

"Neighbors Volunteering To Help Neighbors"

Spring/Summer Edition: 2013

Featured in this issue of Flash Point:

End of Backyard Burn Season
"Regulated Use Closure" Explained
Summer Fire Safety Check List
Steps to Becoming a Volunteer
Firefighter



Backyard Burn Season

In mid-May the backyard burn season for 2013 was closed temporarily, the result of one of the driest years in Lane County history. It was reopened on Friday, May 24 and unless we have another prolonged dry spell, it will be open until Saturday, June 15. However, it is hard to tell what the fickle weather of Oregon will bring, and it is entirely possible the season will be prematurely closed once again.

As is true throughout the burn season, you are required to have a burn permit. They are available at your neighborhood fire station and also at the main station in Veneta. Please remember you must call the LRAPA phone number, printed on your burn permit, in order to determine whether it is a "burn day."

You are encouraged to read several of the featured articles in this edition of *Flash Point* that address summer fire safety, including information on Regulated Use Closure, your Summer Fire Safety Check List, and information on checking your smoke alarms.

Please exercise caution if you conduct a burn. It is just too easy for fires to get out of control. Should you burn illegally, you may receive a hefty fine from Western Lane Forestry or LRAPA and be held liable for any damage done to public and private property.



What Is Regulated Use Closure?

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

Every summer the Oregon Department of Forestry, in an effort to reduce the chance of wildfires, puts on what is called a *Regulated Use Closure*. If you have lived in Western Lane County very long you have probably noticed the bright orange signs that are posted on most roadways once the dry conditions warrant the closure. This closure covers all lands 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 residence) your 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 at 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 the 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. The

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

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

A frequent summer question is "can we have a campfire?" There is a balance between fire safety and enjoying a summer evening activity. If you plan to have a warming or campfire, please be aware of the following:

- 1. 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.
- 2. The campfire site must be within 100' of the residence.
- 3. Brush must be cleared at least 50' around the site.

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

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

Thank you and have an enjoyable and fire safe summer!





Summer Fire-Safety By Capt. Stan Turner

A large majority of the 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 We offer more in-depth carefully. 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.



Your Summer Safety Check List:

___ 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 sheeting or fine-mesh wire (openings no larger than 1/8th 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 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 card board 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?

From the
Chief's Desk
By Chief Terry Ney
Lane Fire Authority



The Fire SUV

Some of you may have seen the standup routine by comedian Hannibal Buress entitled "The Fire SUV". If not, it's available on YouTube. It's a humorous look at the fact that many times the fire department sends one or more officers in an SUV to an emergency incident to take a command role. You may have wondered why we do this....and it raises the broader question of, "What is the job of the fire chief, anyway?"



On the scene of an emergency incident, the chief officer often is the incident commander. Emergencies require matching the demands of the emergency to the resources that respond to the incident, and coordinating that is one job of the incident commander. Emergency incidents are mitigated thru the application of strategies, tactics, and tasks.

Strategies are broad plans and goals, and in order to develop and monitor a strategy, the incident commander must have a broad view of the incident. A firefighter who is focused on a task has a very hard time maintaining that broad perspective. Tactics are the specific action plans that are used to implement the strategy, and they are handled by groups of firefighters, known as a company, that respond on a fire engine or truck, and are under the command of a company officer (a senior firefighter, lieutenant or captain). Tasks are the individual steps of the tactic, and are performed by one or two firefighters.



So at a structure fire, a strategy might be to confine the fire to one room of the house. The tactics used to accomplish this might include forcible entry through a locked door so that the fire attack pushes the fire away from the unburned area, ventilation to remove the heat and smoke, and application of water or foam to the burning material. Tasks to accomplish the tactics might include use of a halligan tool to force the door lock, placement of a positive pressure fan at the front door to pressurize the house, and advancing a hose line to the room on fire.

The firefighter advancing the hose line down the hall, wearing full protective clothing and breathing air from the tank on his or her back, isn't in a position to monitor the success of the overall strategy. It is the job of the incident commander to take a position where they can see the whole building, and by gathering information from multiple sources, assess whether that strategy is working, and decide how additional responding units should best be deployed to further the strategies.

Emergency scenes are, by nature, unstable situations, and are usually unsafe places to be, Responders need to look out for each other's safety. Often times we assign another experienced person to be a safety officer, and it is the job of that person to watch the entire incident scene, looking specifically for unsafe situations or actions, and immediately make changes to prevent injury to the responders.

For large fires in rural situations where there are no hydrants, we haul water in using tanker trucks we call tenders. Since these rural locations often involve secondary roads, long driveways, and other limits to travel by large vehicles, it is important that the movement of the trucks be coordinated. Also, the number of tenders needed, and the selection of the appropriate site or sites to fill them, are dictated by the location of the fire as well as the amount of water needed to suppress it. All of this is managed by an officer we refer to as the water supply officer.

If an incident scene is large, or spread out, or there are other factors that make it difficult for the incident commander to see it from one location, it is common to break it up into geographic zones we call "divisions", and assign an officer to oversee the operations in each division. Similarly, if the incident has a particular or unique function that needs to be done at multiple locations, for example rescue, we may create a "rescue group" and assign an officer to supervise it.

So you can see how the scene an emergency such as a fire or a car crash can require one, two, three, or more officers to effectively manage the mitigation process. These officers generally get to the incident scene via a "fire SUV", which in the Lane Fire Authority is either a Tahoe or a pickup with a canopy.

But responding to emergencies only takes up a small part of the time of a fire chief. Most of what a fire chief does is back at the fire station, often at a desk in There is an interesting an office. evolution that happens as one moves from the role of firefighter to fire officer Much of what a to chief officer. firefighter does has short-term outcomes. He or she goes to a fire, performs a variety of assigned tasks, and the fire goes out. They respond to a medical emergency, provide care to the patient, and the patient is transported. Most of the time, the firefighter can see the results of their work within minutes or hours.

