

CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1



August 25, 2009

Fire District Information Regarding the Oak Lodge Community Council Area

Fire District's Open Burning Policy Survey

The Fire District is soliciting public input on our current open burning enforcement practices to help shape its future Open Burning Policy. We are conducting a survey and would like to have as many District residents as possible participate in completing it. To date we have only had 350 responses. Our goal is 1,000 responses before September 1st. This Public Open Burning Survey is now on our homepage on our website at www.clackamasfire.com or the Fire Prevention/Open Burning homepage at www.clackamasfire.com/fireprevention.html. If you have any questions regarding the survey, please call our Fire Prevention Office at 503-742-2660.

Fire District's Outdoor Burn Ban

As of July 21st, Clackamas Fire District #1 has enacted a total outdoor burn ban, which will prohibit all outdoor burning, including all recreational fires within Clackamas Fire District #1. Response fees could be issued to violators during this ban. This burn ban is based on community fire safety needs and will continue until fire danger conditions improve. This ban will hopefully raise awareness and provide educational opportunities for all of our citizens and visitors within Clackamas Fire District #1.

Congratulations to Our Latest Graduates



Deputy Fire Marshal, Kari Shanklin, is now a graduate of The National Fire Academy Fire Prevention for High-Risk Populations: Age and Disability Factors class. Kari has been developing partnerships with both of the senior centers within our service area and this curriculum is design to provide additional tools and teaching aides.



BC James Syring graduated in July from the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. This is a four-year program that is designed to provide senior officers and others in key leadership roles with the understanding of the need to transform fire and emergency services organizations from being reactive to proactive with an emphasis on leadership development, prevention and risk-reduction.

National Night Out

The "26th Annual National Night Out" on August 4, 2009, involved citizens, fire service agencies, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials. This event is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in local anticrime programs; and strengthen neighborhood spirit. Many of the neighborhood groups in the area held gatherings with a variety of events for members to enjoy and provided an opportunity for neighbors to get acquainted.

Clackamas Fire District #1 is always involved in this incredible event. Our firefighters, battalion chiefs, division chiefs and volunteers attended many



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neighborhood gatherings throughout the Fire District, including many events in Happy Valley, Oregon City, Oak Grove and Milwaukie. These appearances give the citizens a chance to get up close and see many different types of firefighting apparatus. The firefighters answer many questions from how the Fire District operates, to how to prevent a fire in your home and why are fire engines red. Our community fire stations are very involved in their neighborhoods and citizens should know they can come by and visit anytime.

Volunteer Recruiting Campaign Successful!

The recruiting effort for new volunteers for Fire District #1 ended on August 15th, 2009 and resulted in a District record of 104 applications received! These applicants will now begin a competitive process to narrow down the list to 30 volunteer recruits to begin the Support Volunteer Academy in January 2010. This will increase the number of Volunteers in the Volunteer Services Division for Fire District #1 from 40 members to 70 total members.

The recruiting campaign included the updating of the Fire District's Volunteer Division website, the publication of a volunteer opportunities brochure and a full-page advertisement and article in both the Clackamas Review and Oregon City News. It also included the attendance of many volunteers at community events including the City of Happy Valley's 4th of July event and the National Night Out event on August 4th.

The next step in the process will be a mandatory meeting on Saturday, September 12th, for all those who passed the initial application process. After that, additional processes will take place including oral board interviews, physical ability testing, background checks and physical exams. The top 30 candidates successfully completing all steps will be invited to attend the Support Academy in January 2010. The Support Academy will include volunteers wishing to serve in all three of the specialty service categories of Rehab/Support Volunteers, Water Tender Operator Volunteers and Suppression Firefighter Volunteers. Those that wish to serve in the latter two specialties will attend subsequent academies following the support academy.

Thank you to all Fire District volunteers and personnel who helped make the recruiting drive successful and for the many members of our community who are seeking opportunities to serve! Please contact the Volunteer Services Division at 503-742-2670 if you have any questions.

