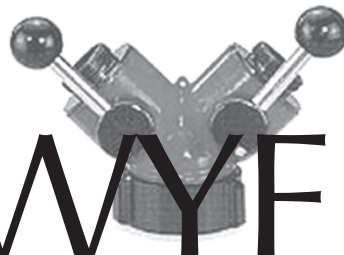


# GATED WYE



April 2007 . Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal . 4760 Portland Road NE . Salem Oregon 97305-1760 . No. 279

## Wildfire Awareness Week set for May 6-12, 2007

May 6-12 is Wildfire Awareness Week and a valuable opportunity for fire departments and districts throughout the state to increase the awareness among home and property owners on steps they can take to protect their property from wildfires.

This year Wildfire Awareness Week will highlight the use of fire-resistant building materials in remodeling and new construction, in addition to promoting the use of fire-resistant plants in landscaping. Other topics include creating survivable space by removing debris, pruning trees and clearing vegetation a safe distance from structures.

The risk of wildfires, combined with increased development in the wildland urban interface, heightens the need for individuals and communities to take actions to decrease their wildfire risks.

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Forestry, Wildfire Structural Committee, Institute for Business & Home Safety and the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes designed a toolkit available to all Oregon fire departments and districts.

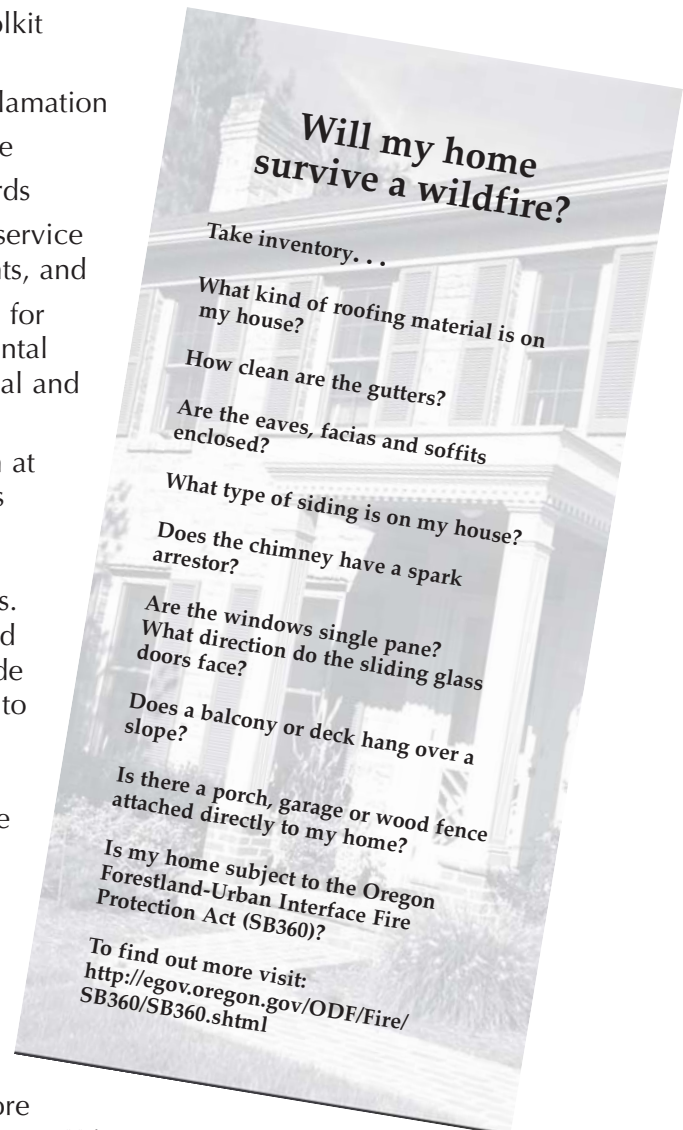
The free toolkit includes:

- A model proclamation
- A news release
- Two safety cards
- Radio public service announcements, and
- An order form for free supplemental printed material and videos

Participation at the local level is essential to the success of education efforts. Departments and districts statewide are encouraged to take part in the campaign.