However, as one progresses up the chain of command to the level of fire chief, more and more of the work is for the long term. Each spring a fire chief develops a budget for the next fiscal year, which begins in July and goes thru the following June, nearly a year and a half after the process begins. Once the budget is developed, approved, and adopted, it must be monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that we are staying within the spending limitations it establishes, and that income is meeting predictions.

A fire chief develops policies to be approved by the Board of Directors, and writes Standard Operating Guidelines for firefighters to use in making tactical decisions and standardizing how tasks are performed. The fire service does a lot of planning in the form of strategic plans and Standards of Cover. The latter is a comprehensive document that evaluates all the potential risks in the district, as well as the resources that we have available to mitigate incidents that happen due to those risks, and allows planning to be done where there is a gap between the risks and the resources.

Another aspect of a fire chief's job is building relationships when things are quiet, so that when things "go south," he or she can call on those people with whom a relationship has established, and get access to additional resources. These relationships may take the form of informal friendships with other fire service leaders as well as managers of other disciplines. There may be formal contracts for assistance or joint operations such as we have with all the fire agencies in the county, particularly the Eugene Fire Department and the Oregon Department of Forestry. We also have formal agreements with Lane County regarding our ambulance with Central Lane service area, Communications for dispatch services, and with state agencies such as the Oregon State Fire Marshal's office and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

Fiinally, the fire chief's job involves leadership. Leadership is having a vision for the agency, a direction that we, as a group, are headed, with the goal of improving the services we provide to the public. The formation of the Lane Fire Authority is an example of this vision. Much of the rest of the job of the chief is management and administration, which I think of as maintaining the status quo, but it is the area of leadership that allows us to grow and move forward into the future.





First Year Anniversary for Lane Fire Authority

Lane Fire Authority, often referred to as LFA or "Lane Fire" is approaching its first full year as a consolidated department. On July 1, 2012 two departments, Lane Rural Fire/Rescue and Lane County Fire District #1, joined together in an arrangement known as a "functional consolidation." Each department maintains ownership of its respective equipment and fire stations and also maintains separate boards of directors, but there is also a joint board that coordinates the overall operation of the Fire Authority. To date the consolidation has gone well and members of Lane Rural Fire/Rescue and Lane County Fire District #1 have committed themselves to function as a single organization. Our greater strength in numbers and apparatus has meant improved service to our patrons, our number one goal.

Wolf Creek Station May Be Permanently Closed

We are sad to report that Lane Fire Authority may have to permanently close the Wolf Creek Station because of the lack of volunteers. This spring a letter was sent to residents in the Wolf Creek area informing them that the station had no volunteers. Because of the expense of maintaining the station and apparatus, unless individuals are willing to step forward and volunteer, it



will be necessary to close the station. Based on the original lease agreement, if the Wolf Creek station are closed, the property and building willrevert to the owner of the property. However, if the station closes, residents in the Wolf Creek Road area will continue to receive service from Lane Fire Authority, but the response time will be longer.

Our Rural Stations Need More Volunteers

While we celebrate the approaching first anniversary of Lane Fire Authority, we remain in significant need of individuals willing to step forward and volunteer at our rural stations. The stations and number of responders shown in bold below reflect the optimum number of responding potential personnel. However, given work schedules and other factors, it is not uncommon to have no responses from some of our stations. While we will have apparatus and personnel coming from other locations, the delay in arrival may be substantial.

If you are interested in volunteering (please see the accompanying article) you should know that age is not a barrier. We have members ranging from 16 year-old high school students to retirees who are approaching 70.

Below is a summary of the needs at our rural stations and information on how you can become a volunteer. Note that while a number of stations may appear to be adequately staffed, the number of individuals who able to respond on a regular basis is significantly limited.

Station Per	<u>rsonnel</u>
*Alderwood Station	1
Alvadore Station	6
*Butler Road Station	3
*Crow Road Station	1
Franklin Station	7
*Fox Hollow Station	1
Irving Station	27
*Lorane Highway Station	3
Noti Station	4
*Spencer Creek Station	3
Veneta Station	24
Walton Station	5
*Wolf Creek	0

* Acute need

How to Become a Volunteer Firefighter with Lane Fire Authority

By Mark Boren, Training Officer

At one time, becoming a volunteer fire fighter involved little more than showing up at the station, being issued some gear and been told when to respond to a call. Today, because of the complexity of equipment and the concern for safety, training by necessity has been greatly expanded.



Steps to Becoming a Volunteer:

- 1. A prospective volunteer needs to begin by determining whether he or she will be able to commit to an eleven weekend training academy that will involve 15 to 20 hours for each of those weeks. Given the time commitment, this decision should be made with family members. Further, if you are a student you need to decide if you will have time to do your school work, plus possibly participate in sports and other extra curricular activities.
- 2. If you are satisfied you have the time to make such a commitment, you need to contact either Captain John Maxwell at Station 115 (Irving neighborhood) or Lt. Mark Boren at Station 101 (Veneta) to make an appointment to discuss your interest. Make sure you give yourself about an hour for the appointment. At the end of the interview, Capt. Maxwell or Lt. Boren will give you a packet consisting of a standard application, driving and criminal history verification sheet, permission to participate if under 18, volunteer firefighter job description, and a check off sheet of things to accomplish prior to starting an 11 weekend academy. The check off sheet will walk you through the process.
- 3. Once you have submited your application we will perform a background check.
- 4. Next, Captain Maxwell will schedule you for a physical ability test.
- 5. Upon successful completion of the background check and physical ability test, you will be asked to attend a minimum of two weekly department "drills" (weekly training sessions).
- 6. You will next be scheduled to begin an eleven-week basic training academy which will cover all the classroom requirements for NFPA Firefighter I. Firefighting is a hands-on activity and our goal is to give you as much practical experience as possible during the Academy. In addition, an integral part of the Academy includes assigned



reading and online vidoes that will need to be viewed in preparation for weekend classes. At the conclusion of each class you will be given a multiple choice test, which will require a passing score of 80%.

