

THE SIREN



Presented By

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD

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CHIEF'S CORNER

-Chief Robertson

Welcome to the February 2006 edition of the Siren!

As you read this, I am attending the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, MD. I will be participating in the two week class, "Executive Planning". I plan to return with plenty of useful information on fire department planning processes which will help us as we address the planning challenges we face. Some of those challenges include new station construction, drill field acquisition, staffing levels, volunteer response to emergencies, increasing call volume, updating the department's strategic plan, addressing the significant growth and development occurring in the district, training delivery, creating a local annex to the county emergency plan, and ensuring the district has the revenue and plans in place to address these needs.

It appears that the status of the Association (see Jeff May's column) and its relationship with the district is close to being finalized. As soon as the membership approves this format (Association becomes a function of the fire district), I will ask the District Board to approve a resolution formalizing our agreement. It is important for you all to know that the district board and administration support the mission and efforts of the association and we will continue that support.

I am happy to report that the District and the City of Sisters have reached tentative agreement on a lease/exchange of our half-acre commercial property in Sisters which will allow the District to utilize four acres of land on the South side of town for a training facility. This has been a long process, and one which at times looked doomed to fail. I believe this is an important and far-sighted move (where can you find or afford four acres in Sisters for a training facility today, let alone in the future?). This agreement will allow us to develop the property in five years or so, and utilize it for at least 20 years beyond that date. I want to thank the board of directors for their patience and foresight as this process has evolved.

I DO HAVE ONE VERY IMPORTANT PIECE OF INFORMATION: The station numbering for 901 will change to the 700 number in February. Captain Steve Ward will make the changeover on the dispatch run cards as soon as the new type 6 pumper is ready to go in service at the new station 704. Captain Lovegren will re-number all effected apparatus.

The new numbering is as follows: Station 901 to station 704; 970 to 774; 920 to 724; 930 to 734; 940 to 744. Additionally, at station 702: 721 will become 722. At station 701: 722 will become 721. 701 ambulance numbering will change with the arrival

of the new ambulance now being put out to bid. This will bring our entire fleet numbering system in conformance with the Central Oregon fire apparatus numbering system. All personnel will be advised in advance of the new apparatus numbers via radio announcement as well.

As always, my office door is open and I look forward to seeing you. I hope to see you at the department awards ceremony on Saturday, February 18.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

-Captain May

The *Award's Ceremonies* will be Saturday, February 18, at 1800 hours at the Sisters Community Church. Plan on joining "our team" to enjoy the festivities recognizing outstanding 2005 contributions.

Please **RSVP ASAP**, so we can properly calculate how much food to order. Last year, more than 30% **NO SHOWED** after committing they were attending! Accountability is important! This year's menu will be chicken, prime rib, mashed potatoes, assorted veggies, rolls, dessert, and non-alcoholic refreshments. It will be catered by *Trail's End BBQ* (Carl Perry), so we can socialize and enjoy this event.

So, what happened during the meeting with the Fire District's attorney on Tuesday evening, January 24? We had a **very positive outcome!** Misunderstandings were corrected and answered straightforward with many great suggestions. All present are united as a positive harmonious one-group organization, to work to the community benefit. It has been a bumpy two-plus year stint trying to address this incorporation non-profit mess. I believe, we have finally put this ugly dinosaur to rest! YES!!!

Here goes - bottom line down and clean: For now, the Association has re-filed as an incorporation not-for-profit organization with the State Justice Department. The attorney said this is not a problem, but the long term goal is to be solely under the umbrella of the district. Here are some of the highlights:

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ASSOCIATION NEWS CONT.

Being under the Fire District's "umbrella", we conduct all current activities and we can expand our activities as long as they conform with district's mission and state law.

At our convenience we can dissolve the Association's incorporation/non-profit status and the attorney will assist to ensure no law is violated with the IRS or State Justice Department. The attorney is researching our ability to legally accept donations into the Jim Gentry Memorial Fund to disseminate for Fire and EMS related student scholarships.

After our review, the board will pass a resolution outlining our relationship.

Amend current "Association" by-laws, fiscal management policy, and general management policy documents to reflect what the Association really does and can do.

We are inquiring with the district's accountant to determine which is the preferable way to manage Association funds: 1. leave it as-is; 2. issue a check each year to the Association for appropriate activities; or, 3. have the district retains all the funds for our use whenever we need it. That information will be back from the accountant soon. This will be explained and discussed at the February 20 meeting. It starts at 1800 hours SHARP! See you there.

