



THE SIREN



Presented By

Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District

December 2009

CHIEF'S CORNER

-Fire Chief, Taylor Robertson

Welcome to the December 2009 edition of the Siren.

I suppose we should call this the "Holiday Edition" of the Siren. We did have a great turnout for the Holiday Parade on Saturday, November 28. The "elves" (Liz and Rita) were a big hit....check the front page of the Sunday, November 29 edition of the Bulletin to see who is buying ice cream. Old Engine 3 was decked out with plenty of lights, reindeer, and Christmas spirit, thanks to Jeff May. I know that all of these efforts keep the department in the hearts and minds of those we serve.

As we leave the Thanksgiving weekend and move to the end of the year, I think it is important to give thanks for all we have as a department and family. It is not just the "objects" like the new fire station, excellent equipment, a good budget, or the many other things we take for granted, I give thanks for our wonderful staff and board.

I give thanks for all of you who make the Department the best that it can be: for the volunteers who each give as much as they can and place the community above themselves; for our career staff, who work hard and support our operations; and for our board of directors who provide excellent direction and support at the policy level. And finally, I give thanks for the wonderful place we live and for the family that is the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District.

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

ASSOCIATION NEWS

-President, Jeff Liming

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of our Sisters – Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association members! I want to thank each of you for the support you have provided this year for our activities. We have enjoyed a great year and as 2009 winds down I look forward to working with all of you in the New Year. I would also like to thank our District Board for their leadership and support and also our Fire Chief and staff for all they do for our organization. We are certainly fortunate to have such a tremendous team!

Many thanks to all of you that participated in the Christmas Parade! I want to especially thank Jeff May for the planning, preparation and display of "old number 3" in the parade. When I walked into Station 701 on parade day I was amazed at the sight of the old fire truck. Look for pictures in the Nugget! Jeff absolutely transformed the engine into a Christmas legend for the entire town to enjoy! Sure am glad he got the thing started and running! It was a little touch and go for a while. Thanks also to Liz, Rita and Marsha for their participation as "Santa's elves." I understand we will have to purchase much more candy for next year's parade give away as the elves found many more kids on the parade route than anyone anticipated.

Keep our Association Christmas dinner and gift preparation in mind and on your calendars! Dave Wheeler continues to anticipate greater need from the community for children's gifts and Rita expects larger crowds for Christmas Day dinner. We need you and appreciate your volunteerism for these Association events!

Thanks again for your efforts this year! It's been a good one and we have done some great work.

On behalf of your Association Board I wish all of you a Merry Christmas!



CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

-Chaplain Hayes

Hello December, Goodbye 2009

The arrival of snow is just one more reminder that the activities of the 2009 holiday season are well underway and 2010 peeks at us from calendars not yet purchased.

As this year of unemployment, recession, and presidential change comes to a close, we are each given the

opportunity to make corresponding changes in our own lives. What a great month to ponder what really matters. Most of us are blessed well beyond our level of understanding or appreciation. If you have been doing more with less, why not keep it up and challenge the notion of rampant consumerism.

The end of the year is also a great time to simplify and unburden our lives. Assess where and how you are spending your time and money and bring your choices into alignment with your beliefs. There's no better way to find peace and joy this holiday season.

FIRE PREVENTION

-Captain Wheeler

Christmas is fast approaching and the annual Spirit of Christmas clothing and toy drive program is well under way. Captain May and Firefighter Honeyman secured a tree and it was placed at Rays in mid-November. As of November 30, we have 108 children signed up for assistance. As in the past, the gift program is for kids 18 and under.

Gifts will undoubtedly start pouring in to the station and they need to be placed in the front office or my office for check in. Check-in is important to ensure that the appropriate names are being checked off and to let us know which names didn't get filled and who we'll need to shop for.

We will be taking the bags to the school on the 21st or the 22nd of December. The pick-up date is December 23rd from 0800 to around 1600. Any and all help is greatly appreciated. As always if you have any questions or comments please stop by.

EQUIPMENT NEWS

-Captain Lovegren

Boot chains are on the trucks, and when the roads are icy please remember to use them. Your safety on scene is our highest priority. If we fall and are injured we are no good to our patients: safety first!