7. Upon successful completion of the academy you will be issued a Firefighter I task book to complete during a 6 month probationary period. Throughout your career with Lane Fire Authority, you will be required to attend at least 75% of our weekly drills.

The next academy will start in mid September. If you are interested in committing to a great community organization, give us a call (541-935-2226. Ask for Mark Boren or John Maxwell) and we will get you started on the process.



Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

By Chrissy Hollett, LFA PIO/Administrative Aid

Few of us realize how easily and how quickly a fire can harm our loved ones. Fortunately, there is a simple, affordable way to help alert your family... the Smoke Alarm!

By providing an early warning in the event of fire, smoke alarms may allow you and your family sufficient time to reach safety. Many people have neglected to install smoke alarms despite their life-saving potential and low cost. Even those who do have smoke alarms often take them for granted, forget that they need some attention to continue working properly. Most fire deaths are caused by smoke – not flames. Most fire deaths and injuries occur between midnight and 8 a.m. when families are asleep. Seconds count! You only have minutes to escape a house fire.

Buy Smoke Alarms – Statistics show that simply having a working smoke alarm cuts your risk in half!

What type of Smoke Alarm should I buy? There are a few types out there:

- Ionization: Quicker at sensing flaming, fast moving fires
- Photoelectric: Quicker at sensing smoldering fires
- Combination or dual sensor:
 These have ionization and

- photoelectric sensors in one unit to sense flaming and smoldering fires
- Smoke/carbon monoxide:
 Activated by smoke or carbon monoxide
- Visual (strobe light) and tactile (shaker): For the deaf and those hard of hearing

Where do I install a Smoke Alarm? Don't just buy one! There's safety in numbers, install at least one:

- On each level of your home, including the basement
- Outside each sleeping area
- Inside each bedroom

Keep your alarms working properly! New Smoke Alarms are equipped with a 10-year battery, however we still recommend maintaining your smoke alarm and following the manufacturer's instructions:

- Vacuum smoke alarms regularly to remove dust and cobwebs
- Never disconnect or remove smoke alarm batteries for other uses
- Ionization powered with 10 year batteries – replace the entire unit every 8-10 years
- Photoelectric and combination replace the batteries at least once per year, and replace the entire unit every 8-10 years
- Hard-wired with battery backup replace batteries at least once per year, and replace the entire unit every 8-10 years

Smoke alarms failures are most often caused by missing, dead or disconnected batteries. Testing is generally as simple as pushing a button and listening to hear the beep. Also be sure not to place the Smoke Alarm too close to the kitchen area so that it does not become a nuisance situation.

Develop and practice a fire escape plan in your home with your children, plan and practice it at least twice a year with all members of your household. In the event of a fire, every family member should know at least two ways out of each room. If the warning alarm sounds, don't panic. Stay close to the floor and get out of the building.

Smoke alarms are available at nearly all hardware, department and discount stores, often for under \$20. So don't

delay – get out there and buy one. The peace of mind you'll have from knowing that your family is safe and secure is worth the investment.

If you or someone you know is in need of a smoke alarm, Lane Fire Authority has a program to install free smoke alarms to our District residents. For more information please contact Chrissy Hollett by telephone: (541) 935-2226 or email:

ChrissyHollett@LaneFireAuthority.org

Why Do They Do That?

By Captain Steve Strain

Ever wonder why firefighters cut holes in the roof or break out windows at structure fires? It's really not because they have some hidden desire to practice the craft of demolition, or even to reenact the history of firefighting in America.



Back two hundred years ago, fire brigades stopped major conflagrations by immediately tearing down homes as they caught fire in order to save their neighbors' homes. A collapsed building on the ground was much easier to extinguish with the limited water of a bucket brigade and less likely to spread to the house next door. In fact, some of the first building codes in America required homes placed in proximity to each other, to have a heavy ring attached at the gable end of the roof. Fire crews would put a ladder to the building on fire, and attach a heavy line to the ring with a hook, and pull the structure to the ground. The hooks were also used to pull the highly flammable thatch off the roof to also slow the fire's spread. Later that crew became known as the "hook and ladder" team, and has evolved into what we now call the "truck company".

Well, we don't tear houses down any more to save the neighborhood, so why do we cut holes and break windows? It



is actually a strategy called ventilation. By cutting a hole in the roof, directly over the fire, the heat and smoke go up and out instead of spreading laterally in the building; just like the chimney in a fireplace confines the smoke from spreading into your living room.

Ventilation has several benefits for both the homeowners and the firefighters. First, it aids the firefighters by clearing the smoke, making victims and the source of the fire easier to find. Second, it keeps the fire from spreading rapidly to other rooms where even greater damage or threat to life may occur. Third, it creates a survivable environment for firefighters and any remaining victims.



The heat from a fire in a residence can rapidly escalate to over 1400 degrees at the ceiling. The temperature drops about 200 degrees every foot from the ceiling. If you have ever tried reaching into your oven at 400 degrees, even with an oven mitt, it becomes uncomfortable in less than a minute. This is how hot it is about two to three feet from the floor. A firefighter can tolerate this dry heat with all their protective gear for about five minutes. Once water is put on the fire, the heat turns to steam at 212 degrees. Though much cooler than the dry heat, the steam will burn any exposed skin almost immediately and is just as uncomfortable as holding your hand over a boiling tea kettle.



