



# FLASH POINT

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

PSRST STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 178  
SALEM, OR  
ECRWSS

## The Newsletter of Lane Fire Authority

*"Neighbors Volunteering To Help Neighbors"*

### Spring/Summer Edition: 2015

#### Featured in this issue of Flash Point:

**End of Burn Season**  
**Summer Safety Check List**  
**Kidde Fire Extinguisher Recall**  
**Summer Residential Campfires**  
**History of Alvadore Rural Fire**  
**Protection District**

### Burn Season Will Be Closing Soon



A reminder that this year's back yard burning season ends on or before June 15, depending on weather conditions. If you plan to burn before the end of this burn season, it is essential that you have a burn permit and you call LRAPA's Residential Backyard Burning Advisory Line to make sure burning is permissible. If burn season is still in effect, you may pick up a burn permit at any of our fourteen stations.

Lane Fire Authority would like to encourage you to consider alternative ways to dispose of your yard debris throughout the year. Recycling is a great way to help keep you and your neighbors safe from the dangers of fire and reduce the amount of air pollution.

So, what can one do to get rid of yard debris as an alternative to burning?

Mulching your yard debris to place around plants is a great way to retain the moisture in soil surrounding the plants. It also helps slow the growth of weeds in your plant beds.

Composting is a great way to recycle yard debris year-around. Leaves, grass, wood chips and other organic material can provide nutrients to the plants in your yard without costing a lot of money. Contact the OSU Extension Service in Lane County for more information, or go to their website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens>.

Recycling yard debris by taking it to a local yard recycler costs money, but it can be worth getting rid of the mess when you can't use it.

### From the Chief's Desk - June 2015 -

By Chief Terry Ney



#### Boundaries and Borders

In mid-February of this year, there were several news articles about a house fire on Row River Road in the Dorena area east of Cottage Grove. In spite of neighbors' efforts, the house burned to the ground. There was some controversy in the media about why the closest fire district did not respond, and why there wasn't fire protection in the area. This incident provides me with an opportunity to talk about our own boundaries and borders and the difference between responding to fires and medical emergencies.

In the State of Oregon, *fire districts* have been created in areas that are outside of the city limits of incorporated cities, for the purpose of levying property taxes so fire protection can be funded. In some cases (such as in Veneta, Junction City, Florence, Cottage Grove, and Creswell) the city provides no fire protection at all, and a fire district includes the lands within the city. In other cases, the city does provide fire protection (such as in Eugene, Springfield, and Oakridge) so the fire district only protects lands outside of the city. Also, in some cases, a fire district contracts with an adjacent city to provide the actual protection, with the district functioning only as a means of collecting tax revenue outside of the city limits.

Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 478 is the enabling statute that gives fire districts the authority to exist and function. It defines the things fire districts can do by law.

Like all taxing districts in Oregon, fire districts have very specific legal boundaries. Inside that boundary, the district can levy a tax up to their permanent tax rate, to be collected by the county tax collector and paid to the district. Some properties within a fire district border don't pay this tax. Properties owned by other government entities or non-profit organizations do not pay property taxes. If a property is within lands protected by Oregon Department of Forestry, only the structures and the first five acres of a larger parcel pay taxes to the fire district.

However, fire districts do not exist everywhere in the state. For example, most large areas of timberland in the Cascade Mountains and the Coast Range Mountains are protected by either the Oregon Department of Forestry, the federal Bureau of Land Management, or the United States Forest Service. None of these agencies are equipped or trained to fight structure fires, but rather specialize in wildland fire protection. Fire districts are formed to provide structural fire protection as well as (in most cases) rescue and emergency medical services, and generally are established around areas with residential or commercial structures. However, there are areas in the state, and even within Lane County, where structures exist outside of the borders any fire district. In some cases, property owners have chosen not to pay taxes for fire protection, either by opting out when the closest fire district was formed, or by a majority vote when a proposal to form a fire district was on the polls. The latter was the case at the Dorena fire: there had been a proposal to form a "Row River Fire District" in the mid-1980's, but was defeated at the polls so was never formed.

Can fire districts respond outside of their borders? The short answer is yes, but that does not mean they are required to do so. The elected board of directors of each district is responsible for setting policy, and by policy they can direct the fire chief of the district how they want out-of-district calls for service to be handled. Circumstances under which fire districts commonly respond outside their borders include mutual aid to neighboring districts (under a signed

mutual aid agreement), and a response to a request for resources by the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office under a conflagration act signed by the Governor. The board of directors may also authorize a fire chief to respond to emergencies in unprotected areas outside of the district boundaries. In all cases of out-of-district response, a prudent fire chief must keep in mind the protection of tax-paying properties within his or her district, and not strip the district of personnel and equipment resources to the extent that in-district protection is unduly compromised. For example, all mutual aid contracts include language that allows the agency sending the resources to limit the response in this manner.

The policy of Lane Fire Authority, which provides protection to Lane County Fire District #1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue, authorizes me, as fire chief, to send resources outside of our district for mutual aid, conflagration response, and into unprotected areas. I may do this as long as I can adjust the resources remaining in district so as to not compromise emergency response within our boundaries. Fortunately, in part due to fact that we have 14 stations and 130 personnel, we can generally accomplish the adjustments to our deployment of resources so we can send units outside of our borders.

I also have to consider time and distance when providing out of district assistance. A primary consideration is whether we can get to an incident in a timely manner and make a difference in the outcome. A general rule in the insurance industry is that an effective range for fire protection is five to seven miles from the nearest station. In the case of the Dorena fire, the incident location was about 13 miles from the nearest station, and about 10 miles from the boundary of the nearest fire district. So in the Dorena situation, the distance was about double the effective response distance.

In contrast, *ambulance response* is different from fire response. In approximately the 1980s, the State of Oregon made an effort to provide ambulance service for the entire state. Consequently, each county was required to develop an ambulance service plan which included one or more Ambulance Service Areas (ASA). Not only was the entire state to be covered by these "ASAs" but the funding was to come from billing the transported patients (usually via their health insurance). As you can see, Ambulance Service Areas are significantly different from "fire

districts" which are funded by voter approved property taxes. Oregon does not require fire protection for the entire state.

In the case of Lane Fire Authority, we have 276 square miles of area within two fire districts where we levy a tax and provide fire protection, but 400 square miles of ambulance service area where our primary means of funding comes from health insurance payments for providing ambulance transport. So, that is the story behind boundaries and borders.....another look at why we do what we do.

