

# CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1



June 29, 2009

## Clackamas Fire District #1 Newsletter

### **Director George Warren Retires**



Director George Warren will be retiring as of June 30, 2009 after 25 plus years working with Clackamas Fire District #1 and Oregon's Fire Service. Director Warren began his fire service career in 1983 when he was appointed by the Board of Beaver Creek Fire District #55 to head the committee to hire a new fire chief. In 1984, he was sworn in as a board member and was Board Chairman at the time of merging with Clackamas Fire District #1 in 1995. He joined the Board of Directors for Clackamas Fire District #1 the following year and has served the Fire District in that capacity since that time. He has served as a board member with the Oregon Fire District Directors Association and as Chairman of the Governors Fire Service Policy Council.

Director Warren's passion and commitment for the fire service and Clackamas Fire District #1 will long be remembered. We appreciate all that he has done for the District and we wish him well in his retirement.

### **Fire District's Open Burning Policy Survey**

The Fire District is gathering input to help shape its future Open Burning Policy. We are conducting a survey and would like to have as many District residents as possible participate in completing it. The survey will be open until we gather adequate responses over an estimated 60 days. This Public Open Burning Survey is now on our homepage on our website at [www.clackamasfire.com](http://www.clackamasfire.com) or the Fire Prevention/Open Burning homepage at [www.clackamasfire.com/fireprevention.html](http://www.clackamasfire.com/fireprevention.html). If you have any questions regarding the survey, please call our Fire Prevention Office at 503-742-2660.

### **Fire District Now Has Twitter Account**

The Fire District now has a Twitter account. Our Public Information Officer/Community Liaison Officer Steve McAdoo is now sending short messages, called tweets, through our website to help keep the community up-to-date about what is happening in the District. Updates will take place daily by PIO/CLO McAdoo. Follow his "tweets" by going to our website at [www.clackamasfire.com](http://www.clackamasfire.com) or by signing up for an account at <https://twitter.com/signup>.

### **Volunteer Recruitment**

Clackamas Fire District #1's volunteer program has recently gone through many changes in an effort to enhance the services we provide to the public. Opportunities are now available for volunteers to specialize in their areas of volunteer service. Also, a program is now in place that financially reimburses those individuals for their commitment. With the new volunteer program changes, we currently have 41 District volunteers in the six specialized service categories of Rehab/Command Bus Operators, Water Tender Operators, Suppression Volunteers, Chaplains, Auxiliary Volunteers and Explorers.

The Rehab/Command Bus Operator Volunteer performs support operations on emergency scenes by providing incident rehabilitation services (medical evaluations and refreshments for firefighters). Our three rehab apparatus are called to respond on all working fires, as well as other special call incidents. These volunteers also provide incident response on the Command One vehicle, which is dispatched on every District second alarm or greater incident.

The Water Tender Operator Volunteers provide a specialized service of responding and operating water tender apparatus only. These volunteers respond to all fires and incidents within and outside of the District in areas where hydrants are not available. Water Tender Operators are trained to S-130 and S-190 levels and are equipped with protective clothing and equipment to also operate on wildland fire incidents. This specialized

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service category is for volunteers that do not wish to maintain the higher training, annual compliance, certification, and medical requirements that the category of Suppression Volunteer requires.

The Suppression Volunteers are members that can live either inside or outside the Fire District. These volunteers perform firefighting, emergency medical care, fire prevention duties, and other incident response services from stations 12 (Logan Community) and 13 (Clarkes Community). Suppression Volunteers are trained to the level of Firefighter 1, EMT Basic, and require weekly drills, signing up for duty shifts, and must meet the NFPA firefighter medical/physical requirements.

The Chaplain Volunteers provide specialized services to both District personnel and to the community to which we serve. Chaplains hold monthly meetings, have weekly Chaplain duty shifts, respond to incidents for emotional and spiritual support, and provide other specialized Chaplain services.

The Auxiliary Volunteer category is a new one that is for individuals that wish to volunteer their services in a "non emergency" role. This role includes clerical support, filing, ham radio operators, and assisting various divisions in a variety of functions and duties that do not require emergency response activities.

The Clackamas Fire District Explorer Post #682 is an organization within the volunteer program for youth between the ages of 14-21 years in which they can gain practical experience working in the fire service. The Explorer Post has regular meetings, drills, and the youth work directly with fire apparatus and equipment. The Clackamas Explorer Post has become one of the most recognized and successful explorer post's in the State of Oregon and has contributed to the advancement of many Explorers that have progressed through the volunteer ranks and on to a career in the fire service.

The District's volunteer program has recently implemented a program called the "Accountable Plan" to compensate volunteers for their service. District volunteers now receive monthly mileage reimbursement for their District-related travel, have funds placed into a 401K style retirement account (called LOSAP), and receive reimbursement for tuition and other educational expenses. All reimbursement or LOSAP contributions vary based on the volunteer's level of participation. These positive changes are helping the volunteer program by encouraging member activity and supporting their vital role.

As part of the volunteer firefighter SAFER grant through FEMA, we are currently conducting a recruitment program for new volunteers in all six categories. Applications received prior to August 15, 2009 will be considered for the next rehab support academy beginning January, 2010. Anyone who is interested in becoming a District volunteer is encouraged to visit the Fire District website at [www.clackamasfire.com](http://www.clackamasfire.com) or call Volunteer Coordinator Ron Smith at (503)742-2676.

