

# GATED WYE

November 2007 . Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal . 4760 Portland Road NE . Salem Oregon 97305-1760 . No. 286

## OSFM's 90 years of service celebrated

More than 200 fire and public safety personnel, along with representatives from the Governor's office, the Oregon military department and other state agencies, turned out for the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration October 23, 2007. Attendees toured OSFM unit offices to learn more about the agency's programs and meet the employees who carry out the agency mission and goals.

In the afternoon, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue retired Division Chief and bagpiper Tim Birr, led attendees to the presentation ceremony where State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr presented former state fire marshals Robert Garrison and Olin Greene with State Fire Marshal Emeritus identification badges.

Statements were given by former State Fire Marshal Olin Greene, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Chief Jeff Johnson and Governor Kulongoski's Policy Advisor for Public Safety Joe O'Leary. Concluding the ceremony, Oregon State Police Superintendent Tim McLain presented SFM Orr with a framed historical timeline of the agency.



*Oregon State Police Superintendent Tim McLain presents a framed 90-year historical timeline to State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr*



*Left to right: Salem Fire Department Deputy Chief Joe Parrott, Jefferson Fire District Public Information Officer Elaine Parrott, Lebanon Fire District Chief Perry Palmer and Assistant Chief Dan Woodson and Jefferson Fire District Chief Don Bemrose at OSFM's 90th Anniversary reception*

# From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



**“Foremost, we must protect FIPT revenues. Then we must focus resources on strategic fuel mitigation to contain wildfires before homes are in peril.”**

## California wildfires – can Oregon keep from being next?

In my time with the Oregon fire service, I’ve never witnessed wildfires having such a devastating and heartbreaking impact on families and communities than the recent fires in southern California.

When watching such destruction, it’s natural for Oregonians to wonder if it will happen here. Given Oregon’s continued population expansion and increased building in wildfire prone areas, it’s a valid concern. However, many entities are collaborating on mitigation, education and funding to reduce the incidence and cost of wildfires in Oregon.

OSFM staff are working diligently with members of the structural fire service, the League of Oregon Cities, the insurance industry, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and other stakeholders on three significant issues related to the impact of wildfires:

- Address strategic fuel mitigation
- Establish a dedicated fund for the costs of Governor-declared Conflagrations and other mobilizations
- Clarify the Fire Insurance Premium Tax (FIPT) statute and protect FIPT funds for fire prevention, firefighter training and arson prosecution

The ODF’s Forestland Reclassification Committee, with representatives from the structural fire service, timber industry and other stakeholders, is concluding a review of how the state classifies forest lands. This includes an extensive statute review and evaluation of Forestry’s property owner assessments for wildland firefighting.

Foremost, we must protect FIPT revenues. Then we must focus resources on strategic fuel mitigation to contain wildfires before homes are in peril. There will never be - as was proved in southern California - enough money, firefighters and air resources to save homes at risk today or five years from today, unless we pre-plan and provide strategic containment lines.



**State Fire Marshal  
Nancy Orr**

**Office of  
State Fire Marshal**

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

[www.oregon.gov/osp/sfm/](http://www.oregon.gov/osp/sfm/)  
**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](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).

## ***play safe! be safe!*® training scheduled for February**

**T**he Hillsboro Fire Department and Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal are sponsoring a *play safe! be safe!* fire education workshop February 29, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Hillsboro Civic Center Complex in Hillsboro, Oregon.

The workshop, presented by Dr. Robert Cole, Associate Professor of Clinical Nursing at the University of Rochester, explores children's perception of fire, the limits of their ability to understand potential risk of fire and its consequences. The *play safe! be safe!* program is a multimedia fire safety education program created especially for children ages three to five. It teaches children the basics of fire prevention and how to respond to specific fire situations.

All workshop participants will receive a *play safe! be safe!* kit. Trainers will receive additional kits for distribution, training slides, notes and a resource list. The training, made possible through a grant from the Department of Homeland Security, is free to the first 100 early childhood educators to register.

Registration forms are available at [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Comm\\_Ed/Training/PSBS\\_regis\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Comm_Ed/Training/PSBS_regis_FINAL.pdf). Fax completed registration forms to 503-373-1825.

For more information, contact Dee Anna Morgan at 503-373-1540 ext. 416 or email [dee.anna.morgan@state.or.us](mailto:dee.anna.morgan@state.or.us).

## **Statewide seismic needs report includes fire departments and districts**

**O**regon Department of Geology & Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) has completed a statewide seismic needs assessment of Oregon's education and emergency services buildings and includes 143 city police and fire departments and 191 rural fire protection agencies. Buildings are scored and ranked for their probability of collapse in a maximum considered

earthquake. The report also includes an analysis of the relative risk of tsunami inundation at 150 sites along the Oregon coast.