Terry Ney  
Fire Chief

---

---

## Paid or Volunteer, Both Are Professionals

By Steve Strain, Assistant Chief

Many times I have been asked the question as to whether I was a volunteer firefighter or a professional. My answer is always yes. Then they look at me quizzically and ask again which??? (as though one is different from the other.) There was a day many years ago when volunteers just showed up to the firehouse for a little on the job training when there was an emergency. Most education was from the school of hard knocks and battle scars were your diploma. Now however, new recruits (paid or volunteer) all start out the same way, with a basic fire academy. Our academy is 10 weeks long, every



weekend, and requires 160 hours of classroom and drill time before a firefighter is allowed to respond to emergencies. Additionally, recruits must prepare for their classes by reading the required text prior to attending in order to pass the subject quizzes. Failure to achieve 70% on a quiz means they must repeat the test successfully in order to graduate. Once they have graduated, the recruits must demonstrate competence by completing a task book. This list of specific skills proving their mastery of each topic is signed off by their company officer. This task book usually takes anywhere from 3 to 9 months to complete, depending on the

activity level of the volunteer. After completion, the firefighter is awarded their (NFPA) Firefighter I national certification, and gives up their black recruit helmet in exchange for a yellow firefighter helmet with the word Firefighter proudly displayed. Municipalities with all paid staff hold their academies over 6 to 8 weeks with recruits attending the same classes as volunteers on a 40 hour week basis. In the end they graduate with the same exact certification as the volunteers (NFPA Firefighter I).

At some point during the first year, whether paid or volunteer, you are expected to complete medical training. The basic training is Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) and requires 60 hours of training (usually two nights a week for 8 weeks) and covers basic



first aid with minimal equipment. The next level is EMT-Basic, doubling the time required and usually taught through a local community college. This level teaches skills using specialized equipment found on our Rescue Units. EMT-Advanced is the next level beyond basic and requires the Basic class then goes beyond to provide cardiac resuscitation and advanced respiratory care. This is the minimum level required to staff one of our ambulances as a driver. Paramedic is the highest level of certification, and requires a 2 year college degree to attain. Most individuals achieving this level are seeking the fire service as a career.

As a volunteer, you must maintain your skills by participating in a weekly drill or class held for two hours one evening or day each week. This provides an opportunity for new members to finish their task books, and to learn from the more seasoned members. It is also an opportunity to work together in teams outside the emergency setting and to get to know one another. Classes keep everyone current with the latest techniques and equipment to provide the most efficient service.

So after all this training when is the firefighter finished with learning? (After 35 years as a career and volunteer firefighter, I have not reached the end yet.) As long as building materials,

construction practices, and technology continues to change, training will never be complete and my job as trainer is assured. The challenges we face today are as great if not greater than they were thirty years ago. We have moved from just fighting fires to an all-hazard service dealing with medical emergencies, hazardous materials, highway accidents, water rescue, and a host of other emergencies.

Firefighters have changed with the times. In the 60's and 70's, it was rare for a firefighter to make a living as "just a firefighter." Most had part time jobs to provide enough money to fund their retirements and provide for their families. As the requirements to become firefighters and maintain certifications became more demanding, firefighters devoted much of their off time to training and studying. Did that make us professionals? Many firefighters come from all volunteer departments, with the same skill requirements as paid firefighters, they respond with the same equipment, put out fires just as efficiently, and provide the same levels of rescue as paid members. Are these firefighters any less professional? I believe the term professional belongs to the ones who put their heart and soul into whatever they do, whether they receive a paycheck for it or not. So if you must make a distinction between firefighters, perhaps a better division is career or volunteer. Though I would make the argument that one receives a reward that feeds their family while the other receives a reward that feeds their soul, both are to be honored as professionals.

If you are looking to join the professional firefighters of Lane Fire Authority, the next academy begins in October. Give us a call (541-935-2226) and we will send you some information and add your name to our contact list to be a part of our firefighting family.

## 2015 Summer Fire-Safety Check List



*Note: We repeat this article annually to help our patrons prepare for our dry summer months. It is suggested that you post this article in a prominent location as a handy reminder on what you can do to minimize the summer fire danger around your home.*

A large majority of homes in our fire district, both in urban and rural settings, are in moderate to heavily forested

areas. Consequently, no matter where you live, with the approach of the drier summer and fall months, it is once again time to take inventory of your preparedness for the possibility of a wildland fire threatening your home and property. Below is our annual checklist. PLEASE take a few moments to read it carefully. We offer more in-depth information on wildland fire protection at our main station on Territorial Highway in Veneta (541-935-2226). You can also get detailed information from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Western Lane District, located two blocks south of our main station on Territorial Road (541-935-2283).

As you review this check list, keep in mind that many of the items apply year-round. At the end of this list is a series of emergency scenarios to test your preparedness - read them and see how prepared you are.

### Safety Check List - 2015:



\_\_\_ Is your address clearly visible from both sides of the road?

\_\_\_ Is the driveway/road to your home and other structures accessible for fire equipment? It needs to be at least 12 feet wide, have 13 ½ feet of height clearance, with negotiable curves and adequate room for turning vehicles around.

\_\_\_ Do you have trees with branches that hang over any portion of your house or other structures (barns, outbuildings, etc.)? Remove the overhanging limbs, thin trees, prune their lower limbs to 15 feet above the ground and thin the trees or remove them from around your home.

\_\_\_ Have you cleaned all debris from your roof and out of your rain gutters?

\_\_\_ Have you removed items that burn easily from at least 30 feet around the house and at least 200 feet away on the downhill side?

\_\_\_ Is your firewood stored 30 to 100 feet upslope from your house?

\_\_\_ Have you blocked off the open space under your deck with solid sheathing or fine-mesh wire (openings no larger than 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch)? In addition, do you have fine-mesh wire covering exterior attic and foundation vents?

\_\_\_ If you are re-roofing your home, have you considered using fire-resistant roofing materials such as Class-A asphalt shingles, metal sheets, or cement tiles?

\_\_\_ If you are planning to build a new home, consider fire-resistant siding such as cement board, brick, or cement block.

\_\_\_ Have you developed a "fire plan" with your family including escape routes and a place to meet once outside your home?

\_\_\_ Have you protected/preserved your family records, documents, and photographs? A relatively quick and easy way is to use a computer and scanner to copy them, copy them onto discs, and store copies in a safe deposit box or with a close friend or relative living outside the area.

\_\_\_ Have you put together an emergency evacuation kit should you have to leave your property in the event of a major wildland fire? The following is a partial list of documents and personal possessions you might want to consider taking with you: insurance policy numbers; treasured family photos; contact phone numbers including addresses of key people and agencies that may need to be contacted; prescription medications and a list of medications taken by family members; other important documents: house and vehicle keys, money, credit cards, checks, personal identification; prescription glasses/contact lenses; and if you have pets, don't forget their food, medication, and other essential supplies. In addition, consider assembling a Survival Kit which would include several days supply of food, water, eating utensils and cooking gear, a battery-powered radio or TV; first aid kit; and a flashlight.

**As an exercise to see how prepared you are for a disaster, consider the following:**

A wildland fire is quickly approaching and when it reaches your property, it will destroy your home and nearly everything else.

1. If you had only enough time to take one 12" by 18" and 12" deep cardboard box of personal possessions (knowing that you would lose virtually everything else to a fire) what would you take?

