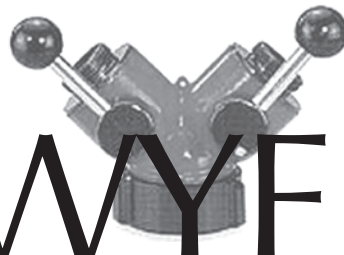


GATED WYE



June 2008 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 293

Golden and Silver Sparky Awards

Oregon State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr presented Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R) Deputy Fire Marshal Eric McMullen and Retired TVF&R Deputy Division Chief Tim Birr with the Golden and Silver Sparky awards respectively, during the Oregon Fire Service Meritorious Awards banquet, May 16 at the Portland Expo Center.



Golden Sparky award recipient TVF&R Deputy Fire Marshal Eric McMullen with State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr

McMullen was recognized with the Golden Sparky for his tireless pursuit of improvements to Oregon Fire and Building Codes and leading a home fire sprinkler initiative that will allow communities to choose residential fire sprinklers as part of their fire protection infrastructure. As a member of the Oregon Fire Code Committee for more than 10 years, his efforts have been instrumental in adopting a state fire code that meets Oregon's needs while maintaining national consistency.



Silver Sparky award recipient Retired TVF&R Deputy Division Chief Tim Birr with State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr

Birr was recognized for the thousands of hours he has voluntarily committed to fire protection and prevention efforts on behalf of Oregonians. He is a leading member of the Oregon Fire Safety Coalition and worked to help pass Oregon's Fire-Safer Cigarette law. Birr has also committed his time and effort to develop and present testimony, attend meetings and work to gain support for the residential sprinkler initiative in Oregon.

OSFM Incident Communication Unit receives award

Oregon Fire Chiefs Association President Greg Keller presented the 2008 Public Service Award to the Oregon State Fire Marshal Incident Communication Unit (ICU) at the recent Meritorious Awards banquet in Portland.

Members of the ICU were recognized for their efforts in establishing interoperable communications during governor-declared conflagrations and their crucial work during the Vernonia Flood.



From left: Incident Communication Unit Project Manager Bruce Bjerke, State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr and Assistant Communication Unit Leader Rick Iverson with the Public Service Award

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



“As members of the fire service, we have unique opportunities to demonstrate value to our customers through our partnerships and collaboration in delivering cost effective public safety services.”

Improving the price of government

As part of the Department of State Police, the Office of State Fire Marshal is undergoing a shift in how we develop budgets and create and manage programs. We are changing from old government budget models of just adding money to the previous budget to cover inflation and workload increases, to a new model based on outcomes.

Outcome-based budgeting forces us to look at the results citizens want, not at the programs and agencies we want to fund.

A recent book by David Osborne & Peter Hutchinson, *The Price of Government*, provides excellent guideposts to develop more efficient and responsive governance at all levels. The authors state there is no ‘right’ price for government, any more than there is a ‘right’ price for breakfast cereal or laundry detergent. There is an acceptable price, however, and finding that acceptable price is the job of elected officials.

Citizens don’t just want lower costs and ‘cheap government.’ They constantly demand more outcomes from government, but at a relatively fixed price; in effect, pressing for more value each year for the dollars they pay.

As members of the fire service, we have unique opportunities to demonstrate value to our customers through our partnerships and collaboration in delivering cost-effective public safety services.

We plan to continue this process and I encourage all Oregon fire departments and districts to contact us with proposals and ideas on how we can improve customer value and focus our attention on buying better results for Oregon citizens.



**State Fire Marshal
Nancy Orr**

**Office of
State Fire Marshal**

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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.

Public hearing scheduled for proposed code consistency rule revision

A public hearing regarding the Office of State Fire Marshal's proposed revisions to Oregon Administrative Rule *Chapter 837, Division 039 Administration of Fire Prevention Programs* is scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2008, at 1:00 p.m. at the state fire marshal office in Salem. The proposed rule revision requires a standardization of certification and training for Oregon fire officials who administer and enforce fire codes.

Following is an overview of the history and proposed changes regarding fire code administration and enforcement requirements.

Overview

In 2003, the Governor's Fire Service Policy Council created a task force to investigate complaints by building industry members concerning inconsistent application of the fire code.

