



GATED WYE

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State FIRE NET upgrade nears completion

More than 21 radio antenna sites throughout the state have been upgraded to meet federal standards and improve the reliability of the State FIRE NET communication system.

The system is designed to provide a common communication channel for fire service use during multiple-agency responder incidents such as a conflagration.

Upgrading the 23 mountain-top microwave base stations and a master console meets federal digital transmission standards and improves the State FIRE NET as an effective radio communication network to provide:

- two-way communication statewide on a mutual radio frequency,
- a system of radio communication directly to Salem,
- the ability for incident commanders to provide updates and send requests for

additional resources directly to the State Fire Marshal Emergency Response Center.

Additional planned upgrades to the FIRE NET system will:

- reduce costs by replacing outdated equipment for which parts are no longer available,
- allow radio communications to meet the Federal Communications Commission mandate for narrow band frequencies to be fully operable by the year 2013,
- increase communication ability with collaborative agencies and local fire service jurisdictions currently using narrow band communications,
- increase channel capacity.

For more information, contact Chief Deputy Randy Simpson at 503-373-1540, ext. 216 or email randy.simpson@state.or.us.

2007 Oregon Fire Code now available

Printed copies of the 2007 edition of the Oregon Fire Code are now available. This year, the Oregon Fire Code is available as a complete document, as opposed to past years when Oregon amendments were inserted into the International Fire Code. This change reduces the cost of the code to members of the fire service. Amendments only are also posted on the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) website at http://www.oregon.gov/OOHS/SFM/docs/Codes/Propamendments/amendments_2007_OFCDoc.doc.

Binder covers of the Oregon Fire Code and the State Building Code reflect a common design. Both codes are effective April 1, 2007.

For locations to purchase the new code book visit the OSFM website at http://www.oregon.gov/OOHS/SFM/Codes_2_New.shtml. For questions or more information, contact Deputy State Fire Marshal John Caul at 503-373-1540, ext. 269 or email john.caul@state.or.us.

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



“When the fire service gathers together and speaks with one voice, it reinforces the importance of our issues and gains the attention of legislators.”

Oregon’s Joint Fire Service Legislative Committee dedicated to firefighters and citizen safety

Oregon’s Joint Fire Service Legislative Committee (JFSLC) works many hours on behalf of Oregon’s firefighters and the safety of all Oregonians, yet few people know the important role they perform during legislative sessions.

The JFSLC provides a forum for fire service representatives to identify common ground and develop consensus regarding the most significant bills before the legislature containing issues important to members of the fire service statewide.

Members of the JFSLC represent a wide range of fire service and public safety organizations including career and volunteer firefighters, rural and urban fire departments and districts, the Oregon Fire Marshals Association, the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, the Oregon Fire District Directors Association, the Oregon State Firefighter Council, the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training and the Oregon Fire Medical Administrators Association.

The chair of the committee alternates annually between the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) and the Oregon Fire District Directors Association (OFDDA). Lake Oswego Fire Chief and OFCA member Ed Wilson is chair of the committee for 2007. Ed is assisted by lobbyists Ken Armstrong and Genoa Ingram who serve crucial roles as our ‘eyes and ears’ in the Senate and House.

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State Fire Marshal
Nancy Orr

Office of
State Fire Marshal

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

www.sfm.state.or.us
503-373-1540

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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. 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.

Committee

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This year the JFSLC is working toward passage of Oregon's fire-safer cigarette bill and expects to support the ethics package anticipated to be brought before the Legislative Assembly by the Oregon Law Commission.

I cannot overstate the important role the JFSLC serves during the legislative process. When the fire service gathers together and speaks with one voice, it reinforces the importance of our issues and gains the attention of legislators. Please join me in thanking those who serve on the committee. They are working hard to improve the safety of Oregonians and our dedicated firefighters.

HMEP grant applications due May 15, 2007

The application deadline for federal fiscal year 07/08 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness grants is May 15, 2007.

Grant funds are available to Oregon state and local agencies involved in hazardous materials planning, prevention and response training activities. Eligible agencies include local emergency management agencies, fire districts, fire departments, training associations, law enforcement, emergency medical services, hospitals, public works and other public sector agencies. There is a 25% match requirement for HMEP funding.