Ventilation channels the threat away from victims and firefighters. In a coordinated fire attack, openings are made into the building in the most expedient manner in order to facilitate removal of the heat and smoke. Sometimes, this may mean breaking out a window, or cutting a hole in the roof. We may also use a gas powered or electric fan to blow fresh air into the building, but unless an opening is made with a door or window opposite of where the fan is located, the heat and smoke has nowhere to go, so this process is a very necessary part of saving lives and conserving property. Next time you see firefighters up on the

Next time you see firefighters up on the roof cutting a hole, or breaking out a window, you can be assured they are decreasing the damage in the house and making a survivable atmosphere inside for their fellow firefighters to perform rescues, extinguish the fire, and conserve property.

If you have a question about why we do something, you are probably not the only one. Please send your questions to Lane Fire Authority, P.O. Box 398, Veneta, OR 97405 and we may feature your question in our next newsletter.

2013 Awards Banquet- Lane Fire AuthorityRecognizes Its Volunteers



On Saturday, March 9, 2013 Lane Fire Authority held its annual Awards Banquet, honoring the contributions of its volunteers. The following department members were recognized for their outstanding achievements during the 2012 calendar year.

Station Volunteers of the Year for 2012:

Station 101 (Veneta)

- Brian Wilson

Station 102 (Central Road)

- Shawn Zweibohmer

Station 103 (Butler Road)

- Steve Strain

Station 104 (Noti)

- Bob Buckridge

Station 105 (Elmira)

- Billy Davis

Station 106 (Walton)

- Steve Bates

Station 107 (Fox Hollow Rd.)

- Mike Speiser

Station 108 (Lorane Hwy)

- Dennis Stimple

Station 109 (Spencer Creek Rd.)

- Stan Turner

Station 110 (Wolf Creek)

- Steve Johnson

Station 111 (Crow)

- Les Holdiman

Station 112 (Alvadore)

- Bruce Jensen

Station 113 (Franklin)

- Mike Siewert

Station 114 (Alderwood)

- Robert Holmes

Station 115 (Irving)

Casey Papé

Service Awards for 2012:



50 Years of Service
- Jim Drew

40 Years of Service

- Bob Buckridge

- Mike Siewert

35 Years of Service

- Pete Holmes

20 Years of Service

- Steve Johnson

15 Years of Service

- Mark Boren

- Misty Mitchell

- Kristen Petersen

10 Years of Service

- Barry Nelson

Matt SnauerCarmel Welch

- Ethan Wilkie

5 Years of Service

- Chris Heppel

- Chris Heppe

- Don Hutto

- Dustin Lemmon

- Larry Merrill

- Casey Papé

- Dan Phillips

- Mara Solano

- Liz Ward- Larry Von Moos



3 Years of Service

- Jennel Alexander
- Lyle Bettelyoun
- Dean Chappell
- Jonathan Cullen
- Billy Davis
- Kristina Deschaine
- Dino Deschaine
- Kyle Gangle
- Ben Hammond
- Conor Irving
- Clayton Jones
- Megan Jozwiak James Miller
- Megan Montgomery
- Dana Peterson
- Jarod Rather
- Maddy Slayden
- Rose Steen
- Brian Wilson
- Shawn Zweibohmer

Interview: Chief on the Business End of a Fire

By Reed LeMans, Oregon NewsLab

(Editor's Note: Several months ago University of Oregon student Reed LeMans interviewed Chief Terry Ney for a class project. The published



interview appeared on Facebook and is reprinted below with the author's permission.)

VENETA, Ore. -- Terry Ney was born in 1955 in Palo Alto, California. He moved to southern Oregon in 1964 before moving to Corvallis to attend Oregon State University as a sophomore.

Ney got involved in firefighting shortly after attending OSU and headed back to southern Oregon. He happened to volunteer to help fight a brush fire back home and afterward he was offered a position as a volunteer firefighter. He worked his way up to assistant chief through hard work, and when the chief eventually got fired he was asked to assume the position.

After a few more moves around the state, Ney is now living in Veneta, Ore. as the Lane County Fire Chief. Ney told Oregon NewsLab he has loved firefighting from the very beginning of his career.

He says the most fun part of it, "is the camaraderie and going out to help someone on what is probably their worst day and getting to make that a little better."

He admits the life of a firefighter can be a dangerous one, but his most memorable encounter with danger isn't something one would expect. He remembers responding to a suicide watch and coaxing a man out of the bathroom he'd locked himself in.

He didn't realize however that the man was armed with a deadly weapon and was suspected of being violent. Luckily the man came out calmly, but from then on Ney decided to leave such matters to those better trained and equipped for such situations.

Ney's family life has also been tough. He's been through one divorce in his life and has been remarried now for 15 years. It took his wife roughly a year to get used to his career.

"She used to worry all the time and get easily startled when my alarm went off in the middle of the night for a call," Ney said. "Now she usually sleeps through it and sometimes doesn't even notice I left."

He chuckles and breathes a sigh of relief that his family problems seem to be behind him now at this point in his career.

"There were times when I'd have to miss family gatherings or school events," Ney said, adding that he's fortunate his kids are now grown up and he doesn't have to worry about such things.



When asked if he missed his younger days of fighting fires he said, "Yeah, I do. There was a short-term gratification from it that I don't see anymore. Everything I do is long term now."

As he put it, someone has to balance the budget and apply for federal grants for the department, and Ney is comfortable being such a chief.

