

# GATED WYE



May 2008 · Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal · 4760 Portland Road NE · Salem Oregon 97305-1760 · No. 292

## Arson Awareness Week focuses on toylike lighters

**A**rson Awareness Week 2008 is May 4-10 and this year's theme is *Toylike Lighters: Playing with Fire*.

For the past two years the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal has been sounding the alarm about these dangerous devices and now the nation is taking notice. Maine and Tennessee have recently issued statewide bans on the sale of toylike lighters. Additionally, a number of cities in Arkansas and California have passed local ordinances banning the sale of these lighters.

Toylike or novelty lighters have been responsible for deaths, injuries, and property loss across the United States. Children are attracted to novelty lighters because they look like toys. Many lighters with toylike designs have visual effects, flashing lights, and musical sounds.

The United States Fire Administration has developed an Arson Awareness Week 2008 media kit available for download from their website at [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/arson/arson\\_awareness.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/fireservice/subjects/arson/arson_awareness.shtm).

The media kit includes a poster, press release template, resolution template and background information on the toylike lighter.

Recently, State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr and Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Program Coordinator Judy Okulitch met with Oregon Congressional representatives during the National Congressional Fire Service Caucus in Washington D.C. to promote a ban on toylike lighters. Lawmakers' responses were overwhelmingly positive and Congresswoman Darlene Hooley has pledged to introduce a federal bill to ban the import and sale of these lighters.

The OSFM is also introducing legislation in 2009 aimed at banning the

sale of toylike lighters in Oregon.

For more information on the hazards of toylike lighters visit [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Novelty\\_Toylike\\_Lighters.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Novelty_Toylike_Lighters.shtml) or contact Judy Okulitch at 503-373-1540 ext. 230 or email [judy.okulitch@state.or.us](mailto:judy.okulitch@state.or.us).



*2008 Arson Awareness Week poster available from United States Fire Administration*

## From the desk of the State Fire Marshal



**“Your participation will reinforce the history of volunteerism and community commitment exemplified by those in the fire service.”**

### Oregon’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, let’s all get involved

February 14, 2009 is Oregon’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and the state has plans to celebrate in grand style. The state’s Sesquicentennial celebration begins next February and concludes in the fall during the 2009 Oregon State Fair.

Governor Kulongoski has called on all Oregonians, volunteer organizations, businesses and state agencies to get involved.

Our office is planning ways we can spotlight our history and showcase the services we provide to Oregon’s citizens. We will also be contributing to or participating in the signature projects adopted by the *Oregon 150* Board of Directors.

*Oregon 150* is the non-profit group established by the Governor to spearhead the Sesquicentennial celebration.

I encourage all members of the Oregon fire service, fire departments and districts to get involved. From submitting your own Oregon story, to participating in Take Care of Oregon Day (May 16, 2009) and youth legacy projects, to becoming an official partner program, you can demonstrate your pride in our state’s past and confidence in our future. Your participation will reinforce the history of volunteerism and community commitment exemplified by those in the fire service.

I encourage you to visit *Oregon 150*, at <http://www.oregon150.org> to learn more about Oregon’s upcoming milestone and read about the signature projects. Also, keep your eye on the OSFM website where we’ll be posting our participation plans and activities.



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Nancy Orr

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Administration  
ext. 211

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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](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).

## Office of State Fire Marshal proposes rule revision for *Administration of Fire Prevention Programs*

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is revising Oregon Administrative Rule, Chapter 837, Division 039, *Administration of Fire Prevention Programs*. An earlier rule revision raised the competency standard for construction plans input; this rule revision establishes certification and training standards for fire officials with authority to administer the Oregon Fire Code. The revision is proposed to be effective June 30, 2008.

When fully implemented, Oregon fire jurisdictions will determine the level of code enforcement services they want to provide in their communities and ensure their code enforcement personnel meet the competency standards for the jurisdiction's chosen scope of practice. Members of the Oregon fire service have up to 36 months to fulfill the competency requirements.

To increase training options, OSFM is developing computer-based interactive training with web-based testing. OSFM will also continue to provide traditional classroom training for Fire and Life Safety Awareness I and II, Oregon Fire Code Amendment, and Company Inspector Train-the-Trainer. Training will be provided locally or regionally at little or no cost.

Compliance Timelines:

Scope of Practice	Compliance Date
Company Inspector	January 1, 2009
Fire and Life Safety Specialist I	July 1, 2010
Fire and Life Safety Specialist II	January 1, 2011
Fire Marshal	July 1, 2011

To learn more about the Fire and Life Safety Competency Recognition visit: [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/FLS\\_Code\\_Competency.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/FLS_Code_Competency.shtml) and select the link titled *Fire and Life Safety Competency Recognition Information*.

