

CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1



December 30, 2009

Fire District Information Regarding the Oak Lodge Community Council Area

Fire Safety and Christmas Trees

With Christmas now in the past, people are asking the annual question, "How can I get rid of my Christmas tree?" Here is our advice to keep you safe and be environmentally friendly. First and foremost, **NEVER** burn your Christmas tree in your fireplace! This may seem like a good idea at the time, but there has already been one home in our area that sustained significant damage when they tried this method of disposal. One of the reasons you should not do this is that creosote builds up in all of our chimneys and a dry tree burns very hot and is likely to catch that creosote on fire. This in turn could send sparks and flames out of your chimney, which can catch your roof or surrounding vegetation on fire. Often, this kind of fire becomes an attic fire, which can go unnoticed for a short time until it is too late.

The environmentally friendly way, and one of the best ways to dispose of your Christmas tree, is to either cut it up and put it in your yard debris garbage can or just set it at the curb, as many disposal companies will pick it up. Check with your local garbage company to verify the best way. Also, Boy Scout troops or other groups do provide tree recycling for a nominal fee. They usually set up at a local shopping center or grocery store.

Remember: **NEVER** burn your tree in your fireplace! Recycle it properly.



Operation Santa Claus Update

Once again, the community was exceedingly generous with donations of food and toys for Operation Santa Claus. For 35 years, Operation Santa Claus has provided families in need with toys and food baskets to help make their holiday season a little brighter. Many families were helped this year with donations provided by the Giving Tree at the Clackamas Town Center, donation barrels that were located in businesses and all of the fire stations as well as the Op Santa neighborhood parades. Donations were also received in the form of a \$1,000 check from The North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce at their Annual Giving Breakfast and the Willamette Valley Country Club, which donated many toys. Chief Kirchofer was the guest speaker at a luncheon at the Country Club, where he explained the Op Santa program.

Congressman Kurt Schrader participated with the Op Santa parade on December 5 at the Hilltop Fire Station. He helped serve BBQ chicken to the parade volunteers and then served as a 'runner' (picking up donations from public) for the first hour of the parade from 6:00p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Thank you Congressman Schrader!

Thank you to retired Battalion Chief Tim Dahl who coordinated the project this year, to retired Lieutenant Steve Stevenson who helped and to the many volunteers who also helped to make this project such a success. Many, many hours were spent ensuring that all of the details were completed so that toys and food baskets would be ready for the many families who would enjoy them. Thank you!



Tim Dahl and helpers in Op Santa collection van.



Santa during a parade.

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Entry Level Firefighter Testing

Entry level firefighter testing continues with physical ability testing and oral interviews being conducted on January 5, 6 and 7, 2010 for 56 candidates. The application/resume deadline was November 20, with the completion of the written test on December 11. The firefighter academy will begin March 1, 2010.

Volunteer Program

Beginning January 4, 2010, Clackamas Fire will begin both a support academy and a suppression academy. The support academy will have 12 individuals learning to operate the rehabilitation apparatus and the command bus. There will be 25 individuals in the suppression academy who will learn to operate as volunteer firefighters. We are excited to offer the opportunity for these individuals to operate as volunteers and serve their communities. These academies will in essence double the volunteer force for the Fire District by April, 2010.

Upcoming Board of Directors' Meetings

The Board of Directors' meetings are usually held on the third Monday of the month. However, due to holidays being on the third Mondays in January and February, the board meetings have been re-scheduled for the fourth Mondays. The next board meeting will be on Monday, January 25, 2010 and the February aboard meeting will be on Monday, February 22, 2010. All board meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Mt. Scott Fire Station located at 9339SE Causey in Happy Valley. The public is invited to attend.

Fire Chief New Chamber Board Member

Chief Kirchhofer has been appointed to fill a vacant position on the Board of Directors for the North Clackamas County Chamber of Commerce. His goal while on the Board is to continue the good work of the Chamber and to focus on strategic thinking/planning. He began his term this month.

District Holiday Party Exchanged for Night at Op Santa Warehouse

In lieu of a District holiday party this year, the District had two warehouse nights for Op Santa. Employees and their families helped sort the food and toys that had been collected from the parades and other resources and boxed them for people in need. Pizza and beverages were provided for the hard-working groups. Many people shared that they preferred to have this as the District's holiday event and are looking forward to doing it again next year. Below is a picture of the warehouse help on the first night, December 14.



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Joint Senior Staff Meeting Between TVF&R and Clackamas Fire

The second joint senior staff meeting between TVF&R and CFD1 will take place February 3, 2010. Between now and the meeting date, staff from the same program area for each agency will be meeting to discuss how to capitalize on the strengths of each agency. Presentations regarding the information gathered will be shared at the meeting. Program areas to be discussed include performance management, medicine/wellness/physician, GIS/data analysis/planning, joint purchasing and apparatus maintenance.

Program Highlight – Open Burning Policies and Practices

On Tuesday December 8, 2009, Clackamas Fire District #1 staff hosted a Public Town Hall Meeting to discuss open burning policies and practices. Approximately 40 interested citizens and community partners attended this event. The purpose of the meeting was to gather public input on several policies related to outdoor fires and CFD1 enforcement practices regarding unlawful burning. Staffs from DEQ, Oregon Department of Forestry, Clackamas County Office of Sustainability, and Representative Brent Barton's office were all represented in the audience. The evening was hosted by Community Liaison Steve McAdoo, Fire Marshal Scott Weninger, and facilitator Walt Roberts. Participants were able to provide input in a variety of methods including instant electronic polling of specific policy choices. Input gathered at this event will be summarized and compared to previous public outreach results to help guide recommendations on CFD1 policy and rule development. A program PowerPoint outline is available on CFD1 public webpage under the open burning section. The program was also taped by Willamette Falls TV and should be available for viewing on Clackamas County Public access TV in the near future.

At the Fire District's Board of Directors' meeting on December 21, 2009, the Board adopted Resolution 09-14. This board policy provides staff and residents direction regarding future Fire District Open Burning rules. This document may be viewed on the Open Burning page of www.clackamasfire.com and is titled "Resolution 09-14 - Board Policy Direction Regarding CFD1 Open Burning Rules – December 2009."

Fire District staff members are finalizing amendments to existing CFD1 Open Burning Rules. These draft rules will be posted on the public website during the first week of January. Public comments will be accepted, regarding these drafts rules, through the remainder of January 2010.

Final revised open burning rules are anticipated to be posted and available by February 1, 2010. Please visit www.clackamasfire.com for additional information regarding Open Burning within CFD1.

LOCAL STATION ACTIVITIES

Station 3 – Oak Lodge Fire Station

- Station 3 conducted a home fire safety training session.
- Continued work on Business Inspection Program and Target Hazard Familiarization.
- Conducted a station tour for three adults.
- Provided a letter of encouragement to the Marines stationed in Iraq through the "America's Warriors" Charity.

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November

Total Number of Responses for Station 3 in November = 231

Number of Medical Aid Calls = 183

Number of Fires = 20

Other = 28

Mutual aid given - 0

Mutual aid received - 3

District-wide

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Total number of calls during November	1,181	1,181
Total number of calls during January - November	14,360	14,563