See the video:

http://www.kval.com/news/local/The-business-end-of-a-fire-Interview-with-Lane-County-Fire-Chief-Ney-206447201.html

Lane Fire Authority and Elmira High School Join Together to Develop a New Program Related to Drinking and Decision Making

By Lt. Tressa Miller, Public Education Coordinator, Lane Fire Authority



For the past ten years, Lane County Fire District #1 (now known as "Lane Fire Authority") has sponsored a high school safety assembly focusing on decisions and consequences around driving. The program, which rotated each year between Elmira, Crow and Churchill high schools, began as "Operation Prom Night." The goal was to dramatically impact students in order to change their thinking and behavior toward drinking and driving (later expanded to include texting and driving). This was accomplished by presenting a live simulation of what actually happens at the scene of an automobile accident involving a drunk driver and resulting in vehicular caused injuries and death. Students and faculty were realistically made up to be victims and placed in wrecked vehicles. The fire department responded in a manner identical to how they would operate on an actual accident They were joined by other scene. emergency agencies, including law enforcement as well as land and air medical transport. In each scenario the students had a first-hand look at what happens to the driver suspected of drunk driving and to the victims of the incident.



This year the program was modified to include elements of a program called "Every 15 Minutes" which refers to a statistic from the 1990s that stated in the United States someone is killed every fifteen minutes as the result of a drunk driving automobile crash. Unlike many other drinking and driving programs, attempts "Every 15 Minutes" approach the topic by not only looking at the effects of drinking and driving as it relates to traffic crashes, but by also looking at the emotional side of the incidents. It demonstrates how the crashes not only affect the teen but also their family, friends and the community in which they live.

The evolution of this hybrid program began in 2012 when the Student Leadership Class at Elmira High School asked the fire department to do a "Prom Night" presentation but had to be turned down because another local high school was already scheduled for the presentation.

This year it was Elmira's turn for the full The Elmira High School Leadership Class contacted Lane Fire Authority. As the department's Fire Prevention Coordinator and in charge of educational programs, I challenged the students join me and work on a new program. Over the next year, the students did extensive internet research. Soon they were joined by the Elmira High School film club, under the direction of James Monegan, and collectively we developed a new program that drew upon the best elements of "Operation Prom Night" and "Every 15 Minutes."



"Every 15 Minutes" is an in-school teen drinking and driving program that was started by the California Highway Patrol in 1990 in an effort to combat the ever growing number of teens being killed or injured as a result of a traffic collisions where they had been drinking. These types of crashes are still the leading cause of death among teenagers in this country.

The program requires many hours of planning and the collaboration of many different agencies. These include but are not limited to schools, fire agencies, law enforcement, hospitals and many others.

To ensure the success of this program the students and their families must be involved.

As a result of many meetings throughout the school year, the Elmira High School Leadership Class, the Prom Safety Committee, the EHS Film Club and Lane Fire Authority planned a two-day event beginning on April 30, 2013. On that day, the Grimm Reaper stopped by EHS classes throughout the day, taking a student every 15 minutes. Student obituaries were read and posted in class for all to see. For the rest of the day, these students were to be considered "dead" to their families and classmates. During an evening retreat, the "dead" students were asked to write a letter to their parent(s) or guardian starting with "Dear Mom and/or Dad, I died today because of a drunk driving accident. Here are the things I never got to tell you . . . "



At an assembly the following day, many of the students read their letters aloud. In addition, the video "Every 15 Minutes," created by the EHS Film Club and Student Leadership Class, was shown to the student body.

This two-day event and other related activities attempt to change the behavior of teens while they are driving. thank and salute all the teenagers out there who make the right choice not to drive after drinking. This is for the teen who does not get in the car after the driver has been drinking. This is for the teen who does not allow a drunk friend to drive. This is for the firefighters and paramedics who do not have to get up at 2 am and extricate a lifeless body from a car wreck. This is for the police officer who does not have to make the death notification to the family that their loved one was killed by a drunk driver. This is for the emergency room staff who does not have to treat the injured people from the drunk driving car wreck.

The statistics are related to this program are hard to measure. We will never know about the accidents that were prevented by good decision making. What we do know seems to indicate the message is getting through. In 1990 a drunk driving related death occurred every 15 minutes. A little more than twenty years later, the death rate is one

death every twenty-five minutes. It is still far too high, but the encouraging news is more and more people, including teens, appear to be listening.

If you would like to see the excellent Elmira High School video "Every 15 Minutes," written by the EHS Leadership Class, filmed by Elmira High School math and science teacher James Monegan with help from the EHS Video Club, and featuring EHS students, staff, parents, and personnel from Lane Fire Authority, please go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3L8 zi2ShHVo

LFA's Volunteer Firefighters Association Awards Scholarships



Each year the Volunteer Firefighters Association awards five academic scholarships in the following categories: two \$500 Community High School Community Scholarships; one \$500 Member of an LFA Firefighter's Family Scholarship; and two \$1000 LFA Firefighter Scholarships. We are pleased to announce the following awards for 2013:

Community High School Scholarship (\$500 to each recipient):

Hayley Kau - Crow High School

Haley Perry - Elmira High School

Member of a Lane Firefighter Authority Firefighter Family (\$500):

Aspen Johnson - Elmira High School

Lane Fire Authority Firefighter Scholarship (\$1000 to each recipient):

Scott Prior - Paramedic Program at Chemeketa Community College

Michael Prentice - Sterile Processing Program - Lane Community College



Veneta Rural Fire Protection District

by Fred Scalise



[Editor's note: This is the first in a series of articles on the history of Lane Fire Authority. Future accounts will include the histories of the Irving, Franklin, Alvadore, Walton, Elmira-Noti and Crow Valley rural fire protection districts.]

A townsite was platted in 1912 by Edward E. Hunter, on land located just to the west of the West Side Territorial Road approximately 1 mile south of the existing town of Elmira. The new town was created in anticipation of the Willamette Pacific Railroad line that was being constructed from Eugene to Mapleton, and was named "Veneta" in honor of Mr. Hunter's five year old daughter who had recently died.