After investigation, the task force and council agreed inconsistent application of the fire code was a statewide problem. Current administrative rules governing administration of fire prevention programs for both exempt and non-exempt jurisdictions were formulated decades ago.

These rules were vague rules and rarely enforced. This led to three significant weaknesses:

- 1) The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) was inadequately training 'assistants' commensurate with the authority given them through the statute and there was minimal oversight by OSFM staff.
- 2) The liability risk was (and is) high for local officials, who, absent a scope of practice and competency standards, operate under significantly varied levels of training and certification.
- 3) Incompetent and inconsistent code administration and enforcement was widespread, causing significant frustration and cost to Oregon businesses, school districts and others.

Status

To address these problems, the OSFM is filing the second of two major revisions to the administrative rules governing administration of fire prevention programs by local governments.

2005—First Rule Revision

The first rule revision, effective December 2007, raised the competency requirements for fire officials who provide plan review input to the building official. It also established minimum training expectations of local fire officials who, by statute, are 'assistants to the State Fire Marshal.'

2008—Second Rule Revision

The second rule revision proposes to raise the competency requirements for fire officials who administer and enforce fire codes. The competency standards build on the NFPA standards for fire prevention officers.

For more information on competency levels, rule revisions and answers to frequently asked questions, visit http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Fire_Life_Safety/Competency_Recog/OAR_Rule_Clarification.pdf. If you would like additional clarification, contact Mary Olson at 503-373-1540 ext. 251 or email mary.olson@state.or.us.

Fireworks media event scheduled for June 23

The Office of State Fire Marshal, in partnership with Clackamas County Fire District #1, Portland Fire and Rescue and the Oregon Parks Department, will hold a fireworks safety media event at 9:30 a.m. at the Clackamas County Fire District #1 Regional Training Center.

The event includes a fireworks demonstration with a focus on the proper use of legal fireworks, general fireworks safety and identifying fireworks illegal in Oregon.

For more information, contact Sharon Kraw at 503-373-1540 ext. 285 or email sharon.kraw@state.or.us.

State Fire Marshal Orr receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Oregon Fire Chiefs Association President Greg Keller presented State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr with the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association Lifetime Achievement Award at the Oregon Fire Service Meritorious Awards banquet, May 16 at the Portland Expo Center.

State Fire Marshal Orr was recognized for her 20 years of service with the Office of State Fire Marshal where she has served as chief deputy and manager of Fire and Life Safety Services. Orr also served as the fire safety education coordinator and the OSFM public information officer.

Prior to joining the OSFM, Orr was a fire prevention officer with the Hillsboro and Albany fire departments.

“As state fire marshal, Nancy has provided communities with world-class public education resources; brought the state Urban Search and Rescue Task Force to full operational readiness, and implemented training and standards to ensure competent and consistent fire code administration,” said OFCA President Greg Keller. “She accomplished these goals with efficiency and with tremendous grace.”

Parents can be held liable for fireworks fire suppression costs

Did you know Oregon Revised Statute 480.158 holds parents of minors liable for cost of suppression of fireworks fires caused by minors?

In addition to any other remedy provided by law, Oregon statute specifically states the parent or parents of an unemancipated minor shall be liable for costs incurred by a public fire agency in suppressing fireworks fires caused by a minor child. An exception applies to parents without legal custody of the minor child at the time of the fire.

This law allows charging for damages up to \$5,000, payable to the same department, whether it is for one or more acts.

Fire departments pursuing a claim for suppression costs must name parents as the defendants, along with the minor child. For more information, contact Anita Phillips at 503-373-1540 ext. 264 or email anita.phillips@state.or.us.

For full text of the ORS, visit <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/480.html>.

Bend and Portland announce new fire chiefs

The city of Portland announced John Klum as the next Fire Chief of Portland Fire & Rescue, replacing retiring Chief Dave Sprando. Chief Klum began as a firefighter and rose to the position of fire marshal in 2004. He has served as captain of the Hazardous Materials Team, a member of the Strategic Planning Task Force and held several other key positions before being appointed fire marshal for the city of Portland.

The city of Bend announced Bend Deputy Chief of Logistics Larry Huhn as the new fire chief of Bend Fire & Rescue, replacing Chief Larry Langston who is retiring after 14 years with the department. Huhn joined Bend Fire & Rescue in 1983 as an engineer/firefighter. He has previously served as captain, battalion chief and deputy chief.