Application packets may be downloaded at http://www.oregon.gov/OOHS/SFM/HMEP_Synop.shtml or by calling Terry Wolfe at 503-373-1540, ext. 219. Send completed application packets to Terry Wolfe, Office of State Fire Marshal, 4760 Portland Rd. NE, Salem, OR 97305.

Invitation for annual Sparky awards nominations

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is accepting nominations for the 2006 Golden and Silver Sparky awards. Nomination forms are available online at http://www.oregon.gov/OOHS/SFM/docs/Administration/Sparky_2006_Nom.doc or by calling Laura Drager at 503-373-1540, ext. 211 or email laura.drager@state.or.us. The nomination deadline is March 30, 2007.

Submit completed forms with an explanation and examples of your nominee's achievements and contributions to preventing fires and fire losses in Oregon.

Send forms to Chief Deputy Randy Simpson by mail to OSFM or email randy.simpson@state.or.us. Awards will be presented May 18, 2007 at the Oregon Fire Service Meritorious Awards banquet.

OFMA Roundup scheduled for March in Pendleton

The Oregon Fire Marshals Association (OFMA) is hosting two days of training March 20-22, 2007 at the Wild Horse Resort and Casino in Pendleton, Oregon. The Pendleton location was selected at the request of OFMA members.

Training sessions include:

- Company inspection
- Fire investigation and natural gas issues
- Wildland and structure fire investigation
- Effective report writing
- Fire scene documentation

For more information, contact Michelle Stevens at 541-776-6114, ext. 272 or email michelle.stevens@state.or.us. To register, contact Kim Coxen at 503-618-2242.

A voice from the fire service

Proof - station tours work



by Captain/Training Officer Nicco Holt,
Rogue River Rural Fire Protection District

This past November, a local Head Start group came through our station in Rogue River for their annual tour. One member of the group was a 4-year-old girl who was so timid last year that she needed to be carried through the station for the entire tour.

This year she was still on the timid side but she was able to work up the courage to approach a firefighter in full gear and to get in the trucks. She also evidently listened during the fire safety talk when I stressed the importance of home escape planning and having a meeting place. The fact that her mother joined the tour this year probably helped as well.

A few weeks later, the Head Start organization called me to let me know this little girl's family had a small oven fire over the weekend. The little girl from the station tour was able to share, in great detail, the story of her family's fire and how she "did everything Nicco told me to," including going to her meeting place. This was quite an accomplishment for a small girl who used to be so scared to walk through the station on her own. She was a bit perturbed, however, that I wasn't on duty to come to her fire.

The fire wasn't much - it was confined to the oven and was out on arrival, without any extension to the structure. But the experience for the little girl, and the fact that she knew what to do and where to go, was enormous.

So often, when we're spreading our prevention messages, we don't receive any feedback on whether our efforts are actually producing measurable results. It was nice to hear this little girl's story. I smiled the rest of that day.

So, please keep this incident and the positive outcome in mind the next time you feel station tours might not be worth the effort. Proof that prevention and station tours work!

Wildfire Awareness Week set for May 6-12, 2007

Wildfire Awareness Week (WAW) for 2007 is set for May 6-12. WAW is an opportunity to provide information to local residents and businesses on what they can do to reduce their risk of a wildfire.

Members of the Pacific Northwest Coordinating Group Prevention Working Team are developing materials for use by fire departments statewide to enhance the existing local wildland fire awareness and education efforts in your community. Materials will include radio public service announcements, print ads, posters and other items.

Additional information will be listed on the Office of State Fire Marshal website and appear in future issues of the *Gated Wye* or you may contact Krista Fischer at 503-373-1540, ext. 245 or email krista.fischer@state.or.us.

Fireworks education and safety training in Tacoma

The non-profit Fireworks Education & Safety Training Inc. has scheduled three days of fireworks training April 30 through May 2, 2007 at the Best Western Tacoma Dome hotel.

Training is designed for fire personnel, police officers, ATF agents and pyrotechnicians. Each day of the seminar a different topic will be addressed - outdoor public displays, indoor pyrotechnics and flame effects. Fireworks demonstrations are planned if safety precautions at the venue allow.

The training goal is to improve inspection practices through an increased understanding, analysis of indoor and outdoor pyrotechnic displays prior to permit approval. Training follows National Fire Protection Association 1123, 1126 and 160 guidelines.

