



# Lane Fire Authority

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P.O. Box 398, Veneta, Oregon 97487  
541.935.2226  
[www.lanefire.org](http://www.lanefire.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 2, 2016  
Contact: Chief Terry Ney (541) 935-2226 [terryney@lanefire.org](mailto:terryney@lanefire.org)  
Assistant Chief Chris Heppel (702) 759-5404 [chrisheppel@lanefire.org](mailto:chrisheppel@lanefire.org)

### **Public agencies turn to Lane Fire Authority for training on active shooter response**

*Media invited to attend training on February 15*

[Veneta, Ore.] – Lane Fire Authority started a class in 2012 to help public agencies respond to an active shooter emergency. The class has taken off to the point that the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training now provides funding for any public fire and emergency medical services agency that wants to participate.

Assistant Chief Chris Heppel, who is the course director, has trained emergency responders, educators and law enforcement across the state of Oregon. In 2015, 20 agencies participated in the class, which reached more than 200 people. Heppel has 11 classes scheduled for the first quarter of 2016 already.

“We’ve hit a real nerve for emergency responders,” he said. “These types of emergencies are growing and our people need the education and training to help them prepare and respond to a high threat situation.”

Lane Fire Authority developed the class after participating in an active shooter exercise at Elmira High School in 2012. That experience showed the fire authority and other emergency responders that they needed to make improvements in how they responded and coordinated efforts on site.

The course is called High Threat Tactics, Techniques and Treatments for Emergency Responders (HT4). Heppel developed the curriculum based on techniques and treatment protocols developed by the National Association of EMTs and the Committee on Tactical Emergency Casualty Care.

Participants learn what to expect in active shooter incident; scene safety for emergency responders; responding to and managing high threat incidents; and, treating patients on scene. In the afternoon, there is a simulated exercise for attendees to apply what they learned from the morning. The training has two clear goals: providing emergency responders with skills they need to respond to a high threat situation; and, teaching emergency responders from different agencies how to work collaboratively.

“We all have the same priorities in an active shooter situation,” he says. “Cooperation is critical to provide the best possible outcome for everyone involved.”

*Members of the press are invited to attend a high threat exercise the afternoon of Monday, February 15 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please contact Assistant Chief Chris Heppel to reserve a place and receive location details.*

Agency personnel interested in attending or scheduling a class should contact Assistant Chief Chris Heppel of Lane Fire Authority directly at (702) 759-5404 or [chrisheppel@lanefire.org](mailto:chrisheppel@lanefire.org).

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*Lane Fire Authority provides fire, life safety and emergency medical services (EMS) to 36,000 residents over 276 square miles in the Willamette Valley. This new partnership is actually two fire districts – Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue – operating under a special agreement since 2012 that saves money and improves emergency services for the community. Our career and volunteer emergency personnel respond to over 4,800 emergency calls per year, 81% of which are for EMS.*



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