Materials are limited and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis.

To order copies of the toolkit or for more information, contact Krista Fischer at 503.373.1540 ext. 245 or email [Krista.Fischer@state.or.us](mailto:Krista.Fischer@state.or.us) or.



One of the rack cards available in the Wildfire Awareness toolkit. Answers to the questions are located on the reverse of the card.

## From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



**“... centralizing the management, administration, and training functions (of HazMat, IMTs and US&R teams)... will go a long way to improving the coordination, communication and continuity between all units involved.”**

### Natural progression shows how far we've come

**W**hen I started with this agency 21 years ago, regional hazmat teams, incident management teams and urban search and rescue task forces weren't even dreams. Since then, changes in the complexity of incident response have given rise to the development of these specialized teams, which in the past were managed separately within OSFM.

Today, as we increase our focus on all-risk incidents and response, we realize these teams will train and work together more frequently. As a result, it's a natural progression for OSFM to shift how we manage the teams, their resources and their training.

Previously, incident management teams and urban search & rescue task forces were managed under the administrative arm of OSFM and hazmat teams were managed by the Hazardous Materials Services Unit. However, responding to all-risk scenarios will require 'all hands on deck' and centralizing the management, administration and training functions under an Emergency Response Unit umbrella will go a long way to improving the coordination, communication and continuity between all units involved.

Combining the three specialized response teams into a centrally managed Emergency Response Unit will increase efficiency in purchasing, communication and logistics, ultimately delivering a more effective, coordinated response to the citizens of Oregon, local governments and the Oregon fire service. In addition, centralizing management will enhance deployment standards and call-down lists making for more timely and effective response.

The new Emergency Response Unit will be managed by Mariana Ruiz-Temple whose 12 year's experience in the Hazardous Materials unit includes three years as manager of the Hazardous Information and Planning section and the past year as manager of the Hazardous Materials Response Teams. For more information, contact Mariana at 503-373-1540 ext. 238 or email [mariana.ruiz-temple@state.or.us](mailto:mariana.ruiz-temple@state.or.us).



**State Fire Marshal  
Nancy Orr**

**Office of  
State Fire Marshal**

**Oregon State Police  
4760 Portland Rd. NE  
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97305-1760**

**[www.sfm.state.or.us](http://www.sfm.state.or.us)  
503-373-1540**

Administration  
ext. 211

Codes & Technical  
Services  
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Community Education  
ext. 273

Community  
Right-to-Know  
ext. 261

Data Services  
ext. 244

Fire & Life Safety  
ext. 204

Firesetter Intervention  
ext. 230

Hazardous Materials  
ext. 227

HazMat Teams  
ext. 238

License & Permits  
ext. 264

The *Gated Wye* is published monthly by the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal. For submissions or suggestions contact Rich Hoover at 503-373-1540 ext. 217 or email [richard.hoover@state.or.us](mailto:richard.hoover@state.or.us). In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, alternative formats of this publication are available, contact 503-373-1540 ext. 228 or email [colleen.olson@state.or.us](mailto:colleen.olson@state.or.us).

## Safer-cigarette bill passes Senate Commerce Committee

The Senate Commerce Committee passed Oregon's fire-safer cigarette legislation, House Bill 2163-A on March 19. The bill passed on a five to one vote with Senator Roger Beyer casting the single "no" vote.

Testifying in favor of the bill were Oregon State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr, State Injury Prevention and Epidemiology Section Manager Lisa Millet, former Oregon Senator and retired firefighter Tom Whelan and Phillip Morris representative Jim Gardner.

Senator and Committee Chair Floyd Prozanski and Senator Avel Gordly will co-carry the bill to the Senate Floor for its expected final passage.