Citizen Feedback/Community Thank Yous

A citizen called and expressed his gratitude to the Engine 9 crew from the Holcomb Fire Station. They responded to a call at his residence in Oregon City on August 9th because he had fallen. He called to compliment the crew for the excellent job they did. He said they took great care of him and he was very impressed. He wanted to be sure that they were recognized for their efforts and even asked that, if possible, something be placed in each of their files recognizing them for their great work and professionalism. The crew that responded to the call was Lieutenant Doug Damm, Apparatus Operator Neil Bishop and Firefighter Jamen Lahodny. Good work!

Program Highlight – Wildland Fires and Defensible Space

During the summer months, another type of fire danger rears its ugly head, which are the "wildland" fires. Here in Clackamas County, there is an abundance of vegetation that can be very dangerous for our firefighters and for the citizens we serve once the weather turns hot and dry. We respond to calls that vary in size from small bark dust fires to acres of burning fir trees on forested land. These "wildland" fires require special training and different types of equipment to extinguish. Clackamas Fire District #1 is prepared to handle this unique form of firefighting. We

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train several times a year on the tactics and strategies used to safely extinguish these fires and keep them from spreading and causing more damage. All of our rural fire stations and several of our suburban fire stations have "ready to roll" brush units housed alongside the normal responding fire engine. These "brush units" are built on a 4x4 truck chassis, which allows them to get into areas a normal fire engine could not reach. They are equipped with a 100 gallon per minute pump, 200 gallons of water and 10 gallons of foam retardant. It also has a cadre' of tools designed to assist firefighters battle these often stubborn blazes.

There are many precautions you can take that will lower your risk of having a "wildland" fire on or near your home and property. The best way to do this is by creating an effective "defensible space" around your home. Homeowners can maintain a fire break by removing and clearing away all flammable and other combustible growth within 30 feet of the structure or home. This accomplishes three objectives. First, if your home is on fire, it helps keep the fire from spreading to nearby homes or causing a "wildland" fire. Second, if a "wildland" fire creeps near your home, it will have less of a chance of reaching your home and igniting it. Third, it will allow firefighters to safely work in an area that they can properly protect and save buildings without facing unacceptable risk to their lives.

These "rules" work very effectively in rural areas and if you live in a suburban area, using these as guidelines and keeping vegetation to a minimum, will certainly go a long way in protecting your family and your home.

Preparing a House for a Wildland Fire Season



1. Remove dead or overhanging branches. During the windy conditions that exist during a wildland fire, flames, sparks and firebrands could travel from the tree to the roof of this structure.
2. Remove leaf accumulation from your yard. Leaf accumulation provides fuel for a wildland fire.
3. Remove leaf clutter from your roof and gutters. During a wildland fire, leaves on the roof and/or in the gutters could be ignited by flying embers.

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4. Remove tall, dry grasses. Tall, dry grasses provide a path for fire that can lead directly to a house.
5. Remove "ladder fuels." Prune tree limbs so the lowest is between 6 feet to 10 feet from the ground. Fire burning through tall, dry grass could ignite these limbs and climb to the top of the tree with relative ease.
6. Check your generator and/or hose to be sure it is in good repair. Refuel garden equipment carefully. Yard equipment needs annual maintenance and proper fueling. Hoses develop leaks and deteriorate with age and exposure. During wildland fire season, fuel your lawn mower properly --away from dry, flammable grasses.
7. Prune bushes and shrubs regularly. Remove excess growth as well as dead leaves and branches to decrease their flammability and the threat they could pose during a wildland fire.

Dispose of cuttings and debris promptly, according to local regulations.

LOCAL STATION ACTIVITIES

Station 3 – Oak Lodge Fire Station

- Station 3 installed six smoke detectors in residences during July.

July

Total Number of Responses for Station 3 in July = 265

Number of Medical Aid Calls = 212

Number of Fires = 29

Other = 24

Mutual aid given - 0

Mutual aid received - 9

District-wide

Total number of calls during July

2008

1,284

2009

1,504

Total number of calls during January - July

6,495

9,272