To learn more about the proposed rule change visit: [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Admin\\_Rules\\_Changes.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Admin_Rules_Changes.shtml) and select the link

titled *Administration of Fire Prevention Programs Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Hearing*.

OSFM is accepting written comments on the rule revision until June 30, 2008. To provide oral comments, please attend the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* hearing at the OSFM, June 23, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the Mt. Hood Conference Room.

In next month's edition of the Gated Wye we will review the policy and statutory authority for establishing competency standards.

For questions related to the proposed rule revision or the Fire and Life Safety Competency Recognition, contact Mary Olson at 503-373-1540 ext. 251 or email [mary.olson@state.or.us](mailto:mary.olson@state.or.us).

### Recognition achievement 2006-2008

The OSFM and Oregon Fire Marshals Association have recognized more than 250 fire officials between April 2006 and April 2008 for outstanding merit and accomplishment demonstrating the competencies identified for their scope of practice.

Company Inspector certificates accounted for 78 percent (199) of all certificates awarded. The remaining 22 percent (56) of certificates were awarded for Fire and Life Safety Specialist 1, Fire and Life Safety Specialist 2 or Fire Marshal. Sixty percent (34) of fire officials recognized as FLS Specialist 1, FLS Specialist 2 and Fire Marshal also have their ICC Fire Plans Examiner endorsement.

Number and Type of Competency Recognition Certificates Awarded 2006-2008:			
FLS Competency Recognition Level	Fire Plans Examiner		Total
	No	Yes	
Company Inspector	199	N/A	199
FLS Specialist 1	6	4	10
FLS Specialist 2	4	4	8
Fire Marshal	12	26	38
<b>Total</b>			<b>255</b>

## Best practice guideline available for standardized fire loss reporting

The Standardized Loss Reporting Committee, formed by the Oregon All Incident Reporting System Standing Committee, has available a *Standardized Fire Loss Reporting Best Practice Guideline* to assist fire investigators in assessing and reporting property values and associated dollar losses due to fire. Use of the guideline is voluntary and not intended as a substitute for contacting county assessors for current market value or insurance adjustors for loss information.

The guideline is a tool designed to:

- improve consistency in reported values and losses,
- increase the reliability of fire loss statistics reported to the Office of State Fire Marshal and,
- provide a more accurate view of fire losses and the impact of those losses on the citizens of Oregon.

The best practice guideline may be found at [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Data\\_Services/BestPracticeFinalFinal5-1-08.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Data_Services/BestPracticeFinalFinal5-1-08.pdf).

## Oregon Coast Fire Chiefs adopt uniform tsunami signal

The Oregon Coast Fire Chiefs, a committee of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association, have adopted a uniform tsunami warning signal for all Oregon coast communities.

The uniform warning signal is an oscillating wailing siren tone lasting three minutes. Committee members are committed to ensuring residents and visitors recognize the warning and understand what safety actions to take. The coast fire chiefs committee also chartered a task force to establish testing standards and an 'all clear' procedure.

For more information, contact Cannon Beach Fire Chief Cleve Rooper at 503-436-2949 or email [cleve@cbfire.com](mailto:cleve@cbfire.com).

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## OSFM sponsors Fire Academy course for public educators

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal has a limited number of spots available for Oregon fire service members to attend the National Fire Academy five-day course, *Presenting Effective Public Education Programs*. National Fire Academy cadre will present the training at the Department of Public Safety Standards & Training in Salem, July 7-11, 2008. There is no tuition but students will be responsible for their own travel, meal and lodging costs.

The course provides knowledge, skills, and attitudes to deliver fire and life safety community education programs. The course is designed for public educators with fewer than two years of public education experience, and whose primary responsibilities are delivering public education programs. The course emphasizes a community-based concept in developing and delivering educational programs. Participants learn to make effective use of community resources to support education programs.

Applications are available at [http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Comm\\_Ed/Training/PEPEP\\_Application.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Comm_Ed/Training/PEPEP_Application.pdf). Completed applications are due to OSFM by 5:00 p.m., May 19, 2008. Applicants will be notified by June 9, 2008 on the status of their application.

For more information, contact Nicole Ohmart at 503-373-1540, ext. 366, or email [nicole.ohmart@state.or.us](mailto:nicole.ohmart@state.or.us).

## Firewise Home Ignition Zone workshop scheduled in Carlton

Carlton Fire District is hosting a two-day Firewise Home Ignition Zone workshop May 31 through June 1, 2008 at the Ken Wright Cellars facility in Carlton (across the street from the Carlton Fire Hall). Carlton Fire District received a Federal Emergency Management Fire Prevention & Safety grant and grants from Yamhill County Fire Defense Board and the Western Washington County Training Association to reduce the cost of the workshop to \$45 per student.