Oregon fire departments receive Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants

by Donna Disch, OSFM Senior Policy Analyst

City of Gladstone Fire and EMS and city of Salem Fire Department are receiving federal Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grants for seismic upgrades. The PDM program provides funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, communities, and universities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects prior to a disaster.

Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from disaster declarations. PDM grants are awarded on a competitive basis and without reference to state allocations, quotas, or other formula-based allocation of funds.

“It’s all based on cost-benefit,” explains Gladstone Fire Marshal Mike Funk. “We don’t have the money for a new fire station, but we need to protect our equipment so we’re operational during a disaster.”

The city of Gladstone has a natural hazard plan, a requirement to qualify for federal PDM funding. Gladstone identified seismic upgrades to their fire station as a priority. The city’s fire funding provided a 25% match needed as part of their capital improvement plan. They’ll receive \$158,567 in PDM funds.

Fire Marshal Funk said they hired Ken Gottle from California to help with the seismic survey and cost-benefit analysis required as part of the application process. Funk also credits the leadership of Gladstone Police Chief Frank Grace for his leadership in hazard planning for the community.

Gladstone made several attempts the past three years before they were awarded the grant. Assistance in the grant process came from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Clackamas County Emergency Services’ Cindy Kolomachuck, who worked with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to gather earthquake information. Funk also

emphasized the alignment of Gladstone’s Hazard Mitigation Plan with Clackamas County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan.

In addition to facility readiness, Funk points out department personnel have completed National Incident Management System training and citizen volunteers are prepared to take care of the Gladstone community.

“It’s not if, but when,” says Funk regarding the likelihood of the community’s chances of experiencing an event that could take emergency services out of commission. “This provides us with the tools to take care of our community.”

Salem Fire Marshal Joe Parrott also tells the tale of hiring Salem Public Works Project Manager David Cook to provide the expertise needed to produce the cost-benefit analysis required to qualify for a PDM grant. Information detailing the value of contents, apparatus, and cost of relocation should the facility be damaged, all factored into the formula. The savings of a seismic upgrade outweighed the potential loss of the contents and structure or the cost of a new facility.

Fire Marshal Parrott says the seismic upgrades are expected to be complete by September 2009. Salem will receive \$1,037,250 with matching fund contributions of \$345,761, provided by bonds, to complete upgrades consisting primarily of sheering walls and roof ties. Salem’s retrofit will allow personnel to occupy buildings immediately after a seismic event.

“It cost \$25,000 to put the grant together,” advises Fire Marshal Parrott. “With all honesty, it takes folks who know the engineering side and we’re lucky to have someone in Salem Public Works with the skills we needed.”

For more information about PDM grants, visit: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/index.shtm>.

Multi-family housing fire reduction training scheduled

The Oregon Life Safety Team, in partnership with the Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue (TVF&R), is hosting a train-the-trainer workshop covering TVF&R's award-winning Multi-Family Housing Fire Reduction Program. Training is scheduled for June 19, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the OSFM building in Salem, Oregon.

The train-the-trainer program is designed to assist fire departments in providing fire and life safety training for apartment managers. Materials and topics include:

- research information on why the program was started
- all elements of the Multi-Family Housing Fire Reduction training
- tips on implementing the program in your community
- related training materials
- pre- and post-program evaluations
- survey information on the program
- landlord and tenant roles in maintaining working smoke alarms
- fire and human behavior in multi-family properties
- recognizing fire hazards, and methods to minimize them
- safety codes affecting multi-family properties
- the importance of educational tools to assist with language barriers
- youth firesetting and the resources available to managers and tenants
- landlord vigilance and policies regarding fire and life safety

Register online at http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Comm_Ed/Training/June_2008_Registration_Form.pdf.

For more information, contact Candice Clark at 503-373-1540 ext. 266 or email candice.clark@state.or.us.

Firefighters and EMTs reminded they are mandatory reporters

The Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) reminds Oregon firefighters and emergency medical technicians that they are mandatory reporters of child abuse and neglect. As a mandatory reporter, if you suspect a child with whom you have had contact has been abused or neglected or that any person you come in contact with has abused or neglected a child, you must notify law enforcement or the local office of the Department of Human Services.