2. What about an inventory of your possessions? Would you be able to make an accurate list of everything you have lost?

3. Would your insurance be sufficient to help you begin to recover your property losses?

4. Would you have the resources to live independently away from your home?
5. Would you be able to evacuate your home with only a short warning?
6. What would you do about your pets? Your livestock?

gallon of water or a 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher readily available.

Please note: The use of motorized vehicles, including All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) is prohibited except on improved roads. (Improved roads are paved or graveled roads which must be free of flammable material.)

Fighting wildfires has become very expensive and results in the loss of both resources (i.e. timber) and property, so please be careful this summer while out camping, hiking, hunting, or just working around your home.

When Regulated Use Closure goes into effect, you will see orange signs posted throughout Western Lane's district. Be sure to keep an eye out for these signs and follow the requirements. Being found in non-compliance can be a very costly outcome.

If you have any questions about the fire season, regulated use closure, or other forestry related questions please call your local Oregon Department of Forestry office. Those living in western Lane County can call (541) 935-2283.



## Home Wildfire Safety: Create a Defensible Space and Practice Fire Safety

*(Excerpted from information from the Oregon Department of Forestry and Cal-Fire)*

More and more Oregonians are living in what is known as the wildland-urban interface - where homes and other structures are built in or near forests. This population expansion into rural areas has increased the risk of human-caused fires in the forest and has also placed more lives and property in the potential path of fires from forestlands. Today, more than a quarter-million homes in Oregon are at high risk from wildfire. Out of the 15.8 million acres of private and public forestland protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry, 3.5 million acres are considered wildland-urban interface.

On average, about two-thirds of the 1,100-odd fires on state-protected lands each year are caused by people, with the majority of them preventable. The information below is intended to educate residents who live in wooded areas, forest landowners, other rural residents, and the public about the threat of wildfire and actions they can take to lower the risk. Topics include:

- Creating a Defensible Space - including planting fire-resistant vegetation
- Safe Debris Burning and Alternatives to Burning
- Barbecue Safety
- Motorcycle and Off-Road Vehicle Safety
- Safe Campfires
- Firework Safety

### Create a Defensible Space

Creating defensible space around your home is the best way to protect your home from wildfire. The first 30 feet surrounding your home - referred to as the primary ignition zone - is the most critical - and there are some simple actions that a homeowner can take to help protect their homes from wildfire that are easy, quick, and relatively inexpensive, such as:

- Removing dead and dying debris - particularly from places that it piles up near the home such as in gutters and planters, any "valleys" that can catch debris that embers and sparks can blow onto - the most common way for a wildfire to damage or destroy a home in the wildland-urban interface.
- Storing firewood at least 20 feet away from the home or completely covering it to protect it from those same blowing embers and sparks.
- Properly maintaining the plants that are in the area - pruning, removing dead and dying materials, and keeping them well-watered and green.

A defensible space also allows room for firefighters to fight the fire safely.

Protecting your home from wildfire falls into three categories:

- using fire-resistant building materials (such as roofing)
- reducing fuels around your home (such as wood piles)
- planting fire-resistant plants in your landscape

While these steps do not ensure that your home will survive a wildfire, they substantially increase the chances that it will.

The diagrams and explanations on the next page illustrate the most effective ways to create a defensible space:



### Regulated Use Closure - 2015

By Matt Mackey, Wildland Fire Supervisor  
 Western Lane District, Oregon Department of Forestry

Once again you will see posted "Regulated Use Closure" signs throughout our rural areas within the Western Lane Forest Protection District. The objective of this closure is to restrict those public activities that can and will result in wildfires. Some of the activities that are restricted are:

- Smoking in areas that have flammable vegetation.
- Open fires are prohibited, including campfires, cooking fires, and charcoal fires except in designated campgrounds or on private property (such as a campfire pit within 100 feet of your residence) with the permission of the landowner.
- Chain saw use is prohibited between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Chainsaw use is permitted all other hours provided the following fire fighting equipment is present with each operating saw: one axe, one shovel, and one operational 8 oz. or larger fire extinguisher. In addition, a fire watch of at least one hour is required following the use of each saw.
- Mowing of dried and cured grass is prohibited between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. except for commercial culture and harvest of agricultural crops. However, it is acceptable to mow **green** grass around your home so long as it is watered down.
- Use of fireworks and exploding targets is also prohibited.

If you plan on heading out into the forest to camp, fish, hunt or to enjoy other recreational activities you will need to have the following in your vehicle: One axe, one shovel and one



**Zone 1**

Zone 1 extends 30 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Relocate wood piles into Zone 2.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

**Zone 2**

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees. (See the diagram above)
- Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees.
- Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches.

**Can I have a campfire (recreational fire) during the summer months?**

By Dean Chappell, LFA Fire Marshal

During the summer months we frequently get telephone calls asking if a resident living in the areas covered by Lane Fire Authority can have a camping/warming fire on their property - particularly once the *Regulated Use* rules go into effect (see the accompanying article). The answer must be broken into several parts, depending upon where you live.



**If you live in the City of Eugene:**

Recreational (camp) fires are prohibited by city ordinance.

**If you live in the city of Veneta:**

Veneta is subject to the Oregon Fire Code which states:

- Bonfires shall not be conducted within 50 feet of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.
- Portable outside fireplaces shall be used in accordance with manufacture's instructions and shall not be operated within 15 feet of a structure or combustible material.



- Open burning, bonfires, recreational fires and use of portable outdoor fireplaces shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

Those living in all rural areas outside Eugene and Veneta (including the communities of Elmira, Noti and Walton):

You are subject to the rules established by the Oregon Department of Forestry related to open burning (a good indication are the posted "Regulated Use Area" signs put up throughout the covered areas - see the accompanying article for more information on "Regulated Use Closure").

- The campfire site must be inspected by personnel from the Oregon Department of Forestry to make sure it is in a safe and appropriate location. Call (541) 935-2283 to set up an appointment.
- The campfire site must be within 100' of the residence.
- Brush must be cleared at least 50' around the site.

**Kidde Disposable Fire Extinguisher With Plastic Valve Recall**

by Dean Chappell, Fire Marshal



Kidde is recalling millions of disposable fire extinguishers with plastic valves. Nearly 5 million Kidde fire extinguishers sold over the past two years are being recalled because a defective valve could cause them to fail when used to put out a fire.

The massive recall involves 31 different models of disposable fire extinguishers - the type that aren't made to be refilled. Most were sold between August 2013 and November 2014 for \$18 to \$65 at stores including Home Depot ([HD](#)) and Walmart ([WMT](#)), but one model, the XL 5MR, sold for \$200.

A faulty valve component can cause the disposable fire extinguishers not to fully discharge when the lever is repeatedly pressed and released during a fire emergency, posing a risk of injury.