The seismic needs assessment is part of a multi-decade process aimed at improving the life safety of Oregonians from the risks associated with earthquakes and is the first step in creating a granting program to help communities seismically rehabilitate eligible public buildings such as schools and fire stations.

Oregon fire departments and districts can look up their score and ranking by visiting <http://www.oregongeology.com/sub/projects/rvs/county/county-sites.htm>. For questions or more information, contact DOGAMI Earth Sciences Information Officer James Roddey at 971-673-1543 or email [james.roddey@state.or.us](mailto:james.roddey@state.or.us).

## **OSFM seeks to award Children's Fire Safety House**

**T**he Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is requesting applications from Oregon fire departments interested in taking possession of OSFM's mobile Children's Fire Safety House (CFSH). Since 1991, the CFSH has been used to educate thousands of school children across the state.



Applications are available online at <http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/CFSH.shtml> and may be faxed to 503-373-1825 or mailed to OSFM at 4760 Portland Road NE, Salem, OR 97305. Application deadline is 5 p.m., December 31, 2007.

To request a mailed application or for more information, contact Dee Anna Morgan at 503-373-1540 ext. 416, or email [dee.anna.morgan@state.or.us](mailto:dee.anna.morgan@state.or.us).

## Multi-Hazard House available for loan

The Office of State Fire Marshal has available a new Multi-Hazard House trailer for loan to Oregon fire departments and districts. The mobile prop is an educational aid allowing participants to learn and practice:

- fire prevention,
- fire safety,
- calling 9-1-1,
- correct smoke alarm response,
- safe exiting procedures, and
- disaster and severe weather safety skills.

The prop may also be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of a home fire sprinkler system.

For more information, visit [http://](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Multi_Hazard_House.shtml)

[www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Multi\\_Hazard\\_House.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Multi_Hazard_House.shtml) or to reserve the Multi-Hazard House, contact Dee Anna Morgan at 503-373-1540 ext. 416 or email [dee.anna.morgan@state.or.us](mailto:dee.anna.morgan@state.or.us).

## Training available for community door-to-door smoke alarm program

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is hosting a workshop January 17, 2008 for Oregon fire service members on conducting community door-to-door smoke alarm campaigns. The two-hour (10:00 a.m. – noon) workshop will be held at the OSFM office in Salem and will cover implementation of all phases of the model community door-to-door smoke alarm campaign kit developed by OSFM in partnership with the Oregon Life Safety Team.

Community-based door-to-door smoke alarm campaigns have proven to be an effective method in reaching residents who haven't responded to previous education efforts to change attitudes and behaviors regarding proper smoke alarm maintenance and home fire safety.

In 2006, of the 18 fire fatalities in Oregon homes where smoke alarm presence and performance were known, eight (44%), died in homes without a smoke alarm or without a

working smoke alarm. These households continue to suffer a disproportionate number of fire deaths in our state. The community door-to-door smoke alarm workshop and accompanying campaign kit will give departments the tools necessary to conduct their own campaigns contributing to a reduction in fire deaths, injury and property loss statewide.

The community door-to-door smoke alarm campaign kit includes step-by-step instructions for campaign planning, recruiting community partners, campaign implementation and evaluation as well as material templates. Workshop attendees will be familiarized with the elements of the kit, learn to identify steps of a successful campaign and develop an action plan for conducting their own community door-to-door smoke alarm campaign.

The workshop is free. To register or for more information, contact Colleen Olson at 503-373-1540 ext. 228 or email [colleen.olson@state.or.us](mailto:colleen.olson@state.or.us).

## USFA and IAFC issue first responder sleep deprivation report

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) and the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) have available a report on *The Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Fire Fighters and EMS Responders*. The report is based on a review of fatigue and sleep deprivation in other industries and features applications to the fire and emergency services as appropriate, along with useful mitigation strategies. A resource section is included.

The report is a result of a partnership between the IAFC and USFA, with assistance from Oregon Health & Science University. In addition to the report, a self-guided, computer-based training program is available.

The full report and related training materials are available at [www.iafc.org/sleep](http://www.iafc.org/sleep). Information may also be found on the USFA website at [www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/sleep\\_deprivation.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/research/safety/sleep_deprivation.shtm).

