deaths since the late 1970s.

Kidde now offers a sealed 10-year smoke alarm. The battery cannot be removed. It is an ionization smoke alarm with hush feature and a 10-year Lithium battery. This unit includes a test button to verify the detection electronics are working as intended. These are designed to be replaced, not repowered when they chirp.

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### District to Receive FEMA Funds

The Fire District will be receiving Federal Disaster Relief funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for damage and expenses caused by the winter storms. A total initial estimate for reimbursement is \$97,594 for extra expenses related to emergency response and Fire District facility damage attributed to the December storm.

### Program Highlight – Clackamas Fire District’s Award Winning Training, Safety and Wellness Division

In stark comparison to the original American “firemen”, today’s firefighters are some of the highest trained and educated professionals in the service industry. In order to become a fully functional firefighter, you must not only be studied in the traditional suppression of fires, but also be a skilled medical technician, rescue technician, hazardous material responder and fire code enforcement officer. These dedicated individuals are also capable public educators, front-line councilors, chemists, mediators, managers and leaders. The rigors of the fire service have become a science and to some it is categorized as an art.

Clackamas Fire District #1 arguably has some of the highest trained and educated firefighters in the nation. Per the National Fire Academy, Oregon as a state ranks third in the attendance of higher education for managers and leaders. The Fire District emulates that by having one of the highest per capita of managers attending executive leader classes.

The Training Division of the Fire District is responsible for all of the initial and ongoing training of both career and volunteer firefighters. To begin their career, the selected candidates report to the Training Division, immediately begin with intense classroom studies and quickly progress onto the training grounds. This grueling nine-week paramilitary style academy is comparable to a military boot camp where education is backed up by performance. The successful candidate leaves the academy and then begins the Field Training and Evaluation Program. They are paired with a tenured firefighter/paramedic who continues to teach, evaluate and mentor the candidate. The probation period concludes after 12 months of progressive training and evaluation processes that result in numerous manipulative skills evaluations and a total of 43 written tests.



Water tender filling a port-a-tank with water. Crew filling engine.

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The ongoing training is built around a comprehensive annual plan that is unique to the Fire District. Every firefighter receives a minimum of 30 hours of firefighter training and 24 hours of Emergency Medical Training every year. The training content and delivery styles at the Fire District are some of the most progressive and innovative approaches in the nation. Training and education is deeply woven within our organizational core values and putting the best and most qualified firefighter on the street is paramount. The ongoing training is primarily scheduled on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The other days of the week are used for specialty training for water rescue and technical rescue disciplines. Regardless of weather and conditions, our nationally recognized water rescue team hits the rivers of the Fire District every Monday to hone their skills. The rope, confined space and urban search and rescue companies spend every weekend involved in some of the most grueling, dangerous and technical disciplines within the scope of the fire service.

The eight members of the Training Safety and Wellness Division proudly provide some of the most innovative and progressive training in the nation. In last three years, these educators have received many awards recognizing their undying commitment to training. Some of the awards given to the staff have been Oregon State Instructor of the Year, Northwest Fire Trainers of the year (2), Oregon Fire Chiefs Meritorious Achievement Awards (2), Oregon Emergency Medical Service Achievement Award and the Clackamas Fire District Unit Commendation Award. They are also executive board members of many local, regional and State training organizations and proudly represent the citizens of the Fire District.

The current Training Facility was constructed over 30 years ago when the Fire District was considerably smaller in size. We have met the current capacity of the Training Campus and are embarking upon a long-range plan to meet our needs for the next 30 years. For developments on the future plans or more information on the previous information, please go to [www.clackamasfire.com](http://www.clackamasfire.com). The staff of the Training, Safety and Wellness Division also wants to take this opportunity to extend an open and warm invitation to our citizens to stop by for a tour. Our main training campus is located at 15990 SE 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Clackamas.



### LOCAL STATION ACTIVITIES

See Station Summary