

THE SIREN



Presented By

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD

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CHIEF'S CORNER

-Chief Robertson

Welcome to the April 2007 edition of the Siren.

It has been a busy month of March for the department. Thanks to all of you for the great turnout at the annual awards banquet and to all who helped make it a success. Based on the positive feedback we received, we have reserved the Five Pines conference facility for our awards banquet in the future. We have reserved the first weekend in March every year for the event. Congratulations to all of the award winners: recognition of your excellent performance by your peers is a high honor.

Association President Jeff Liming is on vacation and spending some time in Death Valley, CA. The Association is planning for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 8. If you are able to help, please contact Jeff the first week of April.

Congratulations to Rob Harrison on his completion of the recruit academy and his F/F 1 Certification. Rob will join Jeremy Storton on shift the first week of April. Fire Medic Jay Crawford will be assigned as Acting Captain on A shift until Captain Brown returns from his injury leave. FM Harrison will be assigned to B shift. Rob will return to a 40-hour week when Captain Brown returns to shift duty. Thanks to all for stepping up during this staffing challenge, and thanks to everyone on the department for supporting Jay, Jeremy and Rob in their new roles.

We continue to receive extremely positive feedback and survey returns from our customers. Through our quality assurance program, we receive regular feedback on our EMS delivery. On a scale of one to ten, our customers consistently rate the service they receive as a 10! I appreciate the work that every one of you do to keep our customer service and satisfaction at this outstanding level.

We wish Captain Brown a speedy recovery. Thornton is such an asset to the department with his positive, cooperative and outgoing style and his hard work. We are happy that Thornton is able to rejoin us to work on light duty beginning Monday, April 2.

Our new fire station project is coming along with the final steps in finishing the building and site plans near completion. The soils analysis has been completed and we will have an arborist on site soon to evaluate the trees on the property (we want to save as many as possible). The "free" house (sleeper house) on the property will hopefully be moved to another location and preserved through the bid process now underway.

Continued on next column...

CHIEF'S CORNER CONT.

We do not want to have to demolish the house, but if we are unable to move it, we will most probably be forced to do a burn-to-learn on our own property.

Lets hope we have a favorable bidding climate for the construction contract and that we can complete the project as outlined without having to cut any thing from the plans. We will know about the bid results on May 15. Stay tuned on this important project.

Thanks to all of you for all you do for the department and the citizens of the district, and have a great month of April.

TRAINING

-Captain Karjala

As the weather improves and warms we will be transitioning to additional outdoor training. Please take a moment to recommit yourselves to safety. Each year far too many firefighters are injured during training. Just as there are no "routine" fires, there are no "routine" trainings. Take the time to operate safely. Each of us has the responsibility to act as a safety officer. In the words of one of our mentors, "Accountability is more than plastic tags and Velcro". Stay safe and watch out for one another, it's going to be a great spring. In April and May we will have more opportunities for hands on training outside of the training room. In addition to department training there are many classes being offered throughout the State. If you are interested in any of the classes that have been posted on the training board please come in and see me.

While Lt. Liming was at the National Fire Academy he was asked to bring back a National Fire Service Seatbelt Pledge program. This program was developed after a line of duty death involving a Firefighter from the Amarillo Fire Department. On April 23, 2005 the firefighter fell out of his fire truck as it was responding to an alarm. The individual was not wearing a seatbelt. This pledge is to honor the fallen firefighter and to wear your seatbelt because it is the right thing to do.

Our policy requires everybody to wear a seatbelt each and every time you are in a moving vehicle. I introduced this pledge at EMS drill last Monday and will continue to bring this pledge to drills until we get 100% compliance.

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FIRE & EMS EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

-Captain Ast

The 5" Storz couplings on our new 5" hose should be replaced by the first week of April. Apparently the manufacturer had a run of couplings that were milled to tolerances that made them difficult to assemble, which is what we found to be the case with the couplings on the hose we received. After the couplings are replaced and the hose is service tested, 721 will be re-outfitted with 1,000 feet of 5" supply hose. The hose bed cover for 721 was installed the first week of March, which will prevent recurrence of the accidental hose deployment. During the 2007/2008 fiscal year, it is our intent to equip engines 720, 723 & 724 with hose bed covers as well.

The new ambulance was returned to the manufacturer on March 18th for repair of the "punch-list" of items that were found either unsatisfactory or non-operational during post delivery examination of the vehicle. This is a common occurrence with most custom apparatus. Even though a pre-delivery inspection of the ambulance was performed, some items were not noticed due to several factors at the factory, and the fact that some "bugs" don't show up until they the equipment is put to use. We are expecting the ambulance to return to us quickly and hope to have the unit in service by the first of April.

Thank you to John Pagano for the donation of a set of landing zone beacons. If you weren't aware, John has been working with Airlife to develop a landing bea-

con to meet the rugged specifications required for use with helicopter landing zones. The beacons are supplied in a kit of four beacons in a waterproof case. Airlife has purchased several of the kits and issued them to several agencies that they work with. We will be applying for a grant from Airlife to purchase more of the kits. Please take the time to thank John for his added commitment to the department in the donation of the kit.