## Multi-family housing fire reduction training receives kudos

Oregon fire service members from around the state recently attended an OSFM hosted train-the-trainer workshop designed to assist fire departments looking to provide fire and life safety training to apartment managers. The training, presented by Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Public Education and Media Services Manager Joanne Hatch and Assistant Fire Marshal Kate Stoller, received positive comments from attendees:

- "I highly recommend this training," says Klamath County Fire District #1 Deputy Fire Marshal Scott Rice. "The information and materials will fit nicely with our current smoke alarm program and give apartment managers crucial information, increasing the fire safety of their renters."
- "The training was great, I am recommending our two fire inspectors take this training as well," says Albany Fire Marshal II Wanda Omdahl. "This is a great program designed to enlist landlords in our fire prevention efforts."
- "The materials and information are a great resource for me in developing landlord information packets to distribute," states Pendleton Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal Tyler Nokes.

A second training is scheduled for Spring 2008. Details will be published in the Gated Wye as they are available. For more information about the training, contact Dee Anna Morgan at 503-373-1540 ext. 416 or email [dee.anna.morgan@state.or.us](mailto:dee.anna.morgan@state.or.us).

## Applications available for the Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship Program

Applications are now being accepted for the 2008 Harvard Fire Executive Fellowship Program. Eight senior fire executives will be awarded fellowships to attend Harvard's annual *Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government*. The 3-week program is conducted on the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Selected Fellows will attend one of the two session dates: June 8-27, 2008 or July 6-25, 2008. Fellows must be available to attend either session.

The program is sponsored through a partnership between the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Fire Service Training Association/Fire Protection Publications, the National Fire Protection Association and the Department of Homeland Security - United States Fire Administration. Each organization will fund the tuition costs of two individuals for a total of eight fellowships.

Applicants are responsible for travel costs to the final interview process (scheduled for April 16, 2008) in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and if selected, also to Cambridge. Housing will be provided at the National Emergency Training Center for the interview process in April. Fellows are expected to continue their professional contributions to fire and emergency services in light of their state and local program experience. Application deadline is February 11, 2008.

For more information, visit <http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/nfa/higher%5Fed/degree%5Fprograms/harvard/> or for questions regarding application procedures, contact Kathleen Carter 301-447-1349 or email [kathleen.carter@dhs.gov](mailto:kathleen.carter@dhs.gov).

## A voice from the fire service

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by Carey Chaput, Volunteer  
Firefighter and Office Manager  
for Applegate Fire District #9



### Evacuation lessons learned from the Humbug Creek fire

**P**ublic panic is not what you want during a wildfire. However, preventing that panic through strategic preparation and emergency planning of a community for early and safe evacuation is a great challenge. That's why I was pleased to help fight the Humbug Creek fire from the Applegate Fire District headquarters office instead of responding in a fire truck.

Don't get me wrong, there are few things more thrilling than putting all those hours of training to use by facing a fire head-on; but now I had the opportunity to help my community in a different way, attempting to prevent confusion and panic among the community as the Humbug Creek fire raced towards homes and other private property.

The Humbug Creek fire started July 22, 2007. Applegate Fire District #9 was first on scene, followed by units from the Oregon Department of Forestry. The fire quickly outflanked hose lines and spread north/northeast as it grew to 70 acres. As Applegate Fire requested a second alarm it became time to consider pre-evacuation notices.

In the initial stages of command, I was able to get the latest information out to neighborhoods using our pre-established phone tree system. In many instances I was able to call the neighborhood phone tree leader who in turn, called two or three others, who then called several more residents and so on. This was an effective way to deliver necessary information and reduce calls to our station headquarters.

**Lesson learned: Phone tree systems work. Set them up for neighborhoods in your community.**

As the fire reached 100 acres and pushed towards a residential area, an evacuation notice was issued. Using the phone tree, email and other communications provided me with a way to help

residents prioritize their evacuation planning. Do they have pets? Have they arranged how to transport them and where to take them? What other important items do they need when evacuating?

**Lesson learned: Help residents prioritize their evacuation plans.**

For most residents, the fire was not an immediate threat, so as I was communicating fire updates, I also had a great opportunity to inform homeowners about actions they could take to improve their survivability such as remove flammable items next to the home; close doors and windows; turn on house lights; charge your garden hoses and turn off natural gas to the home.

**Lesson learned: Take every opportunity to educate homeowners on steps they can take to improve their homes' survivability during a wildfire.**

Through the hard work and collaboration of all agencies involved, the Humbug Creek fire was contained the next day, after burning 150 acres and putting a scare into many homeowners. Post fire debriefing provided us with another teachable moment. At a follow-up public meeting we summarized events and gathered community feedback. Residents asked questions and left with a better understanding of the dangers of living in wildfire-prone areas. Fire and law enforcement officials also encouraged continued use of the neighborhood phone tree communication system. Attendees were also urged to create and practice a home fire escape plan and conduct a property assessment for future fuel reduction.