When unsure if the information you have requires a report of abuse, DHS requests you err on the side of child safety and make a report.

Additional information is available in video form at http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/abuse/mandatory_reporters.wmv or as a booklet at <http://dhsforms.hr.state.or.us/Forms/Served/DE9061.pdf>.

For more information, contact Juanita Raymond at 503-945-6624.

Oregon chapter of IAAI seeking award nominations

The Oregon chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) is accepting nominations for the following awards:

- Life Membership Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- Investigator of the Year Award
- Award of Recognition
- Outstanding District Award
- Photography Award
- Amusing Award

With the exception of the Life Membership Award, nominees do not have to be members of the IAAI.

The awards will be presented at the chapter's annual banquet, September 16-19 at the Valley River Inn in Eugene, Oregon.

For more information, contact James Christiansen at 971-219-8878 or Debi Bisbee at 541-596-2548.



Chemical of the month by Alec Carte

Ammonium Hydroxide NH_4OH

Description:

- Synonyms: ammonia water, ammonia solution, aqua ammonia or aqueous ammonia
- Colorless liquid with a strong pungent ammonia odor
- Acute and Chronic Health Hazard; Corrosive
- CAS No.: 1336-21-6
- Flash point: Non-flammable
- DOT: Corrosive substances Class 8
- UN/NA: 2672

NFPA Information:

- Health: 3
- Flammability: 0
- Reactivity: 0
- Special: None

Uses and Occurrences:

- Ammonium hydroxide is ammonia dissolved in water
- Used in inorganic analysis
- Used in cleaning compounds
- Manufacture of other chemicals

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Ammonium hydroxide is not flammable
- LEL for ammonia: 16%; UEL for ammonia: 25%; autoignition temp. for ammonia 1204° F
- Stable under normal conditions of use and storage
- Incompatibles include: Most common metals, acids, strong oxidizing agents, halogens, hypochlorite
- Use extinguishing media appropriate for surrounding fire

Health Hazards:

- Health effects are relative to the amount of ammonia present
- OSHA PEL: (for ammonia) 50 ppm TWA
- Corrosive
- Eye contact may result in corneal damage or blindness
- Severe overexposure can result in lung damage and death
- Inhalation: Vapors are severely irritating and can result in irritation and burns to the respiratory tract

- Ingestion can result in corrosion of the esophagus and stomach

Personal Protective Equipment:

- Emergency responders should use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and appropriate chemical protective suit
- Use local exhaust ventilation or other engineering controls to stay within PELs
- Wear impervious protective clothing, splash goggles and face shield if pouring liquid
- Use an approved respirator if appropriate

Inspection and Storage Tips:

- Keep container tightly closed
- Keep container in a cool, dry, well-ventilated area
- Protect against physical damage
- Store away from incompatibles
- Store below 77° F

2007 Oregon Fire Code:

- Corrosive
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per S occupancy control area:
- Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 500 gallons
- In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 1000 gallons
- In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 1000 gallons
- In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 2000 gallons

Incident Reporting and Information:

- There are 32 facilities in Oregon currently reporting ammonium hydroxide on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- There have been 14 hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986 involving ammonium hydroxide

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

Fire-resistant plant display available for loan

The Office of State Fire Marshal has an educational display on fire resistant plants available for loan to any Oregon fire department or district. The tabletop display illustrates how home owners can help protect their home and property from the hazards of wildland fires by landscaping with fire-resistant plants and trees.



To request or reserve the display, contact Nicole Ohmart at 503-373-1540 ext. 366 or email Nicole.ohmart@state.or.us.



Office of State Fire Marshal
4760 Portland Road N.E.
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In memoriam

Zack Turner

The Reedsport Volunteer Fire District (RVFD) is sad to announce the passing of former Fire Chief Zack Turner.

Turner joined the RVFD in 1958, and was appointed chief in 1968. He was also fire marshal for the city of Reedsport from 1973 to 1986. He retired as RVFD fire chief in 1997.

Turner passed away May 12, 2008, from cancer-related complications.

Contributions in his memory can be made to the Umpqua Bank, 1975 Winchester Ave., Reedsport, Oregon 97467.