## Departments encouraged to participate in Fire Service Day at the Capitol May 22

Fire departments and districts are encouraged to join together May 22 for Fire Service Day at the Capital to showcase the capabilities, dedication and professionalism of members of the fire service throughout Oregon. Staging room will be available as well as booth space for displays inside the Capitol Galleria.

Fire Service Day is an excellent opportunity for fire departments statewide to increase awareness of fire safety issues to citizens and legislators while showcasing their unity in protecting Oregonians from death, injury and property loss due to fire.



*Fire Service Day 2005.*

For more information, reserve booth space or arrange for staging apparatus, contact Genoa Ingram at 503-378-0595 or email [genoa@westernadvocates.com](mailto:genoa@westernadvocates.com).

## Eric McMullen appointed to regional code action committee

Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Deputy Fire Marshal Eric McMullen has been appointed as an International Code Council (ICC) representative to the Western/Canadian Region Code Action Committee. As a ICC representative, McMullen will participate in the 2007-08 International Code Council cycle.

## Oregon Fire Code Committee releases technical advisory

The Oregon Fire Code Committee (OFCC) has released a technical advisory regarding the use of small electrical cooking appliances in non-residential occupancies. The advisory's effective date coincides with the April 1, 2007 effective date of the 2007 Oregon Fire Code. For more information, contact John Caul at 503-373-1540 ext. 276 or email [john.caul@state.or.us](mailto:john.caul@state.or.us).

## Plan review certification requirements effective December 2007

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) filed changes, in May 2006, to OAR 837-039 changing the certification standards for fire officials who review plans for new construction, alterations, and specifications from a Fire Code approved by OSFM. These new rules require fire officials who conduct plan reviews and provide input to building officials to have their ICC Fire Inspector II and ICC Fire Plans Examiner certification by December 2007 in order to continue to provide plan review input. These OSFM requirements are necessary regardless of certifications issued to a fire official by the Building Codes Division.

For questions or more information, contact Assistant Chief Deputy Stacy Warner at 503-373-1540 ext. 252.



# A voice from the fire service



by Kim Lightley

*Editor's note: From 1989-1994, Lightley worked as a forest technician and firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service. After the Storm King Mountain Fire in 1994 she declined further firefighting duty but continued as a forest technician until 1997. In this article she shares her tragic firefighting experience, battle with post-traumatic stress disorder and lessons learned during recovery.*

## Fire on the mountain

"We're heading to Colorado," announced the Superintendent of the U.S. Forest Service Prineville Hotshots. It was July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1994 and lightning storms pummeled western Colorado in the days prior, initiating many fires. Our Oregon Hotshot crew was dispatched to a small, smoldering fire outside of Glenwood Springs, Colorado. As we neared the town, benign smoke rose up from the Storm King Mountain Fire (also known as the South Canyon Fire). The fire that had crept around in the Gamble Oak for days, 'pre-heating' the leaves and drying out the over story, was now coming to life as 45 mph winds pushed flames higher into the brittle canopy.

The 20-person Prineville Hotshot crew consisting of young, vibrant men and women were shuttled to the ridge above the smoldering fire. The first group of nine Prineville Hotshots, led by squad boss Jon Kelso and with the help of additional smoke jumpers, was sent to improve fire-line below the ridge. The remaining hotshots, including myself, stayed on top of the ridge to clear vegetation.

Within a few hours, the fire crowned as the wind howled. We were ordered to run *up* the ridge towards a safety zone. The 200-foot flame front had other plans for our escape. As billowing black smoke and a wall of red approached us, we had to retreat back *down* the ridge. Containers filled with chain saw gas were exploding from the heat, as the wall of flames thundered towards us amongst frantic yells and a sense of pending death of our fellow crew members below us on the mountain.

Against all common sense, we dove down a ravine on the opposite side of the mountain where the fire was raging. The Gamble Oak was so thick we had to practically swim underneath the brush to get through the vegetation. Ash and embers were falling around us, like snowfall in winter.