The in the two-day workshop include:

- Myths of wildland/urban interface fire
- Elements of a wildland/urban interface fire disaster
- Research and case studies
- Risk factors in the home ignition zone
- Conducting and documenting an assessment
- Ecosystem health
- Inspecting the home ignition zone
- Accessibility in wildfire emergencies

The course gives participants the ability to assess hazards and recommend appropriate mitigation measures to reduce hazards on a house-by-house approach in an interface neighborhood, subdivision, or residential development.

Register online at <http://www.wvcta.net/Registration.html>. For more information email Bill Spurling at [HIZ@carltonFireDistrict.org](mailto:HIZ@carltonFireDistrict.org).

## HMEP grant applications due July 1, 2008

The Office of State Fire Marshal's Emergency Planning and Response unit is mailing 2008/2009 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) Planning & Training grant applications the first week of May 2008. The application deadline is 5 p.m., July 1, 2008.

Grant funds are available to state and local agencies involved in hazardous materials incident planning, prevention, and response training activities. Eligible agencies include local emergency planning committees, local emergency management agencies, fire districts, fire departments, state agencies, training associations, law enforcement, emergency medical services, hospitals, public works and other public sector agencies.

The United States Department of Transportation is increasing grant funding by 70% over last year. The application packet may be downloaded from the OSFM web site under 'Fire Service Information.'

For more information contact Terry Wolfe at 503-373-1540, ext. 219 or email [terry.wolfe@state.or.us](mailto:terry.wolfe@state.or.us).

## Salem Fire Department encouraged by success of residential sprinkler seminar

Earlier this year Salem Fire Department and the Salem Building and Safety Division hosted a *Residential Fire Sprinkler Design and Installation* seminar for plumbers, sprinkler contractors, plumbing inspectors and fire personnel covering the design and installation of 13-D sprinkler systems.

The training is part of an effort by Salem to encourage home fire sprinkler installation. The department's strategy is to make the public aware of the benefits to life safety and property preservation and to bring the cost down to the point people are willing to make the purchase. Providing training to local contractors on how to design and install affordable fire sprinkler systems is a major step in that process.

"The response to this class was overwhelming," says Deputy Chief of Fire & Life Safety Joe Parrott. "I hope our success will encourage other departments around the state to hold similar seminars."

For more information, contact Joe Parrott at 503-589-2130.

## Public meeting set for proposed model Fire Sprinkler Ordinance

The Oregon Building Codes Division will be adopting a model sprinkler ordinance for local adoption and is conducting a public meeting on May 16, 2008 to receive input on the proposed fire sprinkler requirements for residential structures.

The meeting is at 9:30 a.m. at the Building Codes Division, Conference Room A, 1535 Edgewater St. NW Salem. The public is invited to provide input and recommendations.

The hearing will also be webcast live at <http://www.bcd.oregon.gov>. For more information, contact Aeron Teverbaugh at 503-373-1354 or [aeron.teverbaugh@state.or.us](mailto:aeron.teverbaugh@state.or.us) or contact Andrea Simmons at 503-373-7235 or [andrea.f.simmons@state.or.us](mailto:andrea.f.simmons@state.or.us).

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

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is hosting a workshop for Oregon fire service members on May 15, 2008, on conducting community door-to-door smoke alarm campaigns. The two-hour workshop will be at the OSFM office in Salem. Training covers 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.

The workshop and accompanying campaign kit give departments the tools to conduct their own campaigns. Workshop attendees will 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. Each attending organization committing to conducting a community campaign can receive 50 free smoke alarms from OSFM.

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).

## Portland Fire Bureau offers report on *Lower the BOOM!*

The Portland Fire Bureau is offering copies of its report on *Operation Lower the BOOM!*, their 2007 enhanced enforcement efforts against illegal fireworks. The 32-page report may serve as a valuable tool to other Oregon communities looking to strengthen their enforcement efforts against illegal fireworks.

In 2007, the Portland fire marshal partnered with Portland Police and the Office of State Fire Marshal to place city fire inspectors in the field to confiscate illegal fireworks and identify persons using or possessing illegal fireworks and issue citations. This was Portland's first attempt at an illegal use of fireworks abatement strategy using the citation concept in the enforcement process.

The enforcement operation was organized by Portland Fire Marshal John Klum, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal Tim Kelly, and Senior Inspector Chris Payne. To receive a copy of their report, contact Anita Phillips at 503-373-1540 ext. 264 or email [anita.phillips@state.or.us](mailto:anita.phillips@state.or.us).

## La Grande receives Childrens' Fire Safety House

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) awarded the agency's first Childrens' Fire Safety House to La Grande Fire Department. The safety house has been in service with the OSFM since 1991.