The thermometers on the vehicles can tell you when the outside temperature is near freezing, but this is just a tool to help you predict icy road conditions. They are not to be used to determine your driving speed. They are accurate to within a few degrees and the road can become icy before the temperature drops below 32 degrees. Continue to be vigilant and let's keep everyone safe.

This is the worst time of year for driving because of the different conditions we will encounter over just a few miles. Watch your speed when travelling up the pass as conditions change rapidly in just a few feet of elevation change. Also those pesky shaded corners will not only give us business but can catch us unaware as well.

Please be safe over the Holidays and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

Well.....the Santiam Repeater: a topic that has been a challenge to implement for around 3 years. Recently we have had the help of a radio technician from the Oregon Department of Forestry, trying to troubleshoot the equipment and make repairs/adjustments. He is very familiar with the repeater and duplexer. After several trips, attempts, and repairs he was successful in repairing the electronics that were giving us fits and making the operation of the repeater intermittent at best. Unfortunately, it quit functioning again yesterday, December 1. At this point the Chief is considering purchasing a new repeater. Stay tuned on this one.

We are starting to program pagers for use at each substation so separate tones can be generated when your equipment is being dispatched. This way you can have the option of not being disturbed if your station is not activated for response. I know that some spouses will really appreciate this! Rest assured that if you are in the mood to hear everything that is happening with Northwest Fire (SCSFD, Black Butte Fire, and Cloverdale Fire), you will still have that option. Just remember, if you need some rest (or your spouse does) you can choose the setting for your assigned station. Firemedic Bruegeman is heading this up and he can be contacted to have your pager programmed for your station. Thanks, Ben for taking care of this.

OPERATIONS

-Chief Enoch

I would like to thank all personnel for your participation in keeping the spread of the H1N1 flu to a minimum within the Department. Thank you for using the hand sanitizer when entering the stations. The good news is that the second wave of the H1N1 has peaked and is on its way down. St. Charles Bend has closed its Emergency Operation Center which it opened because of the mass flu cases it was seeing. Remember the third wave of the H1N1 flu will be upon us in January 2010. Please continue to use the hand sanitizer upon entering the stations.

Deschutes County 911 Center currently has five emergency medical helicopters to choose from that will fly into Central Oregon. Air Link is our first choice for emergency response to the Sisters-Camp Sherman ASA. Whenever Air Link is unavailable and an emergency helicopter is needed, contact dispatch and ask for the closest helicopter. Dispatch will go to their run cards and work down the list to dispatch the nearest available helicopter. Emergency helicopters come out of Bend, The Dalles, Eugene, Portland Area and Corvallis.

RESPONSE

-Captain Brown

As I write this article, I realize how quiet it has been on the last couple of shifts; almost too quiet for the type of weather we are having. I remind myself that with the sudden onset of bad weather, most folks will slow down and be careful. It is when the roads seem clear or people get lulled into feeling somewhat safe that the traffic accidents happen. With the opening of Hoodoo Ski area after Thanksgiving, we are sure to experience some traffic crashes with increased travel to Hoodoo. Also, the usual multiple trips up to the mountain each shift for falls, trauma and other illness at the resort. Snow sports have specific risks, and we get to see the downside of it. I would much rather ride up to the resort to find that it was a minor injury than have to help a family deal with something tragic when they thought it would be just another fun family outing. Remember to remain professional and compassionate with the patients, no matter what the injury or complaint.

Thanks to everyone for responding and making themselves available at the station for shifts. The extra personnel have made coverage easier and helped to staff any second out calls. We are in the last month for 2009, so be sure to check your attendance "stats" and try to boost them if you have any time this month. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!



