



GATED WYE

March 2008 . Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal . 4760 Portland Road NE . Salem Oregon 97305-1760 . No. 290

OSFM invites input on Mobilization Plan review

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal invites input on the proposed changes to the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan at the Oregon Fire Defense Board Chief's (FDBC) meeting, 1-3 p.m., April 9, 2008, in Redmond, Oregon. The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association Spring Conference at the Eagle Crest Resort Conference Center.

Revisions of the draft plan will be sent to all fire defense board chiefs prior to the meeting. Drafts will also be available for review at the board meeting. The meeting and input on the revisions is open to all members of the Oregon fire service.

Significant changes in the mobilization plan include:

- Changes to guidance for requesting mobilized resources
- Rationale in moving to national standards for conflagration requests
- Changes to procedures for requesting mobile support
- Additions to task force information

- Removing non-emergency chapters and appendices from the printed version and making them available via Internet download
- Reorganizing the layout and structure to a more user-friendly format

The mobilization plan provides an organizational structure and operating guidelines for the rapid mobilization and direction of Oregon fire service forces during an emergency.

The plan also promotes effective communication among agencies during preparation for, progress of, and demobilization from any emergency response activity.

The OSFM is also working with the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association on a grant to fund printing of the Mobilization Plan and provide a copy to all fire chiefs in Oregon.

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

OSFM recruiting for IMT positions

The Office of State Fire Marshal is recruiting for five positions on the Incident Management Teams (IMT).

Open positions include:

- Deputy Incident Commander
- Deputy Planning Chief
- Resource Unit Leader
- Deputy Operations Chief
- Safety Officer

During the past nine years, OSFM IMT teams have deployed to all Governor-declared conflagrations. Most recently, a team assisted recovery efforts after flooding in Vernonia.

View IMT position qualifications at: http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/ERU_IMTeams.shtml.

For applications or more information, contact IMT Coordinator Tina Toney at 503-373-1540 ext. 212 or email tina.toney@state.or.us.

From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



“It’s not too early to begin visiting with your legislators about the value of these services.”

End of the ‘08 legislative session, time to think about ‘09

As emergency responders, we all know it’s never too early to plan. With the end of Oregon’s 2008 special legislative session, it’s time to plan in earnest for 2009.

Our office is taking the lead on a number of important issues concerning emergency funding, regulatory streamlining, child safety and keeping compliance programs self sufficient.

Protecting the Fire Insurance Premium Tax (FIPT) – Close to \$700,000 was diverted from FIPT funds to pay for Governor-declared conflagrations in 2005 and 2006. This is unacceptable. Diverting FIPT revenue reduces the resources and services provided by the OSFM, State Police Arson Unit and DPSST’s firefighter training and accreditation. We propose to amend the statute to ensure FIPT funds are not used to pay for emergency mobilizations.

Firefighting costs – We propose amendments establishing a general fund Special Purpose Appropriation to pay mobilization expenses under the Conflagration Act.

Prohibiting toylike lighters – There are no good reasons for lighters to be made to look like toys. Children are easily attracted to these lighters putting themselves and their families at risk. Our proposed law would prevent youth-set fires by prohibiting the retail sale and distribution of novelty lighters in Oregon.

Self-sufficient cardlock and liquid propane gas programs – Budget shortfalls in these programs have hampered services to industry members and Oregon citizens. With support from leaders in both industries, we are proposing graduated permit and inspection fee increases to maintain service levels.

Amend explosives statutes – Our proposal to amend these statutes will eliminate duplicate state and federal regulations of the explosives industry. The national Safe Explosives Act of 2002



**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

Administration
ext. 211

Codes & Technical
Services
ext. 269

Community Education
ext. 273

Community
Right-to-Know
ext. 214

Data Services
ext. 244

Emergency Planning &
Response
ext. 227

Emergency Response
ext. 238

Fire & Life Safety
ext. 204

Firesetter Intervention
ext. 230

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. 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.

See Legislative session page 3

Legislative session

Continued from page 2

expanded authority of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) resulting in duplicate regulation and enforcement between BATFE and OSFM. Proposed amendments will reduce regulations and costs for the industry.

Amend 2007 legislation – SB 571 makes the assistant to the State Fire Marshal responsible for certifying ventilation systems in cigar bars. Smoke removal is under the purview of the mechanical code indoor air quality rules. Our amendment to remove the reference to the State Fire Marshal will eliminate duplicate responsibility and potential confusion.

