

THE SIREN



Presented By Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD

January 2009

CHIEF'S CORNER

-Fire Chief, Taylor Robertson

Happy New Year and welcome to the January 2009 edition of the Siren.

As we start the New Year, I would like to share with you my thoughts on how we can take our organization forward in 2009. Last month we talked about the many accomplishments we have done together over the past year, and it is important to celebrate those achievements, however the old adage, "If you are not going forward you are going backward" applies here. We cannot simply celebrate where we are, but I believe that as a department and a family we need to plan for the future and move forward. With that in mind, I want to share the areas where I believe we need to focus in 2009:

1. **Fiscal stability.** With the downturn in the economy, it is very important that we have an accurate and up-to-date understanding of our budget and how the current environment has and will affect our financial well-being. To that end, we are doing a comprehensive review of our revenue and expenditures to-date in order to make adjustments to ensure we finish FY 2008-09 in the black with adequate carry-over to ensure revenue until taxes are received in November of 2009. After this analysis is completed, it may be necessary to take appropriate measures to ensure our stability. Please be patient and understanding and we will provide plenty of information to everyone as this process unfolds.

2. **Risk management.** As many of you know, we have begun a comprehensive review of all of our practices to ensure we keep our personnel safe, that our equipment and facilities and programs are appropriate, and that we meet all federal, state, and NFPA requirements for operating a professional fire and EMS department. Beginning with a risk management plan for the department, in 2009 we will examine all of our systems and practices to ensure we have a safe and effective work environment.

3. **Completion of Station 701 project.** We still have plenty of work to do to ensure we receive a completed quality building. With 7 months remaining on the contractors warrantee, we are focused on finding and fixing every detail of the project.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

-President, Jeff Liming

Many thanks to all the Association members who were able to help with our Christmas activities this year! I would like to especially thank Dave Wheeler for chairing the "Spirit of Christmas tree" portion of the community drive for children's Christmas presents. Dave tells me we had requests for three hundred and forty local kids this year and that gifts were provided for all. What a wonderful comment on our Department, Association and community to have had such a successful holiday program! Our Association received over two thousand dollars this season from folks in and out of Sisters and Camp Sherman to support this effort which, you will recall, is completely funded by donations and our fund raising activities.

Thanks also to our team of Christmas dinner organizers and servers! We had about eighty-five community folks join us on Christmas Day for a dinner prepared and served by many in our Association. I would like to thank Denise Wheeler and Liz McKittrick and Pat Page for their dedication in seeing to the organization of the meal. Dinner was prepared at the Gallery Restaurant by a veteran team led by Ryan Karjala and Dave Moyer. Next year we are losing the prep area at the Gallery as they plan on serving Christmas Day. I have already heard of alternate plans for preparation.

Starry Nights concerts are coming up and John Pagano has organized EMT details for these events. Thanks, John, for your dedication to keeping this Association effort up to date and in community service.

I will be distributing ballots at our next Association meeting for your consideration of Firefighter, EMT, Volunteer, Rookie and Student of the year. Please attend and cast your vote which will determine Department winners to be announced at our annual awards dinner in March.

Happy New Year! Stay safe in 2009 and thank you for your continued support of the Sisters – Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association!

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

-Chaplain Hayes

CHANGE! A word that represents something most humans don't embrace. Oh sure, there are those folks who seem to thrive on the excitement that constant change and chaos bring but, for the most part, we like "same". The rut we roll along in prevents us from having to steer our own course.

We cloak "same" with words like tradition, stability, and routine – and while those things have their place, we must remember that, like everything in nature, change is our only constant.

So, as we flip the calendar to a new year, we can choose to celebrate change, welcoming it into our lives or, at the very least, finding a place of calm acceptance. For there are only three ways change happens in our lives: choice, crisis, or chance. Don't wait; be the chooser of the changes that make your life joy-filled and peace-full.

FIRE PREVENTION

-Captain Wheeler

I want to thank everyone who helped with the Spirit of Christmas Tree program. This year gifts were supplied to approximately 340 kids. The association bought for approximately 50 of those kids through monetary donations. Overall, this is an increase of almost 50 kids over last year.

As a reminder, please remove your Christmas tree promptly after Christmas and remind your friends, family and neighbors to do the same to prevent fires.