To register or for more information, contact Scott Bemer at 319-929-1919, or email scottb@fest.bz; or contact Rick Olsen at 253-307-5118 or email pyro2940@aol.com. Registration deadline is March 15, 2007.

Fire departments asked to submit initial hazmat incident information for HSEES tracking

by Dr. Theodora Tsongas, Oregon Public Health Services Hazardous Substance Emergency Events Surveillance System

Members of Oregon's Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance system (HSEES) are requesting Oregon fire departments submit initial hazardous materials incident information to the Oregon Emergency Response System (OERS). This allows OERS to provide timely information to the HSEES, enhancing the collection and analysis of data to determine how hazmat events and associated injuries occur.

The HSEES system improves evaluation of acute health impacts of hazardous materials incidents and may also serve as an early warning system by detecting similar events, unusual events or clusters of events occurring in various parts of the state. Incident responders may access information from HSEES reports and analysis to use in developing injury and illness prevention policies and assign planning and budgeting priorities.

HSEES staff at Oregon Public Health Services collect hazardous substances event information including location, time, substance released, quantity released, decontamination of persons on scene, orders to evacuate or shelter-in-place, injuries and symptoms, use of personal protective equipment and actions taken to control the release/spill. Staff use this information to develop ways to increase safety among responders, employees and public and decrease the frequency and severity of release/spill incidents.

Reports from OERS and the National Response Center, supplemented by reports from the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and other sources, are used to assist HSEES track possible trends in hazardous material incidents locally and nationwide.

The OSFM and reporting fire departments are essential contributors to the HSEES tracking system. Fire departments can improve the timely data tracking an analysis by rapidly reporting events involving hazardous materials to OERS.

HSEES then receives the OERS report and can get the data into the system quickly. Rapid initial reporting helps identify unusual events and alert responders of a probable increased risk. Timely information also enhances the ability for responders to adjust practices or policy to prevent injuries and illness among responders as well as employees and the public.

The OERS contact number is 1-800-452-0311. For more information, contact Dr. Theodora Tsongas or Jaime Peter at Oregon Public Health Services, Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology Section, Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance System, 503-731-4025 or email theodora.a.tsongas@state.or.us, or jaime.peter@state.or.us.

Important information for departments considering using biodiesel

If your department or agency is considering using biodiesel in its response vehicles, the U.S. General Services Administration website has important information from major vehicle manufacturers. The website contains original equipment manufacturers' (OEM) positions on potential issues associated with the use of fuel additives and/or biodiesel derivatives with new and earlier model vehicles.

The website also contains OEM information regarding new heavy diesel engine emissions regulations by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These regulations mandate 2007 year vehicles use special low ash engine lubricants and ultra low sulfur diesel fuel.

For more information, visit www.gsa.gov/biodiesel.

NVFC releases guide to retention and recruitment

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), in partnership with the U.S. Fire Administration, has released an in-depth guide on retention and recruitment, the two main challenges facing volunteer fire departments and emergency services.

Retention and Recruitment for the Volunteer Emergency Services: Challenges and Solutions (Second Edition) addresses each of the main obstacles departments face regarding retention and recruitment and outlines solutions to overcome these obstacles.

Among the challenges identified and addressed are time demands, training requirements, increasing call volume, changes in the 'nature of the business,' changes in sociological conditions, leadership challenges, federal legislation, internal conflict, higher cost of housing, aging communities and the effects of the decline in volunteers.

The guide may be downloaded free from the NVFC web site at www.nvfc.org.

Candles recalled for fire hazard

Pottery Barn and the Consumer Products Safety Commission have announced a recall of gourd candles. The candles can have excessive flame height and could fail to self-extinguish when burning down to the bottom of the candle.

The candles were sold at Pottery Barn stores nationwide from September 2006 through October 2006 for between \$12 and \$24. Consumers should immediately stop using the candles and return them to Pottery Barn for a full refund.

Pictures and descriptions of the candles may be viewed at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml07/07038.html>, or for more information contact Pottery Barn toll free at 1-888-922-9245 between 7 a.m. and 12 a.m. EDT Monday through Sunday, or visit www.potterybarn.com.

