

THE SIREN



Presented By

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD

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CHIEF'S CORNER

-Chief Robertson

Welcome to the February 2007 edition of the Siren.

We have quite a celebration planned for the upcoming awards banquet. The change in venue (5 Pines Conference Center) and the new building will raise the bar and provide a professional setting for our annual event. The catered meal should be excellent and we are looking forward to seeing our entire volunteer and career staff to help celebrate our people and accomplishments over the past year.

I am happy to report that the significant problems that Central Oregon Community College's Paramedic Program experienced recently appear to have been resolved. The paramedic program will resume in Spring 07, and our students are being accepted into the program. We have missed our students and their positive impacts on the organization, and it is good to know that they will be back at 701 shortly.

Our new employees (Fire Medics Jeremy Storton and Rob Harrison) are doing well in their recruit academy. We are excited to have them on board, and their enthusiasm and commitment are very much appreciated. Jeremy will be going on shift after the completion of the recruit academy, and Rob will be working days and covering shifts for at least six months. Congratulations to both Rob and Jeremy on their new positions.

I was fortunate to sit on the fire chief selection process for the new Redmond Fire Chief last Friday. Acting Chief Tim Moore has accepted the position. Tim was the top candidate in a field of five finalists. It is always good when a qualified internal candidate takes the job as chief of department. Congratulations to Tim and we look forward to a continued excellent and cooperative relationship between our two departments.

Our building project is coming along with the site survey completed, soils analysis in progress, and the architects have begun the construction documents which will be necessary for the bid process. Simultaneously, we are working with the City of Sisters to gain project approval, permits, and final specifics on city requirements for the building project. We still anticipate groundbreaking in May if everything goes right.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, March 3 for our annual awards banquet. Thanks to all of you for all you do for the department and the citizens of the district.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

-Jeff Liming, Association President

The annual Sisters- Camp Sherman RFPD and Association dinner is slated for Saturday, March 3rd at the Five Pines Conference Center in Sisters. Invitations will be mailed to department members and friends of the department in early February. We look forward to seeing you at this catered dinner and evening of fellowship, review and fun. John Pagano is coordinating photo highlights of department activities and responses from 2006. Please get your digital pictures to him via email or CD soon so he can include them in the presentation. This venue is new to the community and our event and promises to be memorable. Come and share dinner with our members and guests!

I would like to thank the Association Board and membership for an especially productive January meeting. The work of our fund-raising committee was reviewed and 2007 appears to have great promise in this regard. Thanks to Lyle Miller, Dave Moyer, Jr. and committee for your efforts. The Association was pleased to hear of the near completion of the quilt display and our thanks to Robert McLean for his leadership of the project. I appreciated the productive discussion regarding our memorial funds. Let's keep moving forward together in discussion and action!

The next scheduled Association community event will be the Easter egg hunt and Fire Safety activity in early April. I am hoping Steve Fisher will again consider chairing this event as he has so ably in the past. If you would like to be a part of this important community event please contact me soon. This is great fun and you can't believe the number of very, very excited egg hunters.

Best wishes and thanks for your continuing support of the Sisters - Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association.

Please Wish the Following People a Happy February Birthday!!!

- Stuart Honeyman 2-5
- Amber Wolf 2-15
- Vicky Johnson 2-22



FIRE & EMS EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

-Captain Ast

With the accidental deployment and destruction of the 5" hose on 721 in January, we have identified a corrective action to avoid a similar situation from recurring in the future. For those of you that are not aware of the situation, the accident happened while responding down Highway 126 to a structure fire in Cloverdale's district. Wind caught one or more sections of hose from the top of the hose bed, which caused a full deployment of the 1000' bed. After deployment, the hose was then drug by the engine from the tailboard mount, which eventually disconnected after destroying a mailbox, newspaper box and trash can. This unfortunate incident did teach us a valuable lesson, and we are fortunate that no one was injured and no major property damage occurred. As a result of this incident, we will be installing hose bed covers on the engines. Until the 5" hose has been replaced, 721 has been re-equipped with 3" hose arranged in a split bed configuration. Although operator error was not a factor, one of the lessons learned for this incident emphasizes the importance to frequently check the rear-view mirrors as a driver/operator. The good news is that the District's insurance picked up the cost of the new hose, and none of the fittings and adapters were damaged.

772 has been equipped with the new Stryker EZ-Pro gurney and stair chair. Both devices are identical to those that were placed on 770 last year.

The new Zoll M-Series defibrillator that was purchased for the new ambulance has been placed in service temporarily on 772 until the new medic unit arrives. The new Zoll is identical to the one currently on 770. The

Lifepak 10 defibrillator and the Laerdal AED have been removed from 772 until the Zoll is placed on the new ambulance, at which time they will be returned.