As mentioned in last month's article, we received a grant through the Office of the State Fire Marshal to provide and install smoke alarms to homeowners. The smoke alarm campaign is scheduled for the weekend of February 20-21. I plan to go door to door and install smoke alarms in all homes on the south side of Sisters, from Washington Street South. According to the grant requirements, we cannot hand the alarms out to the renters or homeowners; we must install them as well. This will be a labor intensive project, so anyone interested, please contact me for details.

Have a fire safe month.

RESPONSE INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

The total for calls for 2008 was 896! This reflects just over a 4% increase from 2007. As in past years, a steady increase in the need for our services. Almost without exception, there was an increase in all response categories which again reflects the growth in our district. Without your help and response, we would be falling behind in this call for our services. Thank you for your continued help to our residents and visitors this last year. I know you will continue in this tradition of giving in 2009. I look forward to working with each one of you this new year, anticipating the challenges of each

situation we face. Some of our responses may be routine or even unnecessary, but when we respond as if each were a true emergency the "big" one will be easier to work and manage the effects it may have on us. Once again, the encouraging remarks I hear from the community are really a blessing for us. This is really something to value as I read of difficulties other fire departments are having with funding and public support. We really do live and respond in God's country, complete with great coworkers and wonderful district residents that make our job enjoyable.

Keep up the good work and stay safe in the coming year...Happy New Year from myself and A-Shift (the best!) and continued blessings for your family!

CHIEF'S CORNER cont.

We will not release the remaining moneys to the contractor until every item is completed to our satisfaction.

4. Standards of Cover. As outlined in the department strategic plan, it is our goal to implement a standards of cover program which will determine response time issues, determine risk and establish an appropriate time and resource standard for emergency response to fires and medical emergencies. With this document, we will be able to measure our performance against an established set of standards and with this system in place we can create goals for response time and improved community safety.

5. Implementation of the career development plan. This

document has been created by Chief Karjala and is in final draft form. We want every one of our personnel to have opportunities and a roadmap to develop and promote. While the program will require commitment and additional education and training, the results will be worth the effort. Succession planning is an important piece of this project.

6. Implementation of the regional Emergency Operations Plan. Thanks to Chief Enoch's efforts, this document is also in draft form and exercises are planned to test the EOP to ensure suitability and functionality.

There are plenty more opportunities (projects) in store for the coming year, and this list is only a piece of the effort that we all will undertake. I appreciate your commitment to the district and your willingness to help

FIRE FITNESS

-Fire Medic Storton

Imagine Santa's Workshop on the 23rd. The cheerful green and red elfish blurs are working so fast they're at risk of catching on fire. Does this image conjure memories of your recent bout of Shopping Season Stress Disorder? Don't worry, the hard part is over and the twitching will stop... eventually. Now is a time better spent recuperating, planning and goal setting for 2009. I urge you to not get sucked into the vortex of the highly motivated, yet soon-burned-out workout crowd. As firefighters and EMS responders, volunteers and staff, we need to plan for the long road ahead. May I suggest making a plan of what you want to accomplish for your fitness goals over the next year and map out your plan step by step? I hope this will help you get started.

First of all, I need to congratulate those of you who accepted my fitness challenge for 2008. Forgive me if I miss somebody as this list includes only those folks who informed me of their goals. Both Scott Michalek and Stuart Honeyman finished the John Craig Memorial Ski event where they cross-country skied for 23 miles. Jeff Liming set a goal and completed the physical requirements set by West Point Academy required for all ranks of service. Dave Gentry also won a local tennis competition. I'd like to also give an honorable mention to Lyle Miller. Every week I see him, post-workout with sweat dripping so low on his shirt that his shoes are squishing as he walks by. Great job all of you and thank you for the inspiration.

So we embark upon a new year and a new challenge. I challenge you all (that includes, blue shirts, white shirts and myself) to set a goal to accomplish a level of fitness that you don't currently have. Make your goals specific. Instead of "I want to run more", make your goal "I will run a 5K in May." Instead of "I will workout more", make your goal "I will workout 6 hours per week." Also, create a road map for yourself. You need to know where you are, where you want to go and finally the directions on how to get there. Don't forget that the voyage is always easier with a copilot (i.e. a trainer or a training partner).

Some ideas to get you started on your fitness quest are as follows: www.racecenter.com: Full of regional and statewide fitness events for good causes and just for fun. I dare you! www.freshairsports.com: Local events.

1. Pole Pedal Paddle: The race is in May 2009. Anyone want to put a FD team together? I got dibs on the bike portion!
2. John Craig Memorial Ski event: Talk to Stuart or Scott.