The Prineville Hotshots from the ridge safely escaped the fire. However, in the following week, eleven remaining Prineville Hotshots traveled throughout Oregon, attending the funerals of their nine beloved brothers and sisters who lost their lives on Storm King Mountain. A total of fourteen firefighters lost the race on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 1994.



*The Prineville Hotshot crew, July 4, 1994, two days before nine crew members perished fighting Colorado's Storm King Mountain fire.*

## Handling post-traumatic stress

I was unable to hurdle the loss I felt. Being a surviving co-worker is difficult. Fire personnel can experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress, survivor's guilt, flashbacks and a tremendous amount of grief following a line-of-duty death. At times it's hard to pick ourselves up after a tragedy and rejoin the workforce as a fully functioning individual. It is critical for managers to provide stress management training and services for their workers, before and definitely after a traumatic experience.

The Oregon fire service is doing an excellent job with education and awareness of the need for debriefing, defusing and stress management after critical incidents. However, in some jurisdictions there may be an assumption that since everyone has gone through the proper critical incident stress management (CISM) training, all individuals know how to take care of themselves after experiencing stress or trauma. Speaking personally, this isn't necessarily the case.

In my situation, managers of the Prineville Hotshots viewed the crew as a unit and since the unit acted OK, they thought each crew member was fine; but individually I was not OK. This brings me to another important point.

Supervisors need to maintain communication with their employees following an incident and check in with them periodically in order to ensure a healthy work environment. The negative impacts of an event, along with the accompanying feeling that no one really cares, most often creates difficulties at home and in the workplace resulting in low productivity, time loss and other issues.

### Road to recovery

In January 2007, my 12-year journey of recovery took me to the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. There I attended a *Taking Care of Our Own and Local Assistance State Team* (LAST) training sponsored by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation (NFFF).

Through a grant from the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance, the NFFF is working to develop a unified response on a state-by-state basis to provide assistance to fire departments and a firefighter's family immediately following a line-of-duty death. The intent is to identify a group of individuals in each state willing to respond to support a department experiencing a line-of-duty death. It is not intended to circumvent any system already in place in a state, but rather to support local efforts.

As a surviving co-worker of a devastating tragedy, I found the training to be cathartic and pivotal in my own recovery. The Foundation is developing these programs because it recognizes the need across the United States to provide education, response and assistance to surviving co-workers and families. Training for team leaders has occurred in many states. I was assured Oregon is on the list to be invited to an upcoming *Local Assistance State Team* training session.

For more information about the NFFF and their efforts visit [www.firehero.org](http://www.firehero.org).

*Kim Lightley is available to speak to structural firefighting classes or other groups about her experience. She may be contacted by email at [klightley@gmail.com](mailto:klightley@gmail.com).*

## Web page bolsters novelty lighter call to action

A web page containing messages and support material for the Office of State Fire Marshal's call to action to ban the sale of novelty lighters is now online.

The web page, designed in collaboration with Richard Lambert, president of The Idea Bank, contains a video message from State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr. Visitors to the site may also download more resources including incident report forms, sample letters to the Consumer Products Safety Commission and Congress. Visit <http://www.theideabank.com/psa/NoveltyLighters.html>.

## Fire safe candles available for loan from OSFM

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Community Education Services unit has available battery operated, fire safe candles for loan to any Oregon fire department or district. The battery operated candles use new technology enabling them to glow and flicker similar to real-flame candles. They are also made of wax and have a light vanilla scent. The flameless candles are ideal for any department hosting a media event or banquet and looking to display safe alternatives to real flame candles.



The Congressional Fire Service Institute (CFSI) is promoting the candles to organizations to consider including as part of their prevention and fund-raising efforts.

For more information on OSFM's flameless candle loan program, contact Dee Anna Morgan at 503-373-1540 ext. 416 or email [dee.anna@state.or.us](mailto:dee.anna@state.or.us).