**Lesson learned: Any community meeting can be used as an emergency preparedness planning meeting whether before a fire or after. Public meetings also provide a terrific opportunity to get to know your constituents and let them know how proud you are to serve their (your) community.**

I encourage all departments to get involved in their local fire prevention cooperative and get involved in your community. Hold wildfire preparedness meetings whenever and wherever you can, the school, grange hall and civic clubs. The more you communicate and reach out to your community the better.



## Fuel Ethanol ED85

### Description:

- Synonym: Ethanol E85
- Mixture of 80% ethanol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH) and 20% gasoline
- Clear colorless liquid with an ethereal odor
- May contain small amounts of other additives such as benzene
- Flash point is -20° F to -4° F
- LEL: 1.4%; UEL: 19.0%
- Hazard Class: (3.1) Flammable liquid (flash point less than 0°F); (6.3) Acute Health Hazard; (6.4) Chronic Health Hazard
- UN/NA: 1987
- CAS No.: Mixture

### NFPA Information:

- Health: 1
- Flammability: 3
- Reactivity: 0
- Special: none

### Uses and Occurrences:

- Used as a fuel in specially built vehicles

### Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Extremely flammable liquid and vapors
- Vapors can travel along surfaces to distant ignition sources and flash back
- Flame may be invisible
- Sensitive to static discharge
- Water may be ineffective in extinguishing but can be used to cool exposed surfaces
- Make sure all equipment is electrically grounded before transferring chemical

### Health Hazards:

- Exposure limit: OSHA (PEL): Not given for mixture
- Eye contact may cause mild to severe irritation
- Prolonged inhalation may cause headache, dizziness, nausea and impaired vision. High concentrations can cause central nervous system depression, loss of consciousness and death.

### Personal Protective Equipment:

- Firefighters should wear SCBA and full protective clothing

- For normal use, wear goggles, gloves, clothing appropriate to prevent chemical from contacting eyes and skin
- Local exhaust ventilation is preferred
- Above allowed limits, appropriate respiratory protection should be used

### Inspection and Storage Tips:

- Keep away from heat, open flames, strong oxidizers or other sources of ignition
- Product should not be used as a solvent because of its flammable and toxic properties

### IFC Information:

- Boiling point: 96° F to 170° F. This overlaps between Flammable Liquid Class 1A and 1B, MAQs are given for Class 1A
- Maximum allowable quantities (MAQ) per S occupancy control area:
  - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 30 gallons
  - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 60 gallons
  - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 60 gallons
  - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 120 gallons
- For storage of quantities exceeding the MAQ for S occupancy, the storage facility must conform to H-2 occupancy requirements

### Incident Reporting and Information:

- There are approximately three facilities reporting Fuel Ethanol ED85 (E85) on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- There have been no hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986 involving Fuel Ethanol ED85

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Have a chemical of the month request?  
Contact Alec Carte



Alec Carte is a HazMat Information Specialist in the OSFM Community Right to Know unit. She can be reached at 503-373-1540 ext. 262, or email [aleta.carte@state.or.us](mailto:aleta.carte@state.or.us)

## In memoriam

**Gerald Brown**  
1927 - 2007

The Jefferson Rural Fire Protection District is sad to announce the passing of Director Gerald (Jerry) Brown. Brown proudly served the Jefferson Fire District as a District Director since July 18, 1996. He was very fond of the fire service and enjoyed all of the friends and acquaintances he met while attending various fire service conferences around the state. Jerry touched the hearts and lives of all whose paths he crossed, never met a stranger, was happy to share an amusing anecdote, always willing to reach a hand out to those in need. He will truly be missed by the staff, board, volunteers, and the entire community of Jefferson.

Donations in Jerry's honor may be made to the Jefferson Rural Fire District, PO Box 911, Jefferson, OR 97352; or the Greater Jefferson Community Center, 207 N. Main St., Jefferson, OR 97352.

## Unclassifieds

### Position opening

Hillsboro Fire Department is hiring 12 to 15 firefighters (paramedics desired). Application packets are available online at [www.ci.hillsboro.or.us](http://www.ci.hillsboro.or.us). Applications deadline is 5:00 p.m., November 30, 2007. For more information, contact the human resources department at 503-681-6455.

### For sale

3500 gallon tender; 1972 Ford PTO pump; 534 cubic inch gas engine; 5 speed transmission/4 speed aux box; all good faith offers considered. For more information, call Mill City RFPD at 503-897-2390. Bids must be submitted by November 12, 2007.



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