We're also forwarding a sizeable General Fund budget request for our **Urban Search and Rescue** task force. The request establishes a budget for training, exercises and equipment maintenance and replacement.

It's not too early to begin visiting with your legislators about the value of these services. We will need strong bipartisan support when the 2009 Legislature convenes next January. Please schedule time with your state representatives and senators so they understand how the state's fire, hazardous materials and structural collapse resources support the essential services you provide every day in your community.

Morrow County becomes Oregon's second LEPC

Morrow County has established Oregon's second Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The LEPC will play a key role in local emergency response planning by providing a forum for emergency management agencies, responders, industry and the public to work together to evaluate chemical and other hazards in the community.

OSFM has materials and other resources to help communities establish and maintain an active LEPC. For more information, contact Terry Wolfe at 503-373-1540 ext. 219 or email terry.wolfe@state.or.us.

OSFM seeking Sparky awards nominations

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is accepting nominations for the 2007 Golden and Silver Sparky awards. Nomination forms are available online at <http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Administration/Sparkyform.pdf> or by contacting Laura Drager at 503-373-1540, ext. 211 or email laura.drager@state.or.us. The nomination deadline is April 1, 2008.

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 email, standard mail or fax. To submit by email, send to randy.simpson@state.or.us; by standard mail, send to OSFM 4760 Portland Road NE, Salem, OR 97305; or fax your nomination to 503-373-1825.

Awards will be presented May 23, 2008, at the Oregon Fire Service Meritorious Awards banquet at the Red Lion Jantzen Beach Hotel in Portland, Oregon.

OSFM accepting mid-cycle code amendments

The Office of State Fire Marshal is accepting mid-cycle code amendments to the 2007 Oregon Fire Code to be effective October 1, 2008. The deadline for submittals is 5:00 p.m., April 1, 2008.

Criteria for mid-cycle amendments:

- To correct an immediate life threatening situation,
- Correct conflicts in the code that cannot wait until the regular code adoption cycle, or
- Update a referenced National Recognized Standard to a current edition.

Code change submittal forms may be found by visiting <http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Codes/codechange.pdf>.

New OSFM employees

Sally Cravinho **Administrative Specialist,** **License and Permit Services**



Raised in Molalla, Cravinho worked for three years as a bank teller after high school. She then worked for six years as a travel agent. In 1988 Cravinho moved to Salem where she worked as a senior administrative assistant for an online gaming company. In 1997, the Oregon State Lottery hired her as an administrative assistant in their security section. Cravinho was hired by the OSFM in December 2007.

"I enjoy spending time with my 9 year old son, traveling, skiing and shopping," says Cravinho. "I'm thrilled to be a part of the OSFM family. It's great to be greeted each day with kindness, appreciation and enthusiasm!"

Candice Clark **Office Specialist,** **Community Education Services**



Raised in Alaska, Clark moved to Oregon in 1988 and worked as an instructional assistant for Salem-Keizer, Willamina and Dallas School districts. She then worked seven years as a lead person and quality inspector for a Salem manufacturing plant. After training as a medical administrative assistant, Clark worked as a

referral/preauthorization coordinator and medical records clerk for a Salem physician. When the physician retired and closed his office, Clark looked to remain in a public service role and was hired by the OSFM in January 2008.

"I'm glad I get to stay in a career that involves helping people and serving the public," says Clark. "I'm excited because working for the OSFM fits my goals."

Krista K. Fischer **Program Analyst,** **Emergency Planning &** **Response Services**



A third generation Oregonian, Fischer opened her own insurance agency after graduating from Portland State University. After 10 years she sold the agency and began serving as Executive Director of the Insurance Information Service of Oregon & Idaho (IISOI). As executive director, Fischer was an agency partner of OSFM serving on the Oregon Life Safety Team, Oregon Juvenile Firesetter Advisory Board, Oregon SAFEKIDS Advisory Board, Residential Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition and the Oregon Council Against Arson, among others. Fischer is a past winner of the OSFM Silver Sparky award.

"It is my good fortune to have a long history working with the staff of the Office of State Fire Marshal at all levels, on a variety of issues, so this is like coming home to family," says Fischer.

Oregon Fire Code Amendment class scheduled for March 11

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is providing training on 2007 Oregon Fire Code amendments March 11, 2008, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the OSFM headquarters in Salem, Oregon.