This recall involves 31 models of Kidde disposable fire extinguishers with Zytel® black plastic valves. The recalled extinguishers are red, white or silver and are either ABC or BC rated. The ratings can be found to the right of the nameplate. Manufacture dates included in the recall are July 23, 2013 through October 15, 2014. A 10-digit date code is stamped on the side of the cylinder, near the bottom. Digits five through nine represent the day and year of manufacture in DDDYY format. Date codes for recalled units manufactured in 2013 are XXXX 20413 X through XXXX 36513 X and 2014 are XXXX 00114 X through XXXX 28814 X. A nameplate affixed to the front of the fire extinguisher has one of the following model numbers: 10BC, 1A 10BC, 1A 10BCW, 2A 10BC, 5BC, 5BCW, FA10G, FA110, FA5B, FC10, FC110, FC5, FH/RESSP, FX10, FX10BC, FX10K, FX210, FX210R, FX210W, FX340GW, FX340SC, FX5II, KFH Twin, M110 Twin, M5 Twin, Mariner 10, Mariner 110, Mariner 5, Mariner 45G, RESSP, XL 5MR.

Kidde has received 11 reports of the recalled fire extinguishers failing to discharge as expected. No injuries have been reported. Consumers should

immediately contact Kidde for a replacement fire extinguisher. The extinguishers were manufactured in Mexico and were sold at Home Depot, Menards, Walmart and other department, home and hardware stores nationwide, and online from August 2013 through November 2014 for between \$18 and \$65, and about \$200 for model XL 5MR.

## Lane Fire Authority Patron goes to Guatemala with the Cascade Medical Team

By Sue West, Firefighter/EMT-I

*(Editor's note: Lane Fire Authority Firefighter/EMT-I Sue West has been to Guatemala twice with the Cascade Medical Team. The following article is the result of an interview with Rita Ofstrosky, a patron who lives in the South Battalion of the fire district. Rita joined the Cascade Medical Team and traveled to Guatemala in March.)*



Rita Ofstrosky & Sue West

Rita Ofstrosky, of Veneta, recently returned home from a two week medical mission to the very poor country of Guatemala. Each year in March, the Cascade Medical Team sends a team of volunteers to Solola, a village in the highlands of the poorest part of the country. The people of this area are of Mayan descent and receive almost no medical care from their government. The Team is made up of volunteers from many different backgrounds traveling from all over the United States. Surgeons, dentists, nurses, and other medically trained people are needed to work the clinic and hospital, along with Spanish translators. Rita, who currently volunteers with Centro Latino Americano Social Services in Eugene, speaks fluent Spanish. Having had polio as a child, Rita has some limitations physically and was not sure if she could make a trip of this magnitude. When asked why she chose to volunteer with the CMT, Rita said that her neighbor, Stan Turner, who also is a volunteer with Lane Fire Authority, had made more than a dozen

trips and shared some of his experiences. Feeling that she could be an asset in the triage area as a translator, Rita decided to go for it. After turning 70 this, year, Rita felt it was the right time for her to do what she had always wanted to do.



2015 Cascade Medical Team

Was the experience everything she thought it would be? Having attended a couple of informative meetings along with other volunteers, many of which were returning for another year, Rita felt she had a pretty good idea what she was embarking upon. However, she was not expecting was the friendships she would make over the next few weeks. Volunteers, paying their own way, come to be part of the medical team, as well as the stove team, installing the ONIL wood stoves, and ONIL water systems. The one single thing all of the volunteers share is the desire to help those less fortunate. Things that we take for granted, like drinking clean water and being able to seek medical care are simply not available for these people. "An experience like this really makes you appreciate what you have," Rita said.

What advice would you give to anyone who might be thinking of doing something like this? Rita said, "Go for it and remember to be flexible. The experience was both humbling and rewarding. I found people to be both beautiful and appreciative of the smallest act of kindness. I am thankful for having the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of this group of people."

You can learn more about the work of the Cascade Medical Team by visiting [www.cascademedicalteam.org](http://www.cascademedicalteam.org)



## My Temporary Job Assignment in Washington, D.C.

- By LFA Lt. Brian Wilson -

When not volunteering with Lane Fire Authority (LFA), I work full time for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (USACE), assigned to the Willamette Valley Projects, working out of the Eugene Federal building. I'm the Environmental Specialist and Hazardous Materials manager for eight hydropower

facilities and five flood control dams throughout the Willamette Valley watershed. My primary role is to ensure these dams operate within environmental laws and regulations and that any hazardous materials generated are properly managed and disposed of, resulting in clean, safe, and enjoyable waterways for recreational activities.

Recently, I was selected for a 6 month detail assignment at our Headquarters office in Washington, D.C. (HQUSACE). My assignment consists of working with National policies, interpreting new presidential orders and writing applicable procedures specific to USACE, as well as traveling the country as an instructor presenting information about sustainable energy, green house gas reduction initiatives, environmental compliance, and hazardous waste management operations. The main purpose of this opportunity, however, is to gain high level experience and knowledge while working with the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Commanding General for USACE, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), both of which are within the Executive Branch of the President of the United States. This experience will hopefully help me through the promotion process within USACE, making me more competitive for higher level positions.

While there is plenty of exciting work to be done, I'm fortunate to find time to experience our Nation's capital and surrounding areas. My evenings and weekends are spent visiting the Smithsonian museums and galleries, experiencing a wide variety of foods, and learning more about our country's history. There is plenty to see and do. I hope to embrace all the city has to offer before it's time to come back home to my wife and kids and my LFA family. I encourage everyone to visit Washington D.C. at least once in their lifetime.



## Incidents Published by Lane Fire Authority on Facebook

From time-to-time we publish notifications on Lane Fire Authority's and Veneta Uncensored Facebook page about major calls. We do so to keep the greater Veneta-Elmira community informed about incidents of a significant nature that may have caused a road closure, a significant smoke column, etc.



## LFA Annual Awards Banquet

- Recognizing Member Contributions in 2014 -

On Saturday, March 21, 2015, Lane Fire Authority held its annual awards banquet acknowledging the contributions of its members in 2014. The following individuals were recognized for their contributions to the department:



Mark Zima receiving Volunteer of the Year Award

### Station Volunteer of the Year:

Bob Buckridge (Noti Station)  
 Caleb Burgess (Lorane Station)  
 Kristy Cates (Elmira Station)  
 Katy Garcia (Veneta Station)  
 Connor Irving (Alvadore Station)  
 Jordan Ray (Central Road Station)  
 Brian Sayles (Walton Station)  
 Fred Scalise (Butler Road Station)  
 Mike Speiser (Fox Hollow Station)  
 Sophie Tomczyk (Irving Station)  
 Stan Turner (Spencer Creek Station)  
 Mark Zima (Franklin Station)

### Longevity Awards

#### Three Years:

Richard Alexander, Joline Allen, Kristy Cates, Rene Filley, Scott Hopson, Jeremy Howland, Dave Koch, Danny Koffler, Paul Meshnik, Tim Rodgers.

#### Five Years:

Jennel Alexander, Dean Chappell, Billy Davis, Dana Deschaine, Dino Deschaine, Kristina Deschaine, Connor Irving, Megan Jozwiak, Jerod Rather, Rose Steen, Brian Wilson.

#### Ten Years:

Steve Bates, Fred Scalise, Terri Tierney.