Lyle Miller is your Fund Raising chairperson. Please contact him with your ideas, suggestions, and desire

to assist creating new positive activities to generate working capital. (lyle@lifedesignconsulting.com or 595-1857).

Steve Fisher is your Easter Egg Festival chairperson. Please contact him as to how you can assist in this exciting event. (smoke_2005@email.com or smoketrails@firehousemail.com) I have heard the "Fire Easter Bunny" will be hopping around doing some kind of fire prevention activities.

Food for Thought - As in any organization, you have a nucleus of people who tirelessly lead, contributing to a healthy, harmonious working team. I believe all of you **strongly desire** a positive atmosphere where "we" can assist our community through our many activities. It reflects more than "just driving a rig and squirting water" as Jeff Liming has said. We are leaders, in a glass bowl; our entire community watches and looks up to us. We have the "guts" to risk it all. Yet, we strive forward looking for ways we can assist others to have a better quality of life. It might just be a smile or friendly hello, or so much more. You are to be commended for the hours you donate to make our community a better place. More and more of you are stepping forward to "volunteer" to be involved. **You have the "Git-R-Dun" attitude!**

In June, nominations for new leaders will occur. They will be sworn-in in July to take the reins and move forward. Start thinking of those you desire to elect to move our Association Team forward in 2006/2007.

Well, that is it for this month. See you on the "volunteer" lines. Chow.

TRAINING

-Chief Enoch

Department training for February 2006. Dates to remember are:

- Monday, Feb 6, SCBA Search and Rescue; 701, 703 & 901
- Monday, Feb 13, Ropes & Knots; 701, 703 & 901
- Wednesday, Feb 15, Burns; Coyote Creek
- Monday, Feb 20, Engine Company Standards; 701
- Saturday, Feb 25, Burn to Learn, Washington St, Sisters
- Monday, Feb 27, Case Reviews; 701
- Monday, Feb 27, Engine Company Standards, 901

Haz Mat 7 is scheduled for February 4, 2006 to check out the house we plan to burn at the end of this month. If the house is free from hazardous materials we will conduct a burn-to-learn February 25, 2006. Hope to see everyone there.

Department of Public Safety Standards and Training have developed skill requirements for all Firefighter 1 skills. Copies of these requirements are found in the Engine Company Standards manual at Stations 701, 703 and 901. Please review these skill requirements, which are easy to understand. These skill requirements will help standardize how departments perform firefighting tasks across the state. We will be practicing some of these skills this month.

It's been a while since we've had case reviews. Dr. Carnes will be here this month with some interesting cases she would like to review with us.

RESPONSE INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

In 2005, we responded to a total of 751 calls for service. Of those calls, 576 were EMS, 175 were fire related, and the remaining 38 were general public assist in nature. Over the past 5 years, we have seen a 23% increase in total calls.

FIRE & EMS EQUIPMENT

-Captain Ast

With February already upon us, it seems as if the wildland season will be here before we know it. In order to be prepared for the season, don't forget to dust off your wildland gear and make sure that you are ready. I will be making the year-end (fiscal) purchases for the fire equipment budget over the next few months and would like to have a close approximate of the equipment needs you may have. Although many of the equipment orders I place are usually filled within a week or two, there can be delays, as other departments are going through the same process. I'd rather have the equipment here and waiting, rather than needing it and having to wait for a backordered item to be shipped.

I have placed the order for a new gurney for 770, which should arrive in the next couple of weeks. Prior to the order being placed, we used a demo gurney from Stryker, which was the "X-Frame" style that many agencies in Central Oregon are using. After receiving input from career & volunteer personnel regarding the "X-Frame", we decided to stick with the EZ loading style that we are all accustomed to with the gurneys we currently have in service. Some of the added features (accessories) that you'll notice as compared to our current gurneys are: wheel locks to prevent runaway on sloped terrain, an IV pole, head end storage pouch & O2 cylinder holder, and a base storage tray to place kits, etc. while we move patients from their home to the medic. In addition to the accessories, there are also some added safety mechanisms in place to help eliminate accidental drops while unloading patients and also

make lifting more ergonomic, thus helping to reduce the potential for back injuries. While the new gurney will operate similarly to our current ones, there are a few differences. While we will be doing several in-service trainings once we take delivery, please stop in and ask for a demonstration to help become more familiar with the operation prior to use on the emergency scene.