This training is required for fire inspection personnel seeking OSFM Fire and Life Safety Competency Recognition as a Fire and Life Safety Specialist I, Fire and Life Safety Specialist II, and

Fire Marshal. The training is at no cost and participants receive .4 Continuing Education Units.

Scheduled instructors are Deputy State Fire Marshal John Caul and Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Deputy Fire Marshal Eric McMullen.

To register or for more information, contact Mary Olson at 503-373-1540 ext. 251 or email mary.olson@state.or.us.

Spoilation of evidence



Often when putting together curriculum for fire investigation seminars, we look for the most 'advanced' or 'latest' hot topics. We do this because we feel the old 'basic' topics are not as attractive to potential attendees. However, every few years it pays to revisit some of the basics. That's because what a seasoned fire investigator knows and takes for granted may be foreign to a new investigator. A good example is spoilation.

The standard English dictionary defines spoilation as:

- 1 a: the act of plundering, b: the state of having been plundered especially in war,
- 2: the act of injuring especially beyond reclaim.

Spoilation is further defined in National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 921 as 'Loss, destruction, or material alteration of an object or document that is evidence or potential evidence in a legal proceeding by one who has the responsibility for its preservation.'

Spoilation at a fire scene occurs when the investigator discards, damages or removes potential ignition sources from the area of origin. This not only affects the investigation conclusions, but the investigator may be held accountable for not preserving items or evidence. Until you release the scene to the responsible party you are responsible for items in and around the fire scene. Preserve and protect them for all involved parties.

Example: an investigator, in an attempt to determine the cause of a fire, takes a suspected item (evidence) to the local fire station to dismantle it and figure out if the item caused the fire. By removing the item (evidence) from the scene and altering it, it is destroyed and you have now prevented other parties from inspecting, analyzing or testing the item in the same state you found it.

This presents two problems: 1) you compromise the ability of other parties to confirm or corroborate your findings; 2) other parties lose the ability to reclaim costs or defend themselves in case of a lawsuit or other accusation.

For example, if an improperly installed furnace causes a fire, the insurance provider reimburses the homeowner, then seeks to recover costs from the furnace installer, manufacturer or other responsible party. This is called subrogation; the assumption by a third party (as a second creditor or an insurance company) of another's legal right to collect a debt or damages.

The insurance company is entitled to make right or collect on the loss through legal means. If a fire investigator removes or otherwise alters the evidence it prevents an investigation by the accused party or the party suffering the loss. We, as investigators, should not assume the roles of a testing laboratory, engineer or analyst. These require specialized expertise and equipment.

A better way to investigate this case is to photograph the item in place and record model numbers and brand names of the items involved. State on your report why you feel that this item or appliance caused the fire and how you arrived at the conclusion. Give notice to the insurance carrier or owner of the object or appliance suspected of causing the fire and then they may secure the item for analysis. This method allows other parties an opportunity to inspect, analyze and test the item.

It should be noted, this method applies to non-criminal cases. In the case of arson or other illegal activity, evidence should be collected and maintained in accordance with state and local laws and in conjunction with prescribed practices of law enforcement and the district attorney. Typically, evidence should be collected by law enforcement.

Our duty as fire investigators is to determine the cause of the fire and not destroy evidence or take another's property. All interested parties are entitled to examine suspected items.

For more information refer to NFPA© 921, your agency's legal council and law enforcement agencies.

Training and events

Incident Management Team Conference

March 11-13, 2008

Valley River Inn

Eugene, Oregon

Topics include:

- Critical Decision Making
- National Guard WMD display
- Urban Search & Rescue
- HazMat
- Team Leadership
- December storm review
- Functional breakouts
- Team meetings

Registration includes breakfast and lunch. Scholarships are available by contacting Tina Toney at 503-373-1540 ext. 212 or email tina.toney@state.or.us.

Register online at: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=rZzsl0MOS7CtwSNZ9qfegg_3d_3d.

Training Operations for Small Departments

March 15-16, 2008

Grant Union High School Library

John Day, Oregon

The two-day course provides students with basic tools and skills to coordinate training in a small fire/EMS organization. Topics include:

- Leadership in Training
- Legal Issues Affecting Training
- Safety Considerations
- Marketing Training Internally
- Resolving Training Conflicts
- Choosing Training Curriculum
- Effective Training and Evaluation

To register, contact Sandra Sutton at roba2@centurytel.net. Registration deadline is March 7, 2008.