#### Fifteen Years:

Don Culy, Mike Prentice, Tim Welch.

#### Twenty Years:

Bob Colwell.

#### Thirty-five Years:

John Baxter, Dale Borland.

## Join the Fern Ridge Community Blood Drive



Each year Lane Fire Authority hosts a series of blood drives in partnership with Lane Blood Center. Blood drives are scheduled every fifty-six days at Lane Fire Authority's Veneta station.



The response from the Fern Ridge community has been strong and inspiring. The simple yet vital act of donating blood directly saves lives. Over 40 donors give blood during each event.



The person responsible for coordinating the Fern Ridge Community Blood Drive is Terri Tierney, who has been a volunteer firefighter with Lane Fire Authority/Lane County Fire District #1 for eleven years. In addition to setting up the events, she prepares special soups and provides snacks, juice and water for donors.

The most recent blood drive was Wednesday, April 22, 2015. The next scheduled opportunity to donate blood at our Veneta fire station is Wednesday, June 24 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm. You can make an appointment by calling Lane Blood Center (541) 484-9111. If you forget to call, you can drop by on the day of the blood drive. Become an "everyday hero" and save a life by giving blood.

## Alvadore Rural Fire Department

by Fred Scalise, LFA Firefighter/Engineer, LFA Historian

*This article is part of a continuing series by Fred Scalise on the history of communities within the boundaries of Lane Fire Authority.*



As the 1930s came to a close, and World War II loomed on the horizon, the town of Alvadore (named for Alvadore Welch, the man who built an electric railway through the town in 1912; the town was previously known as Fern Ridge) was a bustling community known for its prune, apple, pear, and cherry orchards. In the first third of the twentieth century, the town supported

two grocery stores, a soda & candy shop, a grade school and community hall, post office, furniture store, a hay and grain warehouse, lumber yard, barber shop, restaurant, hotel, pool hall, church, blacksmith shop, automobile repair garage, and both a fruit dryer and a fruit packing house. The town even had a railroad station and a rail line that ran to Portland.

The village of Franklin (also known as Smithfield), located 3 miles to the northwest of Alvadore on the Westside Territorial Road, was similarly thriving in this time period. A general merchandise store, two churches, a school and grange hall, a produce & grain warehouse, blacksmith shop, and a pork packing house were all located in Franklin during the first 30 years of the Twentieth Century.

What neither community had was a fire department, and fires in those days were frequent and often catastrophic.

Creation of a "Fern Ridge" fire district, which would include Alvadore and Franklin as well as Veneta, Elmira, Noti, Vaughn, and Crow, was explored in the late 1940s and early 1950s. However, a majority of the residents in these areas were opposed to the fifty cents to one dollar a year in taxes it would cost to operate such a district. It was likely the district's proposed sole fire engine would be stationed in Veneta. As a result, Alvadore and Franklin continued relying on the kindness and generosity of neighboring fire districts, hoping they would send assistance whenever an emergency occurred.



Throughout the late 1940s and 1950s, Western Lane Fire Protection Service was the primary source for fire assistance in rural areas that were not located within a tax-supported fire protection district. Western Lane FPS's primary responsibility was fighting forest fires. They were a private cooperative funded by the companies who had major timber holdings in western Lane County, and they were neither trained nor equipped to fight structure fires.

Junction City Rural Fire Protection District (RFPD) or Veneta RFPD would sometimes send firefighters to Franklin. Irving RFPD or Bethel RFPD would sometimes respond to fires in the Alvadore area. However, response was

never guaranteed, and these fire departments were often unable or unwilling to send anything at all. In reality, by the time crews from these neighboring districts arrived on-scene, there was often nothing left to save.

Two fires in the Franklin and Alvadore areas underscored the need for local firefighting capabilities.

On September 5, 1956, a house two lots to the east of the Franklin Store caught fire. A hot wind from the east and southeast fanned the flames and carried the fire to the next house to the west. The intensity of the flames together with the strong winds threatened to consume the Franklin Store and at least a half dozen other homes in the immediate area. Local residents, feverishly fighting the fire with garden hoses, managed to save a parked automobile and prevent the fire from spreading to the store and nearby houses. By the time a fire engine from Veneta arrived on-scene, two houses had burned to the ground, and the roofs of the Franklin Store and a number of adjacent homes had been badly damaged. If the wind had been just a little stronger, the entire village of Franklin could have been lost.

In 1959, an explosion in a rental house on Snyder Road resulted in the structure being engulfed in flames. A representative from Bethel RFPD arrived on-scene and advised the neighbors who were battling the blaze that because of a new policy, member agencies of the Lane County Firefighters Association would no longer respond to fires that occurred in areas that were not within an established fire protection district. Eventually a fire engine and crew from Western Lane Fire Protection Service arrived and put out the remaining fire – but by that time all that was left standing of the house was half of one wall.

Community leaders in both Alvadore and Franklin realized that the time had come to finally establish local fire departments. Because of the relatively small populations in each town, it was clear that this would happen only if the two communities joined forces to create a single fire district.

After an affirmative vote by local residents, the Lane County Board of Commissioners authorized the formation of the Alvadore Rural Fire Department on August 26, 1960. The new district covered the area from the west side of the Eugene Airport (Perkerson Road), to just west of Territorial Road, and from

Fernridge Reservoir to just south of Highway 36.

Gordon McClure was appointed fire chief. He and a small band of volunteers began inspecting equipment and attending training drills at neighboring fire districts to learn the basics of firefighting and determine what was going to be needed to get the new department up and running. Chief McClure was forced to resign for health reasons in June 1961, and was succeeded by Terrence (Terry) Korn.

When the first tax money became available in July 1961, the new district hit the road running with

both a budget and a plan of action. The District purchased a junked 1942 K5 International fire truck out of a local farmer's "boneyard" for \$600. District representatives also went to the state civil defense surplus auction in Salem and purchased a stripped-down 1947 6x6 GMC G.I.-chassis portable machine shop truck, 6 usable tires (\$2 each) for the International fire engine, a 200 gpm Carter pump for the GMC, and enough sheet metal to make water tanks for both fire engines.

Ken Drew and Perry Elliot spent countless hours welding together a 500 gallon tank for the International, and a 1,700 gallon tank for the GMC. Herb Jacobson, owner of the Alvadore Garage, along with a variety of other volunteers, overhauled the two trucks to get them into reliable working order. They mounted water tanks, pumps, emergency lights, and other firefighting equipment, and then painted them.

As the "new" fire trucks were getting ready to be put into service, Terry Korn, Art Loudon, Perry Elliot, and Ken Drew went to another state surplus auction and found another International fire engine for sale. They didn't have the money for or really need another truck, but, the fire engine being offered came with variety of firefighting equipment that Alvadore RFD desperately did need. So they joined forces with a logger who only wanted the truck, successfully won the auction, and came home with 1,000 feet of 2-1/2-inch hose, 100 feet of 1-1/2-inch hose, two 10-foot sections of hard suction hose, a variety of hose nozzles, a roof ladder, two 30-foot extension ladders, axes, and a variety of



miscellaneous firefighting tools and supplies.