The railroad arrived in Veneta in 1913. At that time, the town consisted of nothing more than tree stumps and stacked cord wood amidst survey markers indicating where streets and lots were to eventually be located.

A railroad depot was constructed along the tracks, at 5th Street, in 1914 and EE Hunter became the first depot agent in Veneta. One of the first non-railroad buildings constructed in the new town was a general goods store known as the Elliot Mercantile Company (started in 1913 and finished in 1914). Other businesses, including a hotel and grocery store, and numerous homes, followed soon thereafter. The first sawmill was established in Veneta, along the south side of the tracks between 5th Street and Territorial Road, in 1917.

By World War II, Veneta was a thriving little town with at least two significant lumber mills, restaurants, barber shops, automobile service stations, taverns, and a variety of stores. But what Veneta didn't have was a fire department.

In the 1940s and early 1950s, the closest firefighting apparatus that could respond

to a fire in the town of Veneta was located at either Irving (Irvington Road east of Prairie Road), or Danebo (Berntzen Road near Royal Avenue).

Under the best of circumstances, it took 45 minutes to an hour for structural firefighting apparatus and personnel to arrive in Veneta. A response from departments in Bethel, Junction City, Eugene, or Springfield typically required 60 - 90 minutes. The reality was that these fire departments were often unable or unwilling to send anything at all.

A number of public meetings were held in 1948 through 1951, to explore the possibility of creating a "Fern Ridge" fire protection district that encompassed the rural areas west of Eugene, including Veneta, Elmira, Noti, Vaughn, Crow, Central, Alvadore, and Franklin. The attempt to bring fire protection service to these areas was stymied by the many potentially-affected residents who were adamantly opposed to the fifty cents to one dollar a year in taxes it would cost to operate such a district.

In 1952, Boy Scout Explorer Troop 96 initiated a community service project to acquire a fire engine for Veneta. The boys organized fund-raisers, solicited donations, and in just a few months raised enough money (approximately \$1,100) to buy, repair, and outfit a truck for use as a firefighting unit. A used and very well-worn, late 1940s Chevrolet truck was purchased and sent to the Howard-Cooper Company in Eugene to be outfitted with storage boxes, a pump and driveline, a 500-gallon water tank, suction hoses, ladders, and 500 feet of firefighting hose. The scouts pledged to donate the fire engine to a tax-funded volunteer fire department, if one was established in Veneta. Wayne Elliott, owner of the Elliott Mercantile Company, donated a piece of land near the northeast corner of 4th and Dunham Streets (just south of present-day 88175 4th Street), and using lumber donated by the Ralph Johnson Lumber Company, local residents constructed a small "fire house" to garage the donated fire engine.

A special election resulted in the creation of the Veneta Rural Fire Protection District (RFPD) in August 1953. Willis E. (Red) Blek, Ralph Johnson, Archie Marshik, Harold Gilmore, and Vern Goad were elected as the first board of directors for the District. The board subsequently selected Jess Dennison, owner of the Veneta Café (southeast corner of West

Broadway and 4th Street), to be the District's first fire chief.

The Night Veneta Burned

The two weeks leading up to Labor Day weekend in 1955 were hot: "Red flag" conditions with record-breaking temperatures hovering near 100 degrees, extremely low humidity, and gusting winds from the east.

At around 1:30 AM on Sunday, September 4, 1955, fire chief Jess Dennison was awakened by the glow of flames from the neighboring Elliott Mercantile building. The Mercantile was a big, two story wooden structure, located on the northwest corner of West Broadway and 4th Street (the site of present-day Yukon Jack's Steakhouse & Saloon). The Mercantile sold all manner of merchandise, hardware, and farm and logging supplies, and also served as the town Post Office.

By the time Chief Dennison alerted the town's firefighters and they had brought the town's only fire engine to the scene, flames were shooting out the roof of the Mercantile building and the flames extended high into the air – a situation that he recognized was clearly beyond the capabilities of the small and relatively inexperienced Veneta fire department. Chief Dennison issued a mutual aid alarm, and over the course of the next 90 minutes, two engine companies each from the Eugene and the Bethel-Danebo fire departments, an engine company each from the Springfield and the Junction City fire departments, a fire brigade from Barker-Willamette Lumber Company, and personnel and equipment from Western Lane Fire Patrol arrived in Veneta to provide assistance.

In 1955, Veneta did not have a public water system – there were no fire hydrants in town. All of the water used to fight this rapidly growing fire had to be brought to the scene by the fire engines, or pumped out of low-yielding private wells. The limited supply of water greatly hampered efforts to keep the fire from spreading.

The heat from the fire was intense, fueled by the tinder-dry wood of the Mercantile building, and all of the drygoods, paints, oils, kerosene, and gasoline that were stored within. The McKay's Market grocery store just to the east (site of present-day True Value Hardware), and Mark Whitaker's Second Hand Store just to the west of the Mercantile soon burst into flames. Firefighters spent the night spraying what water was available onto nearby



buildings to try to keep them cool. Even so, the heat broke windows, and blistered and scorched paint on the sides of buildings, 100 feet in all directions from the fire.

Exploding ammunition and containers of oil, kerosene, gasoline, and paint in the Mercantile building sent burning embers and debris high into the air, where they showered back down on the surrounding neighborhood. A hot breeze carried burning material more than 2 blocks from the site of the fire, starting spot fires on the roofs of a number of houses and businesses. Firefighters and local residents worked desperately throughout the night to protect nearby buildings and suppress the many new fires that ignited.

There was also increasing fear as the night wore on that dynamite stored in the Mercantile might explode and scatter burning debris over a very wide area. Concerned that the entire town might be lost, many nearby residents and business owners packed up their belongings and moved them out of harm's way.

