



Lane Fire Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 27, 2015
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Lane Fire Authority assists statewide in wildland firefighting efforts *Emergency order prohibits certain outdoor activities that could cause fire*

[Veneta, Ore.] – Wildland fires are raging throughout the northwest and Lane Fire Authority has been pitching in to help. The fire agency has logged more than 3,200 hours for personnel, apparatus and equipment to help combat four large wildland fires in Oregon since the end of July. Thanks to a special partnership, Lane Fire Authority has been able to lend these resources without impacting emergency service levels for people at home.

The partnership is that of two fire districts – Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue – that have been operating as Lane Fire Authority since 2012. Working together has provided each fire district with additional personnel, apparatus and equipment that the partnership can deploy to other agencies during wildland fire season. All costs associated with these deployments are reimbursed by the state or federal agency managing the incident at the time.

Fire Chief Terry Ney says that this level of support wouldn't have been possible prior to 2012. Both districts relied on mutual aid from neighboring fire agencies to respond to emergency calls. As Lane Fire Authority, however, it now responds to almost all of its own calls. Local residents also benefit from an additional ambulance, emergency response units and a fire station that is staffed full-time.

"The partnership is working for both communities," said Fire Chief Terry Ney. "Another benefit is that we can help others in need, as well. That's a good feeling."

Where has Lane Fire Authority helped (as of August 25, 2015)?			
Wildland Fire Incident	Date	Personnel (Hours)	Apparatus and Equipment (Hours)
Stouts Creek Fire	July 31-August 15	711.50	457
County Line #2 Fire	August 13-15	246.25	98.50
Canyon Creek Fire	August 16-23	1069.25	458.25
Grizzly Bear Fire	August 21-25	96.50	96.50
TOTALS:		2123.50	1110.25

While the partnership is working, it's not official yet. Both fire districts wanted to make sure it would be mutually beneficial before asking voters to finalize the merger sometime in 2016.

In the near term, Lane Fire Authority is focusing on preventing fires closer to home. Chief Ney issued an emergency order banning any outdoor burning, power equipment operation, and other activities that could start a fire in such dry conditions. A full list of prohibited activities can be found on the Lane Fire Authority home page of its web site at www.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 4,700 emergency calls per year, 85% of which are for EMS.



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