Dick Bauer, who owned a fruit and nut drying facility (Alvadore Dryer) donated two lots across the street from the present-day Alvadore fire station in September 1961, and the community immediately pitched in to build a station to house the two fire engines. The 2-bay, shed roof station was constructed with volunteer labor, using mostly donated, discounted, or salvaged building materials. A second story was later added to the rear of the station using plywood salvaged from a shed on Art Loudon's property.

The Alvadore firemen spent the winter of 1961/1962 in training, learning the basics of firefighting through the State Vocational Education program. In March 1962, the volunteers hosted a fund-raising ham dinner at the Franklin Grange – the money raised was used to buy helmets, turnout coats, and additional hose.

Response capabilities for the western portion of the District were improved by the building of a station in Franklin in 1969. Using volunteer labor and donated lumber and other building materials, the station was completed and placed into service in January 1970 at a total cost to the taxpayers of \$1,500. The two original Alvadore fire engines (1942 International and 1947 GMC) were moved to Franklin. A 1951 Diamond T, and a brand new 1969 Ford, became the frontline fire engines based in Alvadore. The Ford had a 2,000 gallon tank and 750 gpm pump. By today's standards it would be classified as an "interface" engine designed to be used to suppress both structure, and farm field and brush fires.

From 1962 through 1972, the Alvadore Rural Fire Department responded to an average of 10 calls per year to fires in the District, and mutual aid requests from nearby districts. In keeping with the agricultural characteristic of the District, the most common responses were to fires involving barns, chicken houses, and farm fields.

The early 1970s marked the beginning of major changes in the fire service. A variety of new regulations required such things as the use of self-contained breathing apparatus, "certified" protective clothing, and standardized recurring firefighter training. The early 1970s also saw the fire service assuming a leading role in providing emergency medical care. All of these changes

meant significantly higher operating costs for fire departments, and Alvadore RFD was no exception.

In its first year of operation, the annual operating budget for Alvadore RFD was \$2,500. By 1967, the budget had increased to \$4,700. Even at the higher level, there was not enough money to buy and maintain quality apparatus and firefighting equipment, obtain required training, maintain and expand station facilities, and take on the new costs associated with emergency medical services. The District just didn't have the population base to support increased taxes.

In April 1973, Alvadore Rural Fire Department formally merged with neighboring Irving Rural Fire Protection District to form Lane Rural Fire Protection District No. 1. The merger was beneficial to both districts: Irving had a stable and sufficient tax base, but declining volunteer participation; Alvadore had plenty of volunteers, but insufficient money.

[Lane Rural Fire Protection District No. 1 was officially renamed Lane Rural Fire/Rescue in 1995, to avoid confusion with the newly-formed, neighboring Lane County Fire District No. 1]

Lane Rural Fire/Rescue and Lane County Fire District No. 1 completed a functional consolidation on July 1, 2012, and now operate together as the Lane Fire Authority (LFA), providing fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to almost 300 square miles of territory located to the west, southwest, and northwest of Eugene. Ironically, this service area encompasses all the communities that would have been located within the Fern Ridge Fire District that was first proposed in 1948.

**Fire Chiefs: Alvadore Rural Fire Department (1960 – 1973)**

Name	Dates of Service
Gordon McClure	1960 – 1961
Terry Korn	1961 – 1971
Marvin King	1971 – 1973

*Historical information and materials provided by the following individuals: Terrence (Terry) Korn & Jim Drew*

See something we got wrong? Have information or photographs that you would be willing to share? Let us know. Contact **Fred Scalise** at [omnicon\\_envir@hotmail.com](mailto:omnicon_envir@hotmail.com)

**Why Do They Do That?**

By Steve Strain, LFA Assistant Chief

Just last week I saw a video that has gone viral, of a citizen ranting over a fire crew with their fire engine, buying groceries at their local market. Why do they need to buy groceries on "my time, using my tax dollars?" he asked. The same question has been asked many times when the members of the community see our fire trucks out and about and there seems to be no emergency. In response to these questions, I'd like to point out that we take our tools where ever we go. In the event of an emergency, we drop what we are doing and respond to calls for assistance. Sometimes this means we need to abandon our grocery cart in the store, and understanding clerks usually set it aside, knowing we will be back. Having the fire truck allows us to fight fires or use the medical equipment it carries to handle most emergencies as a first response. We never know where our next emergency will be, so the likelihood that it will be next door to the fire station is the same as if it was at the grocery store we shop at.



So why don't the fire crews just bring food from home instead of using the fire truck and burning fuel paid for by tax dollars? There are a couple of reasons; first, familiarization with the area, the equipment, and the buildings in the response district. The more familiar the crews are with driving their trucks, feeling the road conditions, and being in businesses during business hours, the better they will respond to those buildings and conditions any time there is an emergency. Second, while the trucks are being used, studies have shown they last longer with fewer breakdowns when they are run frequently than if allowed to just sit between calls. Crews that use the equipment regularly are more likely to detect small problems before they become big ones, and save the taxpayers the cost of major repairs. Last, by shopping locally, we are spending our money in the district that provides the tax dollars for our salaries. In a way, we are supporting the very businesses that support us, being members of the community we serve.



Isn't that food bought with my tax dollars? While Lane Fire Authority does buy some food consumed by staff and volunteers, we only provide meals in conjunction with an event like an emergency that requires crews to be away from a regular meal. Firefighters can burn a tremendous amount of calories in the performance of their job. Most of our crew members are volunteers and may miss a meals while away from home on a big fire or long-term emergency. The district provides sustenance carried on the command vehicles for such cases. Regular meals for duty crews are their responsibility, and are paid for out of their own pockets. Duty crews commonly work a 48 hour shift, which means either storing a lot of food, or making a trip to the store to buy fresh food. As I said earlier, when a call for response comes in, they drop whatever they are doing to go on the call. In my years as a firefighter, I have had to leave many fine meals on the table, only to return hours later and scrape them into the compost pail. While it's a waste, it's better than the risk of food poisoning.

There are many other times you may see our fire trucks out and about in the district that do not involve emergencies. During summer months, we have crews that install address posts in front of residential driveways. They also update our maps and check area hydrants to maintain their operation. Our Fire Prevention officers provide school safety programs and inspect businesses for fire code compliance. Crews tour new buildings for familiarity and to create preplans which we can access in an emergency. Or you may see the volunteers collecting canned food or participating in other community assistance drives. All these activities support our mission and our community and you can be assured that when you need help, your firefighters will be responding.

**LFA Will be Sending Crews to 2015 Conflagration Mobilizations**



Lane Fire Authority will again be sending local crews should Oregon Governor Kate Brown declare a mobilization for a conflagration. The

Oregon Conflagration Act, originally passed in 1947, is invoked when a major fire threatens life and structures. Local fire departments, under the Oregon Fire Service Mobilization Plan, voluntarily sign an agreement to provide apparatus and personnel.