For more information from the CFSI visit <http://www.cfsi.org/candles/fundraise.asp>.

## Smoke detectors recalled

**D**igital Security Controls has recalled 32,000 FSA and FSB series smoke detectors which may fail to detect smoke during a fire.

The photo-electric smoke detectors are directly wired to building circuitry and do not use a battery. The units were sold by commercial and residential installers from October 2006 through December 2006. Customers should contact their installer for an inspection to determine if their units are included in the recall.

For more information and replacement procedures contact Digital Security Controls at 877-666-1250 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's website at [www.dsc.com](http://www.dsc.com).

## Reminder – asbestos survey required prior to conducting burn to learn exercises

**O**regon law, under the auspices of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), requires an asbestos survey be conducted on structures planned for demolition. This includes those slated for burn-to-learn exercises. Although property owners are responsible for costs associated with asbestos survey and removal, participating fire departments are responsible for verifying an asbestos check has occurred and any asbestos is properly removed.

The Department of Public Safety Standards and Training has available a free CD titled *Guidelines for Conducting Live Fire Training*. Based on NFPA 1403 standards, the CD includes checklists and forms covering initial site surveys, an owner requirements letter, pre- and post-burn checklists and more. For a copy of the CD, contact Thelma Denney at 503-378-2408 or email [thelma.denney@state.or.us](mailto:thelma.denney@state.or.us).

The DEQ also recommends fire departments notify neighbors and other members of the community who may be affected by smoke, street closure or other issues prior to conducting a burn to learn exercise. For more information, contact the Oregon DEQ at 503-229-5696.

GATED WYE, page 6

## Events and Training

### Oregon Fire Marshals Association Annual Business Meeting

May 1-4, 2007

Hood River Inn, Hood River, OR

For more information, contact Deputy State Fire Marshal Michelle Stevens at 541-776-6114 ext. 272 or email [michelle.stevens@state.or.us](mailto:michelle.stevens@state.or.us).

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### The Art of Reading Smoke & The Art of First Due

May 19-20, 2007

Newberg High School auditorium  
Newberg, OR

Sponsored by the Yamhill and  
Washington County Training Groups

Classes are certified by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training and satisfy the *Tactics* portion of the *Managing Company Tactical Operations for Fire Ground Leaders*. To register or for more information, contact Lt. Alex Haven at 503-537-1230.

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### Home Ignition Zone training workshop

May 15-16, 2007,

Doubletree Hotel-Lloyd Center, Portland, OR

The National Wildland/Urban Interface Program is offering a two-day training workshop on Assessing Wildland Hazards in the Home Ignition Zone. Workshops consist of exercises and discussion covering myths of wildland/urban interface (W/UI) fire, elements of a W/UI disaster, research and case studies, risk factors in the home ignition zone, inspecting the home ignition zone, information necessary to conduct and document assessments and more.

To register online visit <http://register123.com/event/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x324407af23>. You may also download a registration form from their February newsletter by visiting [http://www.firewise.org/resources/files/newsletter\\_february07.pdf](http://www.firewise.org/resources/files/newsletter_february07.pdf).





Chemical of the month by Chris Kuenzi

# Hydrogen Peroxide (H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>)

## Description:

- Colorless liquid with a slightly sharp odor
- Common commercial strengths: 27.5, 35, 50, 90%
- Hazard Class: (5.1) Oxidizer; (8.0) Corrosive; (6.3) Acute Health Hazard
- CAS No.: 7722-84-1
- UN/NA: 2984 (8-20% soln); 2014 (20-52% soln); 2015 (>52% soln)

## NFPA Information (40-60% soln):

- Health: 3
- Flammability: 0
- Reactivity: 1
- Special: OX

## Uses and Occurrences:

- Bleaching and deodorizing of textiles, wood, pulp, hair, fur, etc.
- Plasticizers, rocket fuel, dyeing, electroplating, antiseptic, refining and cleaning metals, bleaching and oxidizing agent in foods, wine distillation, seed disinfectant

## Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Strong oxidizer
- Contact with incompatible materials will cause hazardous decomposition resulting in large quantities of heat, steam, and oxygen gas
- Spontaneously decomposes above 350 °F
- A severe detonation hazard may exist when mixed with organic liquids (kerosene, gasoline, etc.)
- Incompatibles: oxidizable materials, iron, copper, brass, bronze, chromium, zinc, lead, manganese, silver

## Health Hazards:

- Exposure limit: 1.4 mg/m<sup>3</sup> (TWA-OSHA)
- Corrosive to the skin and eyes, resulting in burns and possible permanent damage
- Severely irritating by inhalation
- Ingestion expected to cause burns to the gastrointestinal tract

## Personal Protective Equipment:

- Use chemical splash goggles and face shield
- Use impermeable gloves

- Where splashing is possible, full chemically resistant protective clothing and boots are required
- A respiratory protection program that meets OSHA requirements

## Inspection and Storage Tips:

- Do not store near combustibles
- Recommended container materials: rigid PVC, polyethylene, polypropylene
- Do not confine in unvented vessels or between closed valves due to risk of overpressure from decomposition
- Residual hydrogen peroxide, allowed to dry on organic materials (paper, fabrics, cotton, leather, wood, etc.), can ignite and result in fire

## IFC Information:

- Oxidizer: Class 2 (27.5-52% soln), Class 3 (52-91% soln), Class 4 (>91% soln)
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per S occupancy control area (Oxidizer Class 3):
  - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 10 gallons
  - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 20 gallons
  - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 20 gallons
  - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 40 gallons
- For storage quantities exceeding MAQ for S occupancy, the storage facility must conform to H-2 or H-3 requirements

## Incident Reporting and Information:

- There are 118 facilities in Oregon currently reporting hydrogen peroxide on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- There have been 10 hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986 involving hydrogen peroxide

Chris Kuenzi is a Community Planning Coordinator in the OSFM Community Right to Know unit. He can be reached at 503-373-1540 ext. 214 or [chris.kuenzi@state.or.us](mailto:chris.kuenzi@state.or.us)

## In memoriam

### Jerald "Jim" St. Clair

1932-2007

St. Clair began as a volunteer with the Beaverton Fire Department in 1959. He was eventually hired on as a career firefighter. St. Clair spent 35 years serving the department and the community. He retired as Captain in 1993.

## Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial ceremony

The Oregon Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony will be held Thursday, May 10, 2007 at 1:00 p.m., at the Oregon Public Safety Academy, 4190 Aumsville Hwy. SE, Salem, Oregon.

The ceremony honors those who have given their lives in the performance of their duties.

For more information, contact Academy Operations Supervisor Maria Ahrendt at 503-378-4398 or email [maria.ahrendt@state.or.us](mailto:maria.ahrendt@state.or.us).



Office of State Fire Marshal  
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## Unclassifieds

### For sale

Scott Air packs; 14 complete packs, 12 spare bottles, and 52 masks. Complete package price \$9,100. Single kit containing one pack, spare bottle and mask priced at \$650 obo. For more information, contact Gaston Rural Fire Department at 503-985-7575.

### Position openings

Fire Chief – City of Corvallis, Oregon. Application materials available on the city's website at [www.ci.corvallis.or.us](http://www.ci.corvallis.or.us). Application deadline is Friday, April 20, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Assistant City Manager Ellen Volmert at 541-766-6902 or email [ellen.volmert@ci.corvallis.or.us](mailto:ellen.volmert@ci.corvallis.or.us).

Firefighter/Paramedic - City of Newberg, Oregon. Applications available at [www.ci.newberg.or.us](http://www.ci.newberg.or.us) or by contacting the Newberg Fire Department at 503-537-1230. Application deadline is Friday, April 5, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.