

CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1



October 28, 2009

Fire District Information Regarding the Oak Lodge Community Council Area

Open Burning Town Hall Meeting

A town hall meeting regarding open burning is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at the Fire District's Training Center located at 15990 SE 130th Avenue in Clackamas. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with the meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. Due to facility capacity requirements, public attendance is limited to the first 130 people. The main question to be answered is, "What does the public want in an open burning policy?" Feedback will be received on some draft policy options that have been developed by staff. For more details and to RSVP, please visit our website at www.clackamasfire.com.

Update on the H1N1 Flu

All the flu circulating in Oregon now is thought to be of the H1N1 strain. Since, September 1, it has sent 128 Oregonians to the hospital and resulted in five deaths. Seasonal flu typically arrives in late October or November. With more cases of the H1N1 flu being diagnosed each day, it is important to know the symptoms and what to do if you or family members do contact it.

Preventive Measures

Cover your cough and sneeze into your sleeve or a tissue.

Clean your hands, especially after sneezing and coughing, with soap and water, or with alcohol-based hand cleaners.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

If you are sick, stay home from work or school, and generally avoid going out in public. Remain home until 24 hours after your fever goes away.

If you are an employer, encourage sick employees to stay home.

If you are a parent, keep sick children out of daycare, camps, and events.

If you Become Sick

If you do develop possible flu symptoms and you want to consult your health care provider, call before going in for an office visit. You may not need to go in, and if you do need to be seen, a time should be set up when you will not risk exposing others to influenza in the waiting room.

Resources for More Information

Ask your health care provider about your risk for flu complications and your need for vaccination. You can also find on-going flu updates at:

- Clackamas County's H1N1 website: www.clackamas.us/swineflu
- Oregon Public Health Division website: www.flu.oregon.gov
- Center for Disease Control 24-hour hotline: toll-free: 1-800-232-4636 | TTY: 1-888-232-6348

Our Emergency Manager Kevin Donegan may also be contacted at 503-742-2685 with any questions you have regarding the H1N1 flu.

How to Keep Halloween Fire Free

To help Halloween be an enjoyable time for all who participate, the following tips are provided to help have a safe Halloween.

- Purchase only costumes, wigs, and props labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
- Avoid flowing costumes or those that drag; these may easily contact an open flame and catch fire.
- Keep flammable material such as dried flowers, corn stalks, hay bales, crepe paper, and other decorations well away from open flames and heat sources including light bulbs, heaters, etc.
- Consider using flashlights or battery-operated candles when illuminating jack-o-lanterns.
- Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torchlights when decorating walkways and yards

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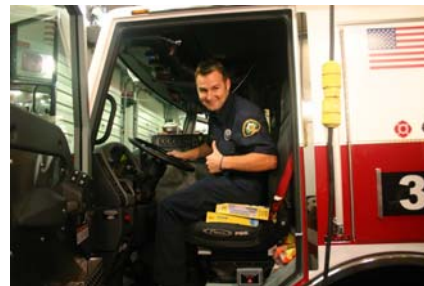
- If using candles, place them out of reach of children and pets.
- Always use a sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic candleholder.
- Blow out all candles before leaving the room or before going to sleep.
- Don't light candles with items embedded in them such as twigs, flowers, or leaves.
- Check decorative light sets for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw away damaged sets.
- Don't overload extension cords or electrical sockets.
- Be sure to have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area.

Promotional Ceremony

Our newest apparatus operator is Josh Santos who was promoted on October 22, 2009. Congratulations AO Santos!



Chief Kirchofer and Josh Santos



AO Josh Santos

Clarkes Fire Station Remodel Update

The Board Capital Projects Committee has approved the design/plans for remodeling the Clarkes Fire Station. The current station has served the Clarkes community well since 1954, but it now is outdated and needs to be replaced. There will be three phases to the project and bids could go out as early as next week. The project will include the demolition of the existing living quarters, the purchase of the modular structure as designed and the site prep/utility hook-up for the new structure. The plan is to have the remodel completed within 90 days after awarding the purchase of the modular structure. This new facility will enable the Fire District to provide an enhancement of service to the citizens of the Clarkes area.

Joint Senior Staff Meeting Between TVF&R and Clackamas Fire

This month the first joint senior staff meeting took place between TVF&R and CFD. Areas were discussed and identified where both agencies could eliminate duplication of effort and expense, thereby gaining fiscal efficiency. There are many cultural similarities between the organizations. By having regular dialogue between key staff members the agencies hope to capitalize on the strengths of each agency (while demonstrating sound government practices). The initial focus was limited to joint purchasing and contracts, wellness, medical services, safety/IMT response, and financial management software applications. Staff will research different aspects of each program and present their findings at our next joint meeting in January.

Swift Water and Flood Rescue Team (SWIFT)

At the board meeting on October 19, 2009, the Board of Directors approved an intergovernmental (IGA) agreement between the Fire District and the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office for a Swift Water and Flood Rescue Team (SWIFT). This IGA will enhance the coordination of effort and combine resources in the protection of

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citizens and in responding to swift water and flood emergencies in Clackamas County, the State of Oregon and the United States. It also provides the Fire District with the ability to respond to requests from other agencies in the state as well as the nation when disasters take place. The Clackamas County Commissioners approved a \$400,000 contingency fund to help buffer the time frame of being reimbursed by the Federal government for the response. The Sheriff's Office will set aside \$100,000, which will create a \$500,000 contingency fund.