### **Governor Signs Law Banning Toy-Like Lighters**

Governor Kulongoski signed into Oregon law a ban on toy-like lighters, which became effective June 2, 2009. Oregon is the third such state to pass a ban on novelty lighters. Under the law, toy-like lighters with features attractive to children including visual effects, flashing lights, musical sounds and toy-like designs are prohibited from being sold, distributed, or manufactured for the purpose of sale or distribution in Oregon.



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### **Strategic Planning Process Continues**

The District continues to make progress on its Strategic Plan and continues to develop more detailed objectives for each of the District's big-picture strategies. The Executive Team is meeting each week to examine one of the strategic goals and is receiving input from division managers about how those goals will be achieved. It is a long process, but also an important one. Once the objective process is complete, we will take all of the information and pare it down into the strategic planning document.

### **Fireworks – Keep it Legal, Keep it Safe**

With July 4<sup>th</sup> just around the corner, firework stands will be seen throughout the community. Legal fireworks may be purchased only from Oregon permitted fireworks retailers and stands. Oregon law bans possession, use or sale of fireworks that fly, explode or travel more than six feet on the ground or 12 inches into the air. Fireworks commonly called bottle rockets, Roman Candles, and firecrackers are ILLEGAL in Oregon.

Under Oregon law, officials may seize illegal fireworks and fine offenders up to \$500 per violation. Those who misuse fireworks or allow fireworks to cause damage are liable and may be required to pay fire suppression costs or other damage. Parents are also liable for fireworks damage caused by their children.

#### Steps to safer use of fireworks include:

- Be prepared before lighting fireworks: keep water available by using a garden hose or bucket.
- Be safe when lighting fireworks: keep children and pets away from fireworks.
- Be responsible after lighting fireworks: never relight a dud. Wait 15 to 20 minutes, then soak the fireworks in a bucket of water before disposal.

Have a fun a safe Fourth of July!

### **Citizen Event Feedback**

A BIG thank you to the men of Engine 6 and all of CFD #1 for attending our annual Field Day. Not only did the Engine arrive on time, but they even returned to the event after running a call. Our students were treated to tours of the engine and even got to try on a turnout coat! A very exciting day for everyone!

We would love to have you back again next year!

Ron Burr, PE Teacher  
Sunnyside Elementary School

### **Program Highlight – Clackamas Fire District's Safety Program**

**Risky Business** - For the 2003-2006 period, there was an estimated annual average of 40,270 firefighter fire ground injuries in the U.S. Of these, an average of 29,710 was categorized as minor, while 10,560 were moderate or severe. At the same time, the fire service has struggled to reduce the number of Line of Duty Deaths (LODD) it suffers each year. While the volume of fires is reducing, the structures resistance to fire and the flammability of the contents inside the structures is creating a greater hazard to firefighters.

To combat these statistics locally, Clackamas Fire District #1 established a District Safety Officer position within the District with the mission to build upon our currently excellent safety record and culture. This position is responsible to assure that our District Standard Operating Procedures and Fire Rescue Protocols are in compliance with federal, state, and local laws and fall in line with national standards. In addition to being an integral part of the District's Safety Committee, this position manages our Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) program and equipment Research and Development program. The District Safety Officer works closely with Training, Wellness, Logistics, and Operations staff in the pursuit of common goal of reduction of injury to our personnel as they labor to provide

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service to the community.

**Incident Response – Incident Safety Officer** - Clackamas Fire District #1 is committed to assuring firefighter safety. During any significant event, an Incident Safety Officer is assigned to provide another set of eyes for the incident commander to utilize to aid in assuring the strategies, tactics, and tasks are carried out with the safety of the firefighter in mind. To provide this position, all of the Command level chiefs, the training staff, and a handful of the District Captains have been trained and nationally certified as an Incident Safety Officer by the Fire Department Safety Officers Association (FDSOA). This certification requires bi-annual recertification through documentation of continuing education or practical application via functioning in the position at actual incidents.

**Facility and Equipment Safety** - Like any other business with employees, the District is required to comply with the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division rules, which govern the safety of the equipment and facilities our employees work with and in. To do this, a District-wide safety committee meets monthly to discuss safety concerns with our facilities, equipment, and procedures, and to review all accidents and injuries to develop methods and engineering controls to prevent any reoccurrence of the unsafe act or omission. Additionally, the committee participates in the quarterly inspection of our 17 fire stations, administration, prevention, information technology, training, and logistics facilities, and the 35 plus apparatus that we operate in the delivery of service.

**Taking Time to be Safe** - For the past five years, the International Association of Fire Chiefs along with the International Association of Firefighters has sponsored a national safety stand down week, asking departments and its personnel to focus on firefighter safety for the week. This year's focus of the 2009 Fire/EMS Safety, Health and Survival Week was **Protect Yourself: Your Safety, Health and Survival Are Your Responsibility** and was observed this month on June 14-20, 2009.

During the week's events, crews arrived at the training center to participate in three activities directed at compliance with the national program recommendations. One of the activities was to participate in a fitness assessment provided by our Wellness staff. This assessment compared previous year's results against current findings and provided instant feedback on gains or losses made by the employee in the past year. Following that session, they then participated in a presentation on the importance of placing apparatus in safe positions at incidents. Parking to provide safe work areas from traffic, spotting out of collapse zones and so that other apparatus can access or exit the incident scene with ease, and staging for high-risk incidents such as violent or hazardous materials incidents. From there, the crews participated in a discussion on the importance of Crew Resource Management (CRM) in the Fire Service. Simply stated, CRM comes from the airline industry and seeks to empower everyone participating in the ability to point out safety issues and provides respectful but effective methods to communicate the hazard to their superiors and other at the incident.

### LOCAL STATION ACTIVITIES

See following station summary reports.