La Grande Fire Department was one of eight departments from around the state applying to receive the educational tool. La Grande Fire Department was selected based on answers to five essay questions about their past, current and future prevention education activities, their ability to maintain the safety house and their commitment to sharing the resource with other departments and districts.

Chief Bruce Weimer's priority is to share the safety house with departments throughout Union, Willowa, and Baker counties. Departments throughout northeast Oregon may use it as long

as scheduling and maintenance allow. Northeast Oregon fire departments can arrange to borrow the safety house by contacting La Grande Fire Department at 541-963-3123.

Students from the Portland Community College North/Northeast Skills Center built the Childrens' Fire Safety House in 1991. Construction was sponsored by the Oregon State Home Builders Association and the Home Builders Association of Metro Portland.

**La Grande Fire Chief Bruce Weimer (right) receives the certificate of transfer for the Children's Fire Safety House from Community Education Services Manager Tari Glocar**





Chemical of the month by Alec Carte

# Ammonium Nitrate $(\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3)$

## Description:

- Synonyms: Nitric acid, ammonium salt; Norway saltpeter; Ammonium saltpeter
- Odorless white to gray to brown solid; white powder; white to colorless crystals
- Flash Point: Greater than 200° F
- Hazards: Oxidizer; Acute and Chronic Health Hazard
- CAS: 6484-52-2
- DOT Hazard Class (5.1); UN/NA: 1942

## NFPA Information:

- Health: 2
- Flammability: 0
- Reactivity: 3
- Special: OXY

## Uses and Occurrences:

- Ammonium nitrate granules can be produced through an acid-base reaction of ammonia and nitric acid then evaporating excess water
- Most ammonium nitrate is used as the source of nitrogen in fertilizers
- Used in some explosives
- Used in instant cold packs
- Used in preparation of nitrous oxide

## Reactivity and Fire Risk:

- Strong oxidizer
- Combined with a hydrocarbon, usually diesel fuel or kerosene, ammonium nitrate forms an explosive mixture
- Contact with some organic or combustible material may cause fire
- May explode under confinement and high temperatures especially if contaminated

## Health Hazards:

- OSHA PEL: None established
- Eye, skin and respiratory system irritant
- Large oral doses may cause dizziness, convulsions, collapse and methemoglobinemia

## Personal Protective Equipment:

- Local and/or general exhaust ventilation is recommended to keep employee exposures low and prevent accumulation of dust

- Use appropriate protective clothing, gloves and eye protection
- Use appropriate respiratory protection as needed

## Inspection and Storage Tips:

- Store in a cool, dry, well ventilated area
- Keep in a tightly closed container
- Do not store above 130° F; below 86° F is preferred
- Avoid storing on wood floors
- Keep separated from acids, bases, reducing agents and combustibles
- Also refer to NFPA 490

## 2007 Oregon Fire Code:

- Oxidizer – Class II
- Maximum Allowable Quantities (MAQ) per S occupancy control area:
  - Unprotected by sprinklers or approved storage cabinets: 250 pounds
  - In sprinklered building, not within approved storage cabinets: 500 pounds
  - In unsprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 500 pounds
  - In sprinklered building, within approved storage cabinets: 1000 pounds
- 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 two facilities in Oregon currently reporting ammonium nitrate on the Hazardous Substance Information Survey.
- There have been 4 hazardous materials incidents reported in Oregon since 1986 involving ammonium nitrate.

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)

## Fire District Directors Training Institute set for May 31

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association's annual director's training institute is scheduled for May 31, 2008, at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, Oregon.

Agenda topics include:

- history of OFDDA
- OSHA violations: how to avoid state sanctions
- policy versus operation: defining responsibilities of the board and the chief
- fire chief's toolbox module #1
- legal overview, board member responsibilities: public records

To register or for more information, contact Wendy Knodel at 503-378-0896 or visit <http://www.ofdda.com>.

## Unclassified

### For sale

Motorola Minitor V pager chargers (used), Alert Monitor Receiver Single Unit Charger, Model # RLN5703A, 25 chargers at \$5 each. Contact Dundee Fire Department at 503-554-8442.

Make an offer for any or all of the following equipment: 5' Fiberglass Pike Pole, Hydrant Wrench, 2½" Gated Wye, 2½"-1½" Gated Wye, 1½" Gated Wye, five - 2½" Brass Double Males, 2½" Brass Double Female, three - 1½" Akron 125GPM Nozzles, 1½" Elkhart 250GPM Nozzle, Storz-2½" x 5" Siamese, four - 1½" Elkhart 300GPM Nozzles, 1½" T.F.T. Nozzle. Contact Dundee Fire Department at 503-554-8442.



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