Happy Valley Fire Station Hosts Community Open House

With October being Fire Prevention Month, the Fire District's Happy Valley Fire Station hosted an "Open House" for the community. In spite of the gloomy weather, the event was well attended and feedback was very positive. Approximately 50 children and parents had the opportunity to tour the fire station, see the Fire District's fine apparatus, ask questions and meet our outstanding staff. As one father stated, "This was a great event. Thank you for inviting us to see what our local celebrities do." Open House activities included: fire station tours, fire engine tours, demonstrations of the Sparky Hazard House, distribution of safety information, refreshments and face painting. Thank you to the Engine 6 crew – Lt. Ed Riordan, AO Ted Willard, FF Matt Wiken – for making this event a success!



Community Thank You

A young citizen sent a very nice thank you note to the Lake Road Fire Station. The crew who spent time with him were Lt. Ed Riordan, AO Jeff Bennett, FF Steve Sherman, FF Cullen Blake and BC Fred Charlton.

To all at Fire Station #4,

Thank you so much for letting me drop by on Sunday, 9-13-09, and taking the time to show me the Heavy Rescue 4, Truck 4 and all of the special equipment that went with those trucks. Thank you also, Steve, Colin and Chief Fred and Lieutenant Ed for taking the time out of your day. Thank you for the hat and photo frame.

From Brian

Program Highlight – Clackamas Fire District #1's Sustainability Program **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle-**

We have all heard it, but what are we doing about it? At Clackamas Fire, we are taking it to heart. Although we have had a recycling policy in place since the mid 1990's, it was time to analyze the program and make some improvements.

For the last eight months the Green Team at Clackamas Fire has been working along with the Clackamas County Office of Sustainability to analyze and upgrade our recycling program. The Office of Sustainability performed audits of all of the Fire District facilities to ensure that we are in compliance with the business recycling requirements set by the county. The Sustainability Office was pleasantly surprised to find employees enthusiastic about the program

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and to find a program that was already in place. After some minor improvements were made to make the system run more smoothly and increase awareness, we are now able to capture more recyclable material such as batteries, light bulbs, and film plastic.

The Green Team has three tiers of responsibility, which are Recycling, Environmental and Energy conservation. A set of ambitious goals has been developed to help the Fire District operate with sustainability in mind. The uniqueness of the fire department operations are that the fire stations are staffed and operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There are many opportunities to save on electricity and minimize waste. The simple act of turning off unnecessary lights and adjusting the thermostat can have a significant positive financial impact for the Fire District. The main focus of the program is awareness and education. Each fire station and facility in the Fire District has a recycling officer that is in charge of ensuring the program is running smoothly, educating members of how the program works and informing them of any changes in operation.

This type of program has many positive benefits for any organization. The three tiers of this program (Recycling, Environmental, and Energy) all complement each other. By addressing one issue we positively affect another. For instance, we are in the process of minimizing and hopefully one day eliminating the thousands of faxes and copies that are generated each month in the Fire District and utilizing computers (via email and video conferencing) in their place. By making the change in fax and copy machine use, we save a tremendous amount of money in toner cartridges, wear and tear on the machines and the one time use of the paper. The savings in toner, machine maintenance and paper use have a positive impact for the Fire District budget, the environment and energy use.

In addition to our recycling, some of the sustainability highlights with our program are:

Purchasing- We look to purchase from environmentally friendly companies that have policies to be green; for instance we purchase paper that is made from at least 30% post-consumer recycled product. Hybrid vehicle use is another new sustainability component. The Fire District purchased its first hybrid staff car and we hope more will come as our current vehicles need to be replaced.

Energy Conservation- The Fire District will be going through an extensive energy audit with Energy Trust of Oregon to help identify areas that we can improve with our facility energy use. Reminder stickers near light switches have been placed in most facilities to remind people to turn lights off when not in use.

There is a policy in place to guide employees on heating and cooling. A significant change has already happened with our awareness in regards to unnecessary energy use.

Environmental- The Fire District uses various cleaning chemicals for daily use around the Fire District facilities. The chemicals that we purchase are environmentally friendly, comply with the EPA's safe detergents stewardships initiative and are in a concentrated form that is dispensed using metered systems that save water. We will also be looking for better ways of maintaining our grounds. Through analyzing the types of chemicals that are used, using mulching blades, composting and over seeding our grounds will be environmentally healthier.

The Challenges- As with any business, making system-wide large scale changes takes time and a lot of money. With the current state of our economy, some of our goals will take a lot of time to reach due to significant costs involved. Fortunately, we can have a significant impact through simple things such as turning off lights and purchasing responsibly. One change in our personal habits makes a difference. The biggest challenge is often human nature and our intrinsic resistance to change or the failure to recognize our ingrained habits that are not always friendly to the environment. Through gentle reminders, encouragement to others and personal accountability, we can all make a significant impact to our environment.

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As a public agency and your fire department, Clackamas Fire strives to be as responsible with your tax dollars, accountable to the people we serve and friendly to the environment that we all share.

Submitted by:
Captain Brian Rooney

LOCAL STATION ACTIVITIES

For a complete list of all the Fire District's station activities, please go to our website at www.clackamasfire.com/firechief/html. The list will be at the end of the October newsletter.

Station 3 – Oak Lodge Fire Station

- Station 3 provided a citizen station tour for two people.
- Attended a public relations' event at "Lew's Cruise-In"
- Installed two smoke detectors.
- Attended the Blanton Street Block Party.
- Provided a citizen ride-a-long for 12 hours.

September

Total Number of Responses for Station 3 in September = 216

Number of Medical Aid Calls = 190

Number of Fires = 15

Other = 11

Mutual aid given - 0

Mutual aid received - 3

District-wide

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Total number of calls during September	1,305	1,304
Total number of calls during January - September	11,873	12,013