In addition to adding the new gurney, I'll also be ordering a Stair Chair in the near future. While we haven't utilized one in the past, I believe this will prove to be a valuable piece of equipment that will also help prevent back injuries and make removing patients from space restrictive and upper floor locations easier for rescuers and safer for the patient.

The equipment committee has received the revised drawings and specs for our new medic unit and the Chief and board will do the final approval in the near future. After receiving approval, we will be advertising an "invitation for bid" to ambulance manufacturers. We hope that the revisions that we have made in the specs will be more appealing and make the bidding process more competitive by attracting several quality ambulance manufacturers.

As a reminder, the equipment committee will be working over the next couple of months to prioritize a list of recommended equipment purchases for the end of the fiscal year (June 2006). If you have any suggestions for equipment you would like to see purchased, please forward them to me and/or any of the other committee members as soon as possible.

I hope you have safe and happy Valentine's & President's Day holidays!

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

-Sana Hayes

Ahhh.... February, the month of love !

As firefighters and medical care providers we are often in the role of extending love to others. This may be a big part of why we became volunteers or employed in the fire service in the first place.

As a spiritual care provider and counselor, I would like to remind you to be sure that you are not leaving yourself out of the equation. Are you loving yourself?...the Divine Spirit within you ? This is often one of the most difficult things for us to do as humble humans. Most of our teachings, however, reveal that we are only able to give real love to others when it comes from a place of genuine love for and within ourselves.

I challenge you to take some quiet contemplative time this month and explore and perhaps heal anything that may be hindering you from loving yourself completely. Spending time in nature, doing a hobby you en-

joy, reading books of wisdom, meditation or prayer are great ways to begin.

Anytime there is something weighing heavily on your heart, do not hesitate to reach out to one of your department chaplains, John or myself – after all, that's what we are here for. Boundless Blessings ~ Sana

(e-mail is: uplift4u@juno.com)



FACILITIES

-Captain Brown

With the exception of some minor repairs, all district properties remain in good repair. Thanks to all who help maintain them and especially the notification of needed repairs before extensive damage occurs. Most repairs are taken care of in-house, but some of the items are taken care of by contract and may take a little longer.

Speaking of taking a little longer, the new roof at the Camp Sherman station is still not installed. I have been

contacted by the contractor who was awarded the bid, and the plan now is to complete the work sometime around the first part of February. They have assured us that the weather will not be a problem once they get started and it will take just a few days. Watch for completion of this important project.

Thanks to everyone complying with the directive of “no parking” in front of the bay doors behind station 701. This helps when a call comes in (blocking apparatus?) and makes it easier to keep the back lot clean. Parking spaces are still at a premium, but we hope to have some resolution with the construction of the new station.

SCBA INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

All equipment is in great working order and repair orders have been submitted promptly which helps get any needed repairs completed. “That time of year” has rolled around again, and everyone who wears an SCBA needs to be fit tested. If you have been issued a face piece, call me to set

up a time to bring it in (with your turnouts) and go through the testing/evaluation procedure. This is an annual OSHA requirement. This needs to be completed in February and we will try to get as many through on drill nights as possible.

Thank you for your help with this annual test.

COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

Not much new is happening with our communications, equipment or otherwise. Just a reminder to contact me so I can update my records regarding what model of pager you have been issued. Officers who have been issued a radio need to call me with that information so I can verify that your frequencies are correct, as there has been a change with one of the wildland channels.

I believe this is an appropriate section to “communicate” my thanks to everyone’s kind words and thoughts during the recent losses in Terri’s and my family. Our faith and your caring were a blessing to us. It is wonderful to know that our “family” extends to so many good people that I have the honor to work and serve with. Heartfelt thanks to everyone.

EQUIPMENT NEWS

-Captain Lovegren

The Type VI for Camp Sherman is complete and in service at 901. Congratulations to the team of volunteers at 901. Enjoy your new toy!

The foam gauge on 722 is not operating properly and parts have been ordered from Pierce. The gauge reads empty

while the tank is full. The good news is the controls still work fine and foam can be made in the normal way. Parts should arrive in approximately two weeks.

The parts for the center lights in 722 that have been backordered have finally shipped and should arrive any day. I apologize for the delay. I ordered some spares so we will be able to make repairs in the future without having to wait for the ballasts. The lights are very part-specific and difficult to find.