A new type of hand sanitizer has been added to the ambulances, 760 and 744. It is packaged in a pressurized canister, similar to the type used for hair mousse, and mounted on the interior wall of the ambulance patient compartments and in the passenger's side compartment above the wheel well in 760. The location for the one in 744 will be determined by Captain Schell and the personnel at 704. The new sanitizer will allow personnel to decontaminate their hands quicker via the instant product dispensing and prevent cross-contamination by preventing personnel from using a contaminated hand to open a compartment to access the individual wipes. Please familiarize yourselves with the location and operation of the hand sanitizer canisters.

Delivery of the new ambulance is expected to take place mid-February. It will be placed in service following the installation of the Ward No-Smoke device and placement of the EMS equipment.

The bids for the new Type-6 engine flatbed, slip-on & compartment boxes will be received the first week of February. After awarding the bids, construction will begin as soon as possible.

If you have any issues with your PPE, please notify me ASAP. I will be placing the orders to complete the current fiscal year budget by the end of February. If you have any other equipment requests or recommendations, please notify me or any of the other equipment committee members at your earliest convenience so they can be considered and placed on our list of priorities.

Have a safe and enjoyable Valentine's Day and President's Day holiday!

ANNOUNCEMENT

-Administration

Fire Medic, Ben Bruegeman is looking for photos of past functions of the District. This might include: burn-to-learns, fund raising activities such as the MDA drive, Cache Mountain fire, B&B fire, Black Crater fire, or anything else pertinent to District activities for the web site.

Also of interest, are historic photos of the fire district and getting together with anyone who knows the in-depth history of the Fire District to incorporate into the website.

If you have photos or information or know someone who could help, please contact Ben on his shift day (C-shift) or email bbruegeman@sistersfire.com.

APPARATUS NEWS

-Captain Lovegren

Braun Northwest, Inc has informed us that the new ambulance will be ready in about three weeks (around mid-February). When it arrives we will make it the third-out ambulance here at 701 after it is equipped with all the supplies and equipment. We need to have the Ward No-Smoke installed (first part of March), before it can become first-out. This will give us time to familiarize with the new ambulance and practice driving before it goes on line as the pri-

mary ambulance. New pictures can be seen at the following website: www.braunnorthwest.com. Just click on "in process" and choose Sisters/Camp Sherman RFPD.

Wow can you believe this winter! Why did we ever get the snow shovels out? This is just the conditions we have to look out for, fooling us into lax driving habits. We have a great record this winter with damage to the vehicles and we want to keep it that way. Thank you for doing such a great job on your driving. Remember we still have more winter yet to come so don't put your galoshes away yet.

FIRE PREVENTION

-Fire Marshal Wheeler

At the request of the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce, our department will be putting together a presentation regarding poison prevention and children. This presentation will take place during National Poison Prevention week (March 18-24). I would like to have a few volunteers help with this important presentation including a brave volunteer to don the "Mr. Yuck" costume we're borrowing from Portland.

According to Poison Control statistics, approximately 2 million poisonings are reported each year. Of

those 2 million, more than 90 percent happen at home, and happen to kids six and under. It is important to educate the public on the importance of poison prevention and I hope you can help with this event.

There are several other fire prevention activities in the upcoming months so please call or stop by for a complete list.

Don Rowe is back on the department! Don has played an important role in our fire prevention efforts for many years, and he will be assisting with our prevention and education efforts as a volunteer. Please give Don a big welcome back!

TRAINING

-Captain Karjala

With spring around the corner, I am in the process of reviewing individual EMT training records and compiling hours for recertification. I plan to finish over the next few weeks and will be placing a form in your mailbox to show each of you what hours are needed prior to recertification. During this process, I have identified particular subject matter that we need to pay close attention to and the next two month's EMS Drills will cover medical case reviews, pediatric related emergencies and use of medications. If you have any questions regarding recertification please come in and see me or give me a call.

Other important training coming up in February:

- Firefighter 1 Academy at station 701 February 6-19 from 1000-1630 hrs. I encourage everybody to attend.
- Cascade EMS Conference (sponsored in Central Oregon) February 23-25 which includes some great workshops and curriculum. Please look at the agenda at www.fireandemsshow.com. **If you are an EMT and would like to attend please let me know prior to February 6th.**

As always my door is open and if you have any training issues please feel free to stop by and see me.

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

-Chaplain Hayes

February is a great month to share your love. Not just in the ordinary traditional way with candy, jewelry, cards or flowers. Think outside the chocolates box! Imagine how surprised people will be if you hand them a hand-written note sharing three things about them that are special to you. Have you ever handed a gold dollar coin to someone who is not expecting a tip? A person you pass on the street... the guy or gal who pumps your gas....a worker repairing a street sign. It's obviously not about the value of

100 pennies; it's about the value of taking your time to acknowledge a fellow human being sharing the journey. Give a little love this month in whatever way feels right to you, whether it be giving blood, chocolates or hugs – make sure it comes from your heart ♥



CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

-Chaplain Gerke

There's a story about an eccentric old man who carried an oil can with him everywhere he went. If he passed through a squeaky door or a stiff gate, he applied oil to the hinges. His practice of lubricating made life just a little easier for those who followed after him.