Oregon Fire Chiefs Association

Spring Conference

April 10-12, 2008

Eagle Crest Resort

Redmond, Oregon

Topics include:

- Preparing for Your Worst Nightmare
- The 'New' FEMA
- Four Things that Go Wrong on All Scenes
- Fire Chief's Toolbox Module #1
- Building Construction - How It Impacts Your Decisions on the Fire Ground
- Fire Board/Fire Chief Basics 101
- Why Things Go Right - Why Things Go Wrong
- Managing Change in the Fire Service

To register or for more information, visit: <http://www.ofca.org/>.

Oregon Fire Marshals Association Annual Business Meeting & Education Conference

April 14-17, 2008

Salishan Resort

Glendon Beach, Oregon

Topics include:

- HazMat for Fire Inspectors
- Commercial Hood Inspection
- Alarm Testing and Inspection
- Basic Budgeting
- Spray Booth Inspections
- NFPA 13-D Systems
- Chief's Toolbox

Special guest speaker, Vince Lombardi Jr.

To register or for more information, visit: <http://www.ofma.net/>.



Lead (Pb)

Description:

- Synonyms: Lead metal
- Chemical element with atomic number 82
- Bluish-white when first cut to dull gray after exposure to air
- Very soft and highly malleable
- Hazard Class: (6.3) Acute Health Hazard; (6.4) Chronic Health Hazard
- CAS No.: 7439-92-1
- UN/NA: Not regulated by DOT

NFPA Information:

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

Uses and Occurrences:

- Mined as lead ore
- Used in lead acid batteries
- Bullets and shot
- Building construction
- Shielding from radiation
- Fishing sinkers
- Formerly used in paint
- Formerly used in gasoline

Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Not flammable
- Powder or dust is flammable when heated or exposed to flame
- Stable under ordinary conditions of storage
- Can react vigorously with oxidizing materials
- Incompatibles include: sodium carbide, ammonium nitrate, sodium azide, zirconium, hydrogen peroxide, chlorine trifluoride and sodium acetylde
- Can produce toxic lead fumes at elevated temperatures

Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL TWA: 0.05 mg/m³
- Can be absorbed through the respiratory system and skin
- Lead is cumulative so exposure to small amounts over time can reach toxic levels

- Affects the central nervous system, kidneys, blood and reproductive system
- Symptoms of lead poisoning include abdominal pain and spasms, nausea, vomiting, headache, lead line on the gums, metallic taste, fatal in extreme cases
- Suspected carcinogen

Personal Protective Equipment:

- Emergency responders should use Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus and full protective equipment
- Use local exhaust ventilation or other engineering controls to stay within PELs
- Wear gloves, lab coat, eye protection as appropriate
- Use an approved respirator as 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
- Empty containers may still be hazardous

2007 Oregon Fire Code Information:

- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per S occupancy control area: Not regulated

Incident Reporting and Information:

- There are eight facilities in Oregon currently reporting lead on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey
- There have been no hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986 involving lead

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

Colvins depart OSFM

Deputy State Fire Marshals Sarah Colvin and Michael Colvin are moving on to the next stage of their lives and unfortunately for the Office of State Fire Marshal, that means leaving the agency.

They two met in 2004 when Michael was working for the Oregon Department of Forestry and Sarah for the OSFM. In March 2006, the OSFM hired Michael as a Deputy State Fire Marshal for Douglas County.

Sarah and Michael married in June 2006, and are expecting their first child March 19. Sarah, who served as the deputy state fire marshal for Gilliam, Morrow, Sherman, Wasco, and Wheeler counties decided to leave the OSFM to be a stay-at-home mom.

"The two things I will miss most are being able to make a difference in the fire service and separating myself from the fire district family I grew to love," says Sarah.

Michael recently accepted a position as Fire Inspector with Clackamas County Fire District #1.

"I've enjoyed the opportunity with the OSFM," says Michael. "But it's time to move on in my career. It's actually like going home because I began my fire service as a volunteer with Clackamas in 1995 and the majority of my and Sarah's family live in the Clackamas area."

Unclassifieds

Position opening

Fire Marshal - City of McMinnville
Submit a City employment application, cover letter, and current resume highlighting relevant experience and education by 5:00 p.m., March 13, 2008. For more information, visit: http://www.ci.mcminnville.or.us/images/stories/employment/announcements/fm_recruit_announce.pdf.



Office of State Fire Marshal
4760 Portland Road N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97305-1760