At the time of the publication of *Flash Point's* 2015 Summer edition, the severity of this year's major fire season is not yet clear, but given the lack of snow accumulation in much of Oregon and drought conditions, it could portend a dry and dangerous summer. Our participation in the Conflagration Act is on a rotational basis as crews and apparatus are sent from a variety of fire departments in the southern Willamette Valley. A full compliment from Lane Fire Authority would include a pumper with a crew of three; a tender (water tanker) with a crew of two and a brush rig, also with a crew of two. While we might send as many as nine members (potentially including a Task Force leader and an assistant) from Lane Fire Authority, care is taken to ensure we also have adequate crews and backup to be able to respond to our department calls.

**What is the Conflagration Act?**

The Office of State Fire Marshal assists and supports the Oregon fire service during major emergency operations through the Conflagration Act.

In accordance with the terms of Chapter 112, Oregon Laws of 1947, known as "The Emergency Conflagration Act", it is, "the duty of the State Fire Marshal to prepare plans for effective carrying out the provisions of this act..." The Emergency Conflagration Act can only be authorized by the Governor. The Conflagration Act is only used for fires that involve or threaten life and structures.

**How is the Conflagration Act invoked?**

The local fire chief and County Fire Defense Board Chief assess the incident status with the following kinds of questions in mind:

- Are there structure fires not controlled due to sheer size and/or speed of the fire?
- Is a wildland fire threatening structures?
- Have all local and mutual aid resources been depleted?
- Would mobile support resources be effective?

If the answers are yes, then the County Fire Defense Board Chief notifies the State Fire Marshal through the Oregon Emergency Response System. The State Fire Marshal decides, in discussion with the County Fire Defense Board Chief, if the situation warrants Conflagration Act implementation. Once decided, the State Fire Marshal notifies the governor, who authorizes the act to be invoked. At this point, the *Fire Service Mobilization Plan* becomes effective.

**What is the Fire Service Mobilization Plan?**

The Fire Service Mobilization Plan is a guide for OSFM personnel and emergency responders to use during times of emergency. The plan establishes operating procedures for the most practical utilization of state resources for all hazard emergencies which are beyond the capabilities of the local resources. It assumes the prior existence of mutual aid agreements, which organize district and regional incident forces to cope with local emergencies.



**Why Do We Sometimes Block an Entire Road?**

By Terry Ney, Fire Chief



When a motor vehicle accident occurs, we often will close a lane or an entire road. Inevitably someone will stop and argue, "I can fit thru there, just move those cones". Please understand there are many instances worldwide of fire and EMS personnel getting hit by passing traffic on incident scenes, and we don't want that to happen here. We need room to do our jobs....to tend to patients, stabilize wrecked vehicles, go back and forth between the cars/patients and our rescue vehicles. We are well aware that people have places they need to go. Consequently, we work very hard

to set up traffic control, and if necessary, detour routes, so that people aren't delayed unnecessarily. If you do need to come into an incident scene because of family members being involved, please ask one of the personnel directing traffic where they would like you to park. We want to provide the highest level of service we can. A key part of that service is ensuring the safety of our personnel and our patients.

**First Aid Kit Essentials**

(courtesy: familydoctor.org)

**Why do I need a first aid kit?**



Falls, bee stings, burns, allergic reactions -- all of these are common accidents that can happen in any home or on any outing. That's when a first aid kit comes in handy. When you have a well-stocked first aid kit, you have the supplies you need to be ready for most minor emergencies.

Putting a kit together is as simple as placing some basic items in a small container, such as a plastic tub, tool kit or tote bag. Keep one in your medicine cabinet at home, making sure it's out of young children's reach.

**What do I need in a first aid kit?**

Here's a breakdown of some supplies every first aid kit needs.

- Dressings and bandages:
  - 25 adhesive bandages of various sizes (brand names: Band-Aid, Curad, others)
  - 5 sterile gauze pads (3 x 3 inches)
  - 5 sterile gauze pads (4 x 3 inches)
  - Gauze roll
- Eye shield or pad
- Roll of adhesive tape
- Elastic bandage (brand names: ACE, Coban, others) for wrapping wrist, elbow, ankle and knee injuries (3 to 4 inches wide)
- 2 triangular bandages for wrapping injuries and making arm slings
- Sterile cotton balls and cotton-tipped swabs

**Equipment and other supplies:**

- 2 pair latex or non-latex gloves (These should be worn any time you may be at risk of contact with blood or body fluid of any type.)
- Instant cold pack

- 5 safety pins to easily fasten splints and bandages
- Turkey baster or other suction device to flush out wounds
- Aluminum finger splint
- Syringe and medicine spoon for giving specific doses of medicine
- Thermometer
- Tweezers to remove ticks, insect stingers and small splinters
- Scissors for cutting gauze
- Breathing barrier for giving CPR
- Blanket
- Hand sanitizer (liquid and/or wipes)
- First aid manual
- List of emergency numbers
- Medicine for cuts and injuries:
- Antiseptic solution or wipes, such as hydrogen peroxide, povidone-iodine (one brand name: Betadine) or chlorhexidine (one brand name: Betasept)
- Antibiotic ointment (brand names: Neosporin, Bactroban) that contain ingredients such as bacitracin or mupirocin
- Sterile eyewash or saline, such as contact lens saline solution
- Calamine lotion for stings or poison ivy
- Hydrocortisone cream, ointment or lotion for itching

Other medicines:

- Pain and fever medicines, such as aspirin, acetaminophen (one brand name: Tylenol) or ibuprofen (brand names: Advil, Motrin). (Note: Do not give children and teenagers aspirin, because it has been related to a potentially serious disease called Reye's syndrome in children younger than 18 years of age.)
- Antihistamine (one brand name: Benadryl) to treat allergies and swelling
- Decongestants to treat nasal congestion
- Anti-nausea medicine to treat motion sickness and other types of nausea
- Anti-diarrhea medicine
- Antacid to treat upset stomach
- Laxative to treat constipation

Think about any special needs in your family, such as those of a child or elderly person, as well as allergies or diseases. Add supplies as needed for these conditions. Also, be sure to refill your kit with any supplies you have used or that may have expired.

**Can I purchase a first aid kit?**

Yes. The American Red Cross and many drugstores sell first aid kits with the necessary items. Remember, for the kit to be useful, you need to know how to

use it. You may want to take a Red Cross first aid course or at least purchase a first aid manual to learn first aid basics.

**Smoke Detectors**

by Dean Chappell,  
LFA Fire Marshal



Beep . . . Beep . . . Beep. When was the last time you heard that sound coming from your smoke detectors? We hope it was in the last thirty days . . . . you know, when you last checked your smoke alarm!

Please remember it is essential to check your smoke alarms frequently. Once a month is recommended.

Once you have checked your detector, do you have enough of them in your home? Do you have one in every sleeping area and one on each level? Multiple units need to provide adequate coverage and warning, should you have a fire in your home.