Nearly everyday we encounter people whose lives creak and groan from problems. We can aggravate their problems with a spirit of criticism or we can "lubricate" them with a word of encouragement. Some people we meet carry

heavy burdens and yearn for a sympathetic word, and some are very discouraged, but just a few drops of encouragement may restore their hope.

Just remember how you have felt when someone gave you some good "oil", and then apply that ancient wisdom of doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Being mindful of the annual awards and appreciation banquet coming up, I want to say how much I appreciate each and every one of you. You are all "Persons of The Year" to me, whether you get official recognition at the banquet or not. As always, I pray for each one of you.

SCBA INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

Two items I would like to remind those of you who respond to fires and who have been issued a SCBA face piece: First, make sure that you have replaced the batteries in the voice amplifier if you have one on your face piece. You can contact any of the Shift Commanders for replacement batteries. The first of each year is a good time to do this and everyone will be on the same schedule this way. Second, in February we will be fit-testing everyone for compliance with district SCBA policy and OSHA requirements. We will be attempting to test everyone we can on drill nights, but there will be some testing that will need to be

done on other days. If it is more convenient to come down during the day, please contact me for my shift day and we can complete this important evaluation.

We are currently trying to get more SCBA equipment from another fire department (Hillsboro FD) that is receiving all new equipment through a grant. This is the same equipment we are currently using so there will be no confusion. Thanks to Captain Wellington for his heads-up and his connection with Hillsboro Fire where he retired a few years ago. This additional breathing apparatus should allow us to outfit every member with needed equipment, have equipment in reserve for repair needs, and give us voice amplifiers for all personnel (important for communication and safety).

RESPONSE INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

The last month has been a busy one! More days with multiple calls, more days with multiple calls at the same time, and more calls requiring more personnel. A big thank you to everyone who was able to respond and fill the need. As always, we need each of you to make sure we are successful in responding to the needs of our community and ambulance service area. It looks like we will be up about ten percent over last year and will set a new high number for the month of January.

As we start another year I want to encourage each of you to involve yourselves as much as possible. The area

is growing, more people visiting and enjoying our area which means a bigger demand on all our resources. We are doing a great job in meeting response needs so far, and there will always be a spot for everyone who can come in. Remember, we are seeing more instances where both ambulances are out on call and the second out response is a concern for us. I mentioned last month that the engine response is still needed on medical calls and it has been difficult out of Station 701. Fire and EMT personnel can fill this role nicely. The opportunity is still there to sign up for a shift and be reimbursed for a meal. We have seen an increase in personnel starting to take advantage of this again, but there is always room for more.

FACILITIES

-Captain Brown

I am sure most of you have heard from Chief Robertson about the progress of the addition/remodel of Station 701. Everything is moving ahead and we are hoping for groundbreaking this spring. There has been some discussion of minor changes due to results of the site plan and what was discovered during the survey of the lot. We will keep you informed as minor changes are made, and floor plan/elevation views will be available at the station.

The outlying stations appear to be "wintering" well. It has been a cold winter, but not drastically harsh. If you are in the stations at any time and things don't appear to

be right (too cold inside, evidence of water damage, etc), leave a message for me at the main station and act to address the problem promptly. We have responded to a couple of water problem calls that turned out to be frozen water pipes in vacation homes. We would like to avoid this happening to our buildings. We do not want to deal with the cleanup and repair while keeping everything available for response.

We are working on solutions to some ongoing problems with water drainage at Station 704 in Camp Sherman. So far, it is more than the budget will allow for this fiscal year. Once a viable solution is found, I hope to be able to budget for improvements this summer or fall. Again, I will keep you informed as we address this issue.

COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

There have been calls in January that have taken us beyond the summit of Santiam Pass and the impacts to effective radio communications were quite evident. We all know there were significant gains in the Metolius basin and in most of the wildland areas with the new Five Mile repeater site, but there was some tradeoff in reaching over the hill to the west side of the pass. Personnel responding to those areas have done well by switching over to the "direct" channel to maintain communication on scene. Re-

member, this is not a cure-all for reaching dispatch. There will continue to be trouble areas on the west side, although there are some places you can still hit the repeater to 911 Dispatch in Bend.

Research being done to solve this problem. You all know there was a repeater placed on Black Butte by the Oregon Department of Forestry for communication during wildland season. Since their conversion to narrow band frequencies, they have discontinued the use of their repeater. There is the possibility that we may be able to obtain this site for our (Northwest Fire) use or possibly for Dispatch. I will keep everyone informed as this progresses.