NIMS IS-701 available online

National Incident Management System course IS-701 is now available online and offers training on coordinating components of a multiagency coordination system and how the relationships between system elements are established.

The course is designed for federal, state, local and tribal emergency managers, first responders to include incident commanders from all emergency management disciplines, private industry personnel responsible for coordination activities during a disaster and personnel involved in voluntary organizations active during disasters.

To access the course visit <http://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/is701.asp>. For more information, contact course manager Tom Gilboy at 301-447-1535 or email tom.gilboy@dhs.gov.

New FLSA guide to managing volunteer firefighters published by IAFC

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has released a new publication, *Managing Volunteer Firefighters for FLSA Compliance*, providing guidance to fire chiefs about the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) rules affecting their departments.

The guide is based on a series of rulings issued by the Department of Labor to clearly define the requirements individuals must meet to qualify as volunteer firefighters under FLSA regulations. The IAFC published the brochure as a guide for fire chiefs and community leaders to better manage volunteer firefighters for FLSA compliance.

The FLSA guide is available for purchase through the IAFC's website at www.iafc.org/publications.



Chemical of the month by Chris Kuenzi

Calcium Carbide (CaC_2)

Description:

- Grayish-black, sugar or sand-like solid with garlic odor
- Hazard Class: (4.3) Dangerous When Wet; (8.0) Corrosive; (6.3) Acute Health Hazard
- CAS No.: 75-20-7
- UN/NA: 1402

NFPA Information:

- Health: 3
- Flammability: 3
- Reactivity: 2
- Special: W

Uses and Occurrences:

- Generation of acetylene gas
- Chloroethylenes
- Vinyl acetate monomer
- Acetylene chemicals
- Reducing agent

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Not flammable when dry; forms flammable and explosive acetylene gas when exposed to moisture
- Irritating and toxic gases may be released during a fire
- Use Class "D" extinguishing agents, dry sand, clay, or soda ash to put out fires
- Incompatibles include: water, oxidizers, strong acids, combustible solids, lead fluoride, stannous chloride, sulfur, sodium peroxide, hydrogen chloride gas, selenium, magnesium silver nitrate, and sodium peroxide

Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: 15 mg/m^3 (total dust); 5 mg/m^3 (respirable fraction)
- Acute hazards include irritation at low levels of exposure
- Exposure at higher levels in the presence of moisture may result in severe irritation or burns and tissue damage
- Overexposure by inhalation or ingestion may cause death
- Chronic inhalation exposure can cause respiratory disorders

Personal Protective Equipment:

- Emergency responders must wear self-contained breathing apparatus and full protective equipment
- A full face shield should be worn when handling more than one pound
- Use rubber, neoprene, or polyvinyl chloride gloves; use triple gloves for spill response
- Full-body chemical protective clothing is recommended for emergency response procedures

Inspection and Storage Tips:

- Must be kept dry and away from all forms of moisture
- Keep away from all sources of ignition
- Before entry into a storage area, especially confined space areas or poorly ventilated areas, be sure to monitor for level of acetylene gas

IFC Information:

- Water Reactive Class II
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per S occupancy control area:
 - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 50 lbs
 - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 100 lbs
 - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 100 lbs
 - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 200 lbs
- For storage of quantities exceeding the MAQ for S occupancy, the storage facility must conform to H-3 occupancy requirements

Incident Reporting and Information:

- There are five facilities in Oregon currently reporting calcium carbide on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- There have been four hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986 involving calcium carbide

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

Underwriters Laboratories warns of counterfeit UL marks

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) is warning consumers of unevaluated products bearing counterfeit UL marks. The products are labeled with the name *My Helper* and include extension cords, power strips, surge protectors and current traps.

Visit the UL website at <http://www.ul.com/newsroom/newsrel/nr120406.html> for detailed product descriptions, photos and a list of numbers and date codes printed on the counterfeit holographic labels.

Sprinkler message advertised to thousands of commuters

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue received a grant from the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition to purchase billboard space highlighting the benefit of home fire sprinklers. During December 2006, the billboard was located on Tualatin Valley Highway just east of 185th Ave. where daily traffic volume averages more than 15,000 vehicles.



Photo- Eric McMullen, TVF&R



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4760 Portland Road N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97305-1760