I don't have much news to report on the type-6 engine. The flatbed has been installed and the boxes and slip-on pump package should be installed by mid to late April, with delivery upon completion.

With the spring and summer fire season almost upon us, please check your wildland PPE. We have already responded to a handful of brush fire calls during the month of March, so if you haven't checked your gear, now is the time! As a reminder, the department received grant funding that was used in part to purchase new wildland boots for personnel. Please see me at your earliest convenience to get your pair in order to break them in, if needed, before the season is here.

As I'm sure you've heard, the district has received some unfortunate news for next year's forecasted revenue. With this news, the scheduled annual PPE purchase of replacement turnouts has been temporarily put on hold. However, if you have any PPE requests that need immediate attention, please let me know at your earliest convenience.

Have a Happy Easter!

APPARATUS NEWS

-Captain Lovegren

Winter season is ending, which means it's time to change our studded snow tires for highway tires. Keep a close eye out for the infamous frosty/icy Central Oregon spring mornings and slow down more than normal. Your traction will not be what it was with snow tires!

The new ambulance will be placed in service within the first week of April if all goes well. After initial delivery, the ambulance was sent back to Braun for some repairs/modifications and to Myrmo's for the windshield and trim replacement. It's looking good. If you would like some more driving experience before it goes online, contact the on-duty Captain and come in and do some driver training. We want you to be comfortable with the new vehicle and where the controls and switches are located before responding on an emergency.

The Type 6 is in production and the flat bed is done and Cascade Equipment is working on the boxes. I think we are still on track for delivery sometime in late April. When

it arrives we will install the emergency lighting and siren. We will also replace the front bumper with a heavy duty one that will accept a winch. Ward No Smoke is coming the second week in May to install the exhaust filter system and it should be ready for fire season by mid May.



FIRE PREVENTION

-Fire Marshal Wheeler

It's time for the annual FIREFREE program. Our Department has been a part of this program for the past 5 years working with ODF, USFS and other fire departments from the tri county area. The FIREFREE program focuses primarily on reducing the risk of wildfire before it happens. Brochures for the program are available at the office at 701 and the Nugget Newspaper will include a couple of articles too.

Inquiries regarding the program should be directed to me at 701. The date for the Sisters area cleanup will be the weekend of May 5-6 at the Fryrear landfill. I would ap-

preciate anyone who can help volunteer that weekend to help unload the debris and keep track of how much debris is dropped off. I will have shifts set up so you won't have to commit an entire day. Lunch and drinks will be provided. This is a very important project for our department and community and if you're interested in helping, please contact me at Station 701.

Team Teaching at Sisters Elementary begins April 26 and a separate program will be held at Sisters Christian Academy and Black Butte School District in May. If anyone is interested in participating at one of the schools, please contact me. It's a lot of fun to watch the kid's faces light up when Smokey and Sparky walk in the room. Thanks for your continued support and have a fire safe month.

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

-Chaplain Hayes

While April weather doesn't always feel like spring in Central Oregon, it's a month that demonstrates the epitome of seasonal diversity in Oregon. Last year for the fire department Egg Hunt, nature graced us with a blanket of snowflakes in the morning, only to melt away to a beautiful, sunny day just hours later. Maybe that's the fun of April... never really knowing what the day will bring. Life

is like that too. We can wake up and think the day will be filled with one thing only to find that the day actually brings something else. Being able to accept what appears – and maybe even enjoy it – is a fantastic skill worth cultivating. If you struggle with situations in your life not being as you'd like them, accepting "the weather the day brings" is a great way to begin practicing acceptance in general and become more peaceful about what is. I'm sure you've heard it said before... you can't change the weather, but you **can** change your attitude about it.

NEW MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

-Captain Wellington

Beginning this month we will include a new feature in the Siren. As a means of introduction I will publish a short profile of new volunteers with some basic information about them, their interests, families and experience. Please use this as a means of introducing yourselves to these new folks and making them feel welcome.

Liz McKittrick lives in the Squaw Creek area with her husband Scott and is primarily interested in EMS. Scott and Liz have one son. After living in San Diego and Seattle and a 20 year career in corporate finance, Liz came to the Sisters area looking for an outlet for her tremendous energy and found Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District. She is currently completing her EMT basic classes at COCC.

When not helping at the Fire District she enjoys outdoor activities such as skiing, hiking, backpacking and SCUBA diving. She also enjoys reading.

Nick Newport is a long time resident of Sisters

and graduated from Sisters High School in 2004. He manages to hold down jobs at Suttle Lake Resort and Sisters Movie House as well as giving some time to the Fire District.

In his spare time Nick enjoys amateur radio, computers, and just being in the outdoors. He also does some video editing. Look for Nick to be working on several special projects in the future.

Kirk Metzger comes to us via the US Forest Service. After 34 years, Kirk retired but has decided to help the Fire District in the Camp Sherman area where he lives with his wife Glen Corbett. They have 6 children and 4 grandchildren.