At sunrise Sunday morning, all that was left of the second-hand store, McKay's Market, and the Elliott Mercantile were piles of smoldering debris. With a lot of hard work, and even more good luck, firefighters had been able to prevent the inferno from spreading to additional structures. However, two businesses located across the street from the fire, the Veneta Barber Shop and Al's Oasis tavern, were significantly damaged by the intense heat.

This near-catastrophe in 1955 underscored the need for a reliable source of water in the growing town of Veneta, and renewed efforts to find a means of financing the construction of a publicly-owned water system. The City of Veneta was incorporated in April 1962, and installation of a City-owned water system was completed in 1967.

Fire protection coverage provided by Veneta RFPD originally did not extend much beyond the downtown area of the town. The fire district was substantially enlarged in 1962 with the annexation of the "Central" area: Eight square miles located between Highway 126 and Fleck Road, from Territorial Road to approximately one mile east of Central Road.

Construction of a city hall and fire station complex, located on the northeast corner of 5th and McCutcheon Streets, was completed in late 1967. The new, 3-bay fire station housed a fire engine, a water tanker (tender), and a first-aid / rescue car.



To improve response capabilities in the eastern portions of the District, a substation (housing a fire engine and two water tankers) was constructed on the corner of Central Road and Perkins Road in 1981.

Less than adequate funding plagued the District for most of its first 40 years of existence. Operating with old and often unreliable equipment was the norm for the District. The original first aid / rescue car, a 1947 panel van, wasn't replaced until 1977, by which time it had a long-standing reputation for not starting more often than it did. In 1984, the fire response fleet consisted of a 1959 fire engine, a 1970 fire engine, and three water tankers, two of which were routinely out of service with mechanical problems.

Faced with the likelihood of downgraded insurance ratings, significantly higher fire insurance premiums, Veneta Rural Fire Protection District patrons voted to increase the District's tax base from \$ 95,000, to \$ 265,000 in 1984. The additional revenue allowed the District to begin a program of modernization, included the purchase of new apparatus and state-of-the-art firefighting and emergency medical response equipment.

Veneta RFPD and Elmira-Noti RFPD combined resources and tax bases in 1989, forming the Fernridge Rural Fire Protection District. Walton RFPD merged into Fernridge RFPD in 1993.

A new, modern, fire station facility was constructed at 88050 Territorial Road in 1994, and became the headquarters for Fernridge RFPD (the 5th and McCutcheon station was subsequently decommissioned and sold). The next year, Crow Valley RFPD merged with the Fernridge district to create Lane County Fire District No. 1.

Lane County Fire District No. 1 and Lane Rural Fire / Rescue completed a functional consolidation as of July 1, 2012, and now operate together as the Lane Fire Authority.

From humble beginnings, the Veneta Rural Fire Protection District, together with five neighboring fire protection districts, has evolved into the Lane Fire Authority which today provides fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to almost 300 square miles of territory located to the west and northwest of Eugene – a service area that includes all of the communities that would have been located within the Fern Ridge Fire District that was first proposed in 1948.

Fire Chiefs: Veneta Rural Fire Protection District (1953 – 1989)

<u>Name</u>	Dates of Service
Jess Dennison	1953 – 1956
William Acridge	1956 – 1970
Don Carter	1970 – 1973 (approximate)
Jim Huselton	1973 – 1975 (approximate)
Wayne Hunter	1975 – 1977 (approximate)
Mike Sullivan	1977 – 1979 (approximate)
Carl Duke	1979 – 1983
Gary Stephens	1983 – 1984
Harry Hankins	1985 – 1986
Jim Brooker	1986 – 1987
Dale Kamrath	1987 – 1989

The following individuals provided information and materials for this article: Charlie Brown, George (Jerry) Cochran, Wayne Hunter, Dennis Maricle, Marty Nelson, Larry Pierce, John Sanders, Fred Standeford, Kathleen Watson

See something we got wrong? Have information or photographs that you would be willing to share? Let us know. Call Fred Scalise at (541) 935-1742.

Next Issue: Irving Rural Fire Protection District.

Lane Fire Authority Loses Two of Its Finest

We are sad to report that two long-time members of Lane Rural Fire Protection District (now "North Battalion" in Lane Fire Authority) have passed away.



Herbert "Herb"
Medlin passed away
on April 2, 2013.
He was fire chief of
Lane Rural Fire
Protection District
from 1962 to 1980.
His eighteen years

of service as chief saw significant growth in not only the community but the department as well.



On May 19, 2013 **William "Bill" Bass** passed away. In 1976, Bill began his career in Eugene working on



ambulances with Medical Services Incorporated. When MSI suddenly ceased operation, Bill was instrumental in transitioning medical transport services to the Eugene Fire

Department. He worked his way up the ranks with Eugene and became fire chief in 1990. Bill was the Eugene Fire Chief until 1999 and was directly responsible for the construction of the large Whiteaker Station (site of the department's training, communication and maintenance center) and Sheldon Station. In 1999, he went to work for Lane Rural Fire/Rescue where he was the Projects Chief until his retirement in 2009.

Our deepest sympathies go out to the Medlin and Bass families.

Lane Fire Authority Expands Its Fleet

By Chief Terry Ney



Over the years, both Lane County Fire District #1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue have been called on to assist with surface water rescues, both on Fern Ridge Reservoir and in flood water conditions along the streams and rivers of the area. We have always had to improvise by borrowing the use of a boat to accomplish these rescues. Lane Fire Authority recently received several donations which allowed us to equip the agency with a rescue boat. The boat will be primarily for use on Fern Ridge Reservoir during the boating season, but may also be used in flood water conditions. It will also be available for mutual aid to other agencies, as is all of our equipment. LFA will be working closely with the USCG Auxiliary as well as the Lane County Sheriff's Office marine patrol as we train a team of personnel to assist with water rescues.