In addition to maintaining your smoke detectors, don't forget to have an escape plan for your home. Practice it with your family several times a year. Key parts of the plan include locating two ways to exit every room, crawling low (heat and smoke kill!) and having an agreed upon meeting place located safely away from the house.

Do you need help? We can check your smoke alarm. Don't have enough alarms and can't afford them? We can also help. Give us a call at (541) 935-2226, ask for Dean Chappell, LFA Fire Marshal. He can arrange for staff from Lane Fire Authority to provide you with assistance.

**Recreational Vehicle Safety Tips**

By Dean Chappell, LFA Fire Marshal

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. That means it is time to go camping. For many of us it is time to get the camper ready.



In your motorhome, camper or trailer, make sure the smoke detector has a fresh battery and is working. Remember if the smoke detector is over 10 years old it should be replaced with a new one. You also need to have a working CO (carbon monoxide) monitor.

Check for gas leaks, make sure that all gas appliances are working properly.

Check your fire extinguisher. Make sure the gauge is in the green. Take the extinguisher and shake it and make sure the powder is loose. The vibration from traveling down the road may compact the powder.



Know where emergency exits are and how to use them.

Parents and grandparents should make sure children know how to operate the door on the camper.

Have a fun and fire safe summer.

**When to Call 911**



As a fire department we respond to a wide variety of emergencies, among them: fires, severe injuries, serious illnesses, motor vehicle crashes and natural disasters.

In nearly every case, our response to an emergency is initiated via a call to 911 - the Emergency Dispatch Center (located at 2nd and Chambers in Eugene). In the United States over 200 millions calls to 911 are made every year. Unfortunately, there are instances when calls to 911 and our responses are unnecessary or inappropriate, taking us away from responding to true emergencies.

**When is it appropriate to call 911 and when is it not?**

A simple rule of thumb? Call 911 when there is a clear threat to life or property. Nine-one-one is to be used **ONLY** in emergency situations. An emergency is any situation that requires immediate assistance from the police/sheriff, the fire department or an ambulance. If you are ever in doubt of whether a situation is an emergency, don't hesitate to call 9-1-1.

**When to call 9-1-1:** If you are experiencing *any of the following*, call 9-1-1 immediately:

- Severe difficulty breathing, especially which does not improve with rest.
- Chest pain.
- A fast heartbeat (more than 120-150) at rest especially if associated with shortness of breath or feeling faint
- You witness someone faint/pass out or someone is unresponsive (comatose)
- Difficulty speaking, numbness, or weakness of any part of the body

- Sudden dizziness, weakness or mental changes (confusion, very odd behavior, difficulty walking)
- Sudden blindness/vision changes
  - Heavy bleeding from your mouth, nose, vagina or bottom (anus)
  - Bleeding from any wound that won't stop with direct pressure
  - Broken bones visible through an open wound, or a broken leg
- Drowning
- Choking
- Severe burns
- Allergic reaction-especially if there is any difficulty breathing
- Extremely hot or cold
- Poisoning or drug overdose
- New severe headache
- Sudden intense severe pain
- Someone is threatening to hurt or kill themselves or someone else
- Motor vehicle collision with injuries

**When not to call 9-1-1?**

- Routine visits to medical offices, clinics, hospitals
- Flu-like symptoms or common colds
- Chronic (ongoing) aches or pains
- Minor cuts that stop bleeding with pressure
- When the power is out
- Broken pipes
- Broken fingers or toes (unless partially/fully amputated)
- Calling 911 as a prank (it is illegal and could lead to criminal charges)

**Know what to say and what to expect when you call:**

The 911 call-taker will ask you the reason for your call, your name, the location of the emergency, the type of injury or illness, the condition of the victim, whether assistance is being provided and other pertinent questions including the location of the emergency. Do your best to stay calm. While you may feel there is a delay in sending help, be aware that the call taker is simultaneously sending information to the emergency dispatcher so help can be sent to you as quickly as possible (note that calls are triaged depending on the information provided - determining their order of response during times when there are numerous calls for assistance). Stay on the line until the call taker tells you to hang up, he or she may give you instructions on providing assistance and/or taking action.

**What to do until help arrives:**

- Unless you are in personal danger, stay on scene (one of our frequent difficulties is the "driveby cell phone caller" who believes they have seen an

emergency, makes a call to 911 but provides inaccurate information).

- Don't move an injured person unless he/she is in danger.
  - Do your best to keep the victim warm and comfortable.
  - If at a residence or other building, turn on a porch light; if possible designate a person to meet the emergency apparatus and direct them to the incident.
  - If on the highway, turn on your flashers to warn oncoming traffic and take extra care not to be injured yourself.

**In Memorium**

**Wendell Gray**

Lane Fire Authority was saddened to learn the passing of Wendell Gray on January 24, 2015. Wendell served for over 10 years on the Crow Valley Fire Department. Crow Valley was one of four departments that merged in 1995 to become Lane County Fire District No. 1 and three years ago functionally consolidated with Lane Rural Fire/Rescue to become Lane Fire Authority.



Wendell was captain of the Spencer Creek station and in 1986 was honored as Firefighter of the Year. He was well known in the greater Eugene community for his commercial nursery businesses. Wendell loved antique fire engines and always owned several at a time. In August of 2012, he hosted a reunion for former members of the Crow Valley Fire Department.

One of Wendell's greatest gifts was mentoring his son, Kevin, who also became a volunteer with Crow Valley. Kevin continued his dedication to the fire service by becoming a career firefighter and is currently a captain with the Eugene/Springfield Fire Department.

We will miss Wendell's great humor and have fond memories of his commitment to the fire service.



August, 2012 Reunion of former Crow Valley Volunteers hosted by Wendell Gray

**Bill Burruss**

Just prior to publication of this edition of *Flash Point*, we learned of the passing of Bill Burruss, a long time member of Lane Rural Fire/Rescue.



For those who did not know Bill Burruss, he started as a volunteer firefighter with Lane Rural Fire Rescue in the late 1960's, and retired as Assistant Chief in the late 1990's. Bill continued his volunteer work by serving as a board member of LRFR for several years after he retired.

Lane Fire Authority Assistant Chief Dale Borland noted: *Bill was one of the kindest guys you could meet. He was very devoted to the fire district. He was a genuine inspiration. Bill lead by example and believed in good customer service, treating people respectfully and doing the right thing.*

**Upcoming Events**



June 24 - Fern Ridge Blood Drive 1:00 to 6:00 pm

Mid-July - Safety Day and Library Reading Program (watch for announcement)

August 4 - Bike Safety Day (in conjunction with the Fern Ridge Library reading program - watch for announcement).



2015 total alarms as of May 31: 1,851

**Flash Point** is published semi-annually by Lane Fire Authority. Visit our website [www.lanefire.org](http://www.lanefire.org). Please direct comments and questions to the Editor, Stan Turner, by calling (541) 935-2226 or by sending written comments to Lane Fire Authority, P.O. Box 275, Veneta, OR