Kirk comes with an impressive amount of experience in the area of wildland firefighting and is currently adding some structural skills to his extensive resume. He also gives time to Search and Rescue with the Camp Sherman HASTY team and is qualified in high angle and swift water rescue. In his spare time he enjoys outdoor activities such as hiking, alpine mountaineering, rock climbing and white water kayaking and rafting.

TRAINING CONT. from page 1

As you are aware we are in the process of reviewing continuing education hours for EMT re-certification. You should be receiving your re-certification packet from DHS at your home address. When you receive the packet please follow the instructions in the packet and submit your recertification form to Assistant Chief Enoch prior to May 1st. If you have any questions please feel free to contact either AC Enoch or myself.

Lastly, I would like to update you on the student program. As many of you know COCC will have a paramedic program starting spring term. This has allowed us to resume our student program and bring back Kevin Houser and Derek Ralls. These two individuals will be assigned to a shift, although they will be in class three days a week with additional training on various weekends. Please join me in welcoming back Kevin and Derek.

As always my door is open and I look forward to seeing you.

SCBA INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

Good news and bad news regarding SCBA's this month! The good news is thanks to a grant award to the District, we were able to purchase some communication equipment for the SCBA face pieces that will help eliminate hard to understand radio transmissions when wearing the SCBA. The District was given the opportunity to apply for additional funds left over from a grant we received in 2004. Thanks to Susan Houck and Julie Spor for their invaluable help in the application process. As soon as we receive the

equipment, it will be installed and will also provide a number of personnel that do not currently have voice amplifiers, to receive them.

The bad news is the SCBA equipment that we were hoping to receive from Hillsboro Fire is not compatible with our equipment. It is not high pressure (4500 psi), but is the 3000 psi manufacture. We have checked into upgrading it to meet our pressure needs, but it would be best to purchase new equipment. There is still a possibility that we may be able to use some of the face pieces and peripheral equipment, but the outcome is not sure at this time. We will keep you updated as this moves on.

RESPONSE INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

I apologize for not having any details on our current responses. I lost track after my accident and will not be back in the station until April 2. I will get the information distributed to each station upon my return so you can monitor your responses and see how the district is doing.

I would like to take a little space to thank everyone who has called with well wishes and concern for my clumsiness, and for everyone who has filled in and will continue to fill in for me during my recovery. I am sorry to report that there is no exciting story to my injury, although I could have probably come up with a real winner! I can say that the care I received after calling for help (an ambulance re-

sponse from my own station) was first class. Our personnel are professional and proficient in their skills. The response was quick and even though there were plenty of opportunities for snide remarks, none were heard. The Cloverdale personnel were professional and assisted in moving me to the ambulance quite nicely. Thanks to those who came out to pick up my tools and return my truck back to my house, too! It was nice to see familiar faces and know there was no need to worry about my care. They even let me retain some of my dignity (could also be described as hard headedness). Also, the personnel in the SCMC Emergency Room are top drawer, also. They accommodated me in every way and it makes me feel good to know our patients are getting the same treatment. On a parting note, I hope my call is not going to be pulled for a case review!

Captain Crutch

FACILITIES

-Captain Brown

The Station 701 project is in the final stages of planning, specifications and permit application processes. It almost feels like the project is finally charging ahead and gaining momentum. The project timeline form shows groundbreaking the middle of June and it appears that is a good possibility. There were some changes to the south exterior elevation to minimize maintenance and make the building more appealing to the neighbors on that side. As for the rest of the project, no major changes or additions, just some minor adjustments to allow for space and usage considerations. It will be a very nice facility that will be

easy to maintain and something we as a district and a community can be proud of. There have been no major hurdles up to this point, just a waiting game for permits and the bid process. Remember, there will be some inconvenience during the building process, but if we're prepared and willing to make allowances when necessary, they will be short lived and fairly bearable.

As for the other stations, there are some small projects that hopefully will get done this summer and fall if the budget allows. Remember, if you notice anything that needs repair or is a concern, please forward that to me at Station 701. You can either use a note dropped off in my mailbox or email me at tbrown@sistersfire.com.

COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

All of our recent grant purchases have arrived and I will begin the setup and programming of the new equipment when I return to work. This will work well as I will be on light duty and doing a lot of desk work. After all the radios are installed and distributed, we should be in good shape for a number of years. The new equipment is narrow-band capable and can be upgraded to digital in the future, if

necessary. As mentioned in previous articles, when the new equipment is installed and delivered to each station, everyone will be trained in its use.

We are still exploring the possibility of a repeater/receiver location on top of Black Butte for Northwest Fire. More discussion with the principle players and potential users are in the works. We are hoping this will become a reality and will help eliminate some communication problems we face daily. Again, we will keep you informed on any progress.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

Please wish these folks a Happy Birthday!

- David Wheeler 6th
 - Gary Lovegren 8th (the BIG 50)
 - Missed Steve Ward's Birthday last month 3-1
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