All the equipment for this new mission has either been donated or purchased with donated funds, so no tax dollars have been spent on acquiring the boat, motor, and trailer. The boat is a 16 foot aluminum work boat that was built for the Coast Guard. It is powered by a 50 HP Mercury outboard, and was acquired through the Oregon Surplus Property program.

Emergency Alerting for Wireless Devices and VoIP Telephones

In Lane County, anyone with a land-line telephone will automatically receive



notifications about emergency situations that affect the area where the phone is located. These notifications, issued by law enforcement and fire agencies, also typically provide specific instructions as to what you should do to remain safe (*e.g.*, evacuate or shelter indoors).

The emergency notifications are <u>not</u> automatically sent mobile to devices (*e.g.*, cell phones) or "Voice-Over-Internet Protocol" (VoIP) telephones. If you rely exclusively on mobile or VoIP telephone service (*i.e.*, don't have a land-line phone), and you want to receive emergency notifications from Lane County public safety agencies, you have to register your telephone number(s) with the alerting system.

Registration is free, all information you provide is confidential, and you will only be called if there is an emergency situation near your home or business.

Register your VoIP telephone or mobile (wireless) devices at:

www.lcog.org/alertme.



(Emergency notification is a free service provided by Lane County public safety agencies)



LFA Members Compete in International Firefighter Stair Climb Challenge

Congratulations to six members of Lane Fire Authority who competed in the International Firefighter Stair Climb Challenge. Held on March 10, 2013, at the seventy-two story Columbia Tower in Seattle, Washington, this grueling event involves each participant wearing full firefighter gear including "turnouts" and air pack, a total of fifty pounds, and climbing sixty-nine flights of stairs. This event was a fund-raiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and involved teams from around the world. The six Lane Fire Authority team members included Andrea Gruber, who finished first among the team (7th among all women competetors); Austin Larson, who placed second on the team; followed by Steve Bates, Dan Phillips, Graham Steffen and Mara Solano. The team raised over \$1500.

Long-Time Volunteers Retire

Lane Fire Authority salutes the following members who have recently from "retired" the department. "Retirement" may seem a strange word for individuals who volunteer but given the extensive number of years each of these individuals served, responding at all hours to emergency calls and undergoing countless hours of training, "retirement" is clearly an appropriate description. Because of department consolidations, the names of the departments under which they served had several different names. Our deepest appreciation to the following firefighters for their long and dedicated service:

Don Gleason began with Crow Valley Rural Fire Protection District, then was a member of Lane County Fire District #1. Don volunteered for a total of 25 years.







Steve Johnson began with Crow Valley Rural Fire Protection District, then was a member of Lane County Fire District #1. Steve volunteered for a total of 21 years.

Dennis Maricle - began with the Veneta Fire Protection District, then was a member of Fern Ridge Fire Department followed by Lane County Fire District #1. Dennis volunteered for a total of 37 years.





It's Time to Renew Your FireMed Membership

FireMed is one of the cheapest insurance policies you can find. The cost of a FireMed Basic membership, which includes the benefit of ground ambulance is \$62. By comparison, the minimum out of pocket charge for being transported by ambulance is \$1,800. There is also an option for FireMed Plus membership, which includes coverage by Life Flight Network in the event that a member is transported by an air ambulance (helicopter). The cost of FireMed Plus is \$107. A minimum out of pocket charge for an air ambulance transport can cost as much as \$18,000.

We encourage our patrons to apply for a FireMed membership, If you live in a rural area north or west of Veneta, please consider FireMed Plus. We feel that the fee is an economical way to prepare for an unforeseen medical emergency. The chance of being transported by an air ambulance is more likely than one might think. A helicopter is requested for not only traumatic medical situations, but also for timesensitive medical emergencies such as a stroke or heart attack. The general rule used for air transport is if a patient's transport time can be reduced by a minimum of 20 minutes and the time saved will make a difference in the patient's treatment and recovery, then a helicopter will be considered. (For reference, driving time from the intersection of Highway 126 and Territorial Highway to RiverBend Hospital is 20 minutes).

If you would like more information on the FireMed program, please call their office at (541) 726-3636. You can also get more information from the local FireMed website at www.firemed.org

"Like" us on Facebook

Hey all facebook fans out there. Pass the word. Log on and "Like" us. Here's the link:



Congratulations to our Area High School Graduates!



Lane Fire Authority congratulates the graduating seniors who live in our fire district, which includes students from:

Churchill High School
Crow High School
Elmira High School
Junction City High School
Mapleton High School
North Eugene High School
Triangle Lake Charter School
West Lane Tech Learning Center

We wish you all a bright and successful future.



LEARN Can do it!

Call Lane Fire Authority at (541) 935-2226 to sign up for a scheduled or future CPR class. Help save a life.

Our Boards of Directors



No, the heading of this article does not have a typo. Many of our readers are unaware that Lane Fire Authority is actually made up of three boards of directors. Lane County Fire District #1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue are separate tax districts and retain ownership of each district's real property and apparatus. The Lane Fire Authority Board of Directors oversees the overall operation of Lane Fire Authority. Members of each board include:

Lane County Fire District #1:

Bill Clendenen Ed Collins Greg Deedon Ryan Walker Bryce Wilberger



Lane Rural Fire/Rescue:

John Baxter
Jim Drew
Pete Holmes
John Hunts
Jeremy McAllisgter



Lane Fire Authority:

John Baxter Greg Deedon Pete Holmes Ryan Walker





2013 Alarms from January 1 to May 31, 2013 (all calls):

1679

Flash Point is published semiannually by Lane Fire Authority. Please direct comments and questions to the Editor, Stan Turner, by calling (541) 935-2226 or sending written comments to Lane Fire Authority, P.O. Box 275, Veneta, OR 97487.