SCBA

-Captain Brown

Firemedics Crawford and Vial have been working on the SCBA face piece testing and adjustment. They are having some difficulties with the test equipment being consistent, but are working hard at overcoming the problem and ensuring your equipment is working at its optimum. It has been great to have their help with this program. Surround yourself with good people who are willing to assist and learn new skills! If you haven't had your mask tested, they will be calling you soon to bring it in. The best thing would be to drop it off for a day so they will have

time to adjust or repair as needed. Remember there are extra masks on the apparatus with the SCBA's. Check your voice amplifiers for proper operation and if there are difficulties, bring it in to A-Shift for repair. If you turn on the amplifier and the red light on top flashes slowly, the batteries need replacing. This should be done once a year at the first of every year. The batteries should last for the year with as few structure fires as we get. If you forget to turn it off before you put it into the protective bag, it will run the batteries down overnight. Check all your PPE and issued safety equipment each week to assure you are ready for response!

FACILITIES

-Captain Brown

How are your stations doing? They should be ready for our cold weather and should have had a good testing just before Thanksgiving with the snow and cold temperatures. Make sure and look for signs of trouble and get a message to me before any real damage can occur. Remember to keep things closed up, not only for security reasons but for the cold infiltration from outside. Double check the doors as you leave to make sure they have closed and latched. Sometimes during colder weather, the locking mechanisms may not work freely. If you do experience difficulties with the doors or overhead doors, let me know right away. Thanks!

Station 701...we are finally wrapping up the punch list and small repair items, looking for resolution to a couple of bigger items. I suppose I could say that we are essentially finished. The two remaining larger repair items will still have to be worked out with the contractor and architect, and hopefully will not stretch out for much longer. We are enjoying the new station with living quarters and it has been good for everyone. It feels good to drive up to such a nice looking station each day before shift and enjoy the extra amenities that make it easier and enjoyable to do our job (fire poles for one example!). After assisting my shift with some station tours for little folks, I have noticed that the parents always seem to comment on how nice a station we have. All the hard work, frustration, and patience do pay off in a big way!

Please wish the following people a Happy December Birthday...

- Chief Enoch 12/3
- John Barton 12/8
- Scott Michalek 12/14
- Doug Myers 12/28
- Shawn Vial 12/29



MERRY CHRISTMAS

FIRE FITNESS

-Fire Medic Storton

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the town
There was a feeling that something soon would go down
Presents were secured in front of windows with care
Cookies and egg nog were left out as a dare

Children were rushed to bed worried and scared
While adults ran downstairs to hurry and prepare
Everyone was filled with palpable fears
The wait was over, it was the end of a year

When we heard a loud boom and from ground zero
Emerged a man in turnouts like a muscle bound hero
I ran to see with a sprint and a flash
It took me two minutes to run a hundred yard dash

Amongst sparkling snow and glistening skies
I came face to face with those determined eyes
It was a strange sight to see, even at this late hour
No reindeer, but St. Fire Claus with self-propelled power

It seemed he was strong right down to his core
As if he did fifty pushups, then did fifty more
Or as if he just made his very best time
After sprinting to the top of the Seattle Stair Climb

“Ladies and gents” he said “I have something to say
I’d like to suggest to you a better way
The cookies are good, but don’t let yourselves go
There is something that I want you to know”

The town’s people listened so jolly and so round
With each of our steps we felt a quake of the ground
We listened and waited for the pain to begin
Expecting to be forced into torture at the gym

“The fitness habit is so easy and so smart
I urge you not to wait till New Year’s to start
A fit lifestyle is a better way to live
And healthy minds and bodies are what I have to give”

As he earnestly spoke with his biceps flexed
We listened carefully to what he said next
“I believe that you all owe it to yourselves
To become fit like me and my buff little elves”

“You’d be surprised how easy it can be
If you want proof, well, take a look at me
My gut used to be like a bowl full of Jello
That would sneak out on it own just to say hello

It’s easy to avoid with so much hustle and bustle
But, you’ll get more done if you flex a little muscle
A little fitness goes far and energy will abound
And a bike is a great way for getting around”

We looked at each other and knew he was right
Why had we all put up such a fight?
No one said with fitness comes pain
We had nothing to lose and everything to gain

We all knew that this had been it
No more excuses, it was time to get fit
We thanked St. Fire Claus for the motivation we needed
And promised his words would definitely be heeded

He slapped high fives and pumped his fists high
He said “I think my work here is done for the night.”
But we heard him exclaim before he was gone
“Happy Christmas to all and to all Right On!”