Come up with your own challenge and let 'er rip.

I am setting my own goals for 2009 and I can't wait to hear about yours. The challenge has been set. Who will accept? I hope to hear from every one of you about your plans. Good luck and let me know how I can help.

Ready, Set, Go!

SCBA INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

I want to thank Firemedic Crawford for his help in repairs and maintenance of our SCBA equipment. His willingness to take on this responsibility has made it easier on my schedule and improved the turnaround for repair of this safety equipment (now if he would just take on this article for the newsletter!). We are working on a better means of communication for the notification of repairs and for tracking SCBA's waiting for parts. As this is finalized, we will send out information regarding any new procedures and equipment that will be em-

ployed. I am hopeful this will streamline the process, make it easier to track repairs and make it clearer for everyone what is needed or happening with the SCBA's.

There are still a few of you that need to complete your annual Fit Test. This is an important evaluation for your safety and for the district to comply with department and OSHA requirements for the use of our SCBA's. Notification will be sent out individually, but if you haven't completed this yet please contact me and set up a time on my shift to be tested. This is extremely important for your safety. Thank you for your help in maintaining our records and safety.

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

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|------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| • Rob Harrison | 1/14 | • Lee Pyke | 1/24 |
| • Karen Sheldahl | 1/19 | • Dave Wellington | 1/25 |
| • John Nitcher | 1/21 | • Wes George | 1/31 |



EQUIPMENT NEWS

-Captain Lovegren

As a reminder, the roads, parking lots and sidewalks are very icy and will continue to be so through the winter. Please remember to use your boot chains, located in the cabs of the vehicles if icy conditions exist. This is for your safety as well as our patients..

All department diesel vehicles have received the manufacturers recommended amount of fuel additive. The additive will lower the temperature of fuel gelling and remove any water that might be in the tanks or fuel lines. This will help prevent any fuel related problems through the winter.

Diesel fuel purchased through Pacific Pride has a protection rating down to zero degrees through the

winter months. This protection should be ample for much of the winter. When temperatures are forecasted for near or below zero degrees, additional protection needs to be added to the diesel fuel in department vehicles used on a regular basis. This would include vehicles that were pretreated and would have used the treated fuel through normal use. Vehicles in this category would be: 770, 772, 721, 744, 740 and the service truck.

Please remember this is the time of year we drain the pumps and the hose pre-connect lines on the engines after use. With the very low temperatures we are experiencing, the lines and pumps could freeze enroute to an emergency. Not only could damage be done to the equipment, but the engine could be inoperable on scene allowing the fire to escalate while waiting for another engine.

I hope you all have a Happy New Year!

TRAINING

-Chief Karjala

Training for the month of January will consist of Equipment Familiarization, Rapid Intervention Crews/Rehab, Search and Rescue, Mass Patient Incidents, Weapons of Mass Destruction, Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations and EMS Training instructed by the Mobile Training Unit from Department of Human Services.

As mentioned above I have schedule DPSST to come and instruct Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations on the evening of January 23 and all day on the 24th and 25th. WMD and Haz-Mat Awareness/Operations are required classes for all EMT's and Firefighters. If you have already been through Haz-Mat Awareness and Operations you do not need to attend those classes. If you are unsure if you have the certificates please see me and I will let you know.

I am in the process of reviewing continuing education hours for EMT re-certification. I have placed in your mail box or station box a list of continuing education hours for each of you and it lists your current hours completed toward your re-cert (these hours are through November only). You should be receiving your re-certification packet 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 Assistant Chief Enoch or myself.

We are in the process of updating pictures of all our staff. I want to thank those of you that have already

had your picture taken and remind those that haven't done so you have one last opportunity to get your picture taken on January 19th starting at 1730. When you get your picture taken please give emergency contact information (name and phone number) to Julie so she can get your department identification printed.

I would like to remind folks that there are several training opportunities coming up in the next few months that are available to everyone. Please take an opportunity to look at the training board or come in and see me if you have any questions regarding training or training opportunities.

I look forward to all of the upcoming challenges as well as rewards that lie before us in the New Year and as always my door is open and I look forward to seeing you.



FIRE & EMS EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

-Captain Ast

With 2009 upon us, we're approaching the time when annual capital purchases are made. After the chiefs review our financial status regarding possible revenue shortfall, I will begin making capital purchases for fire and EMS equipment. One of the planned purchases is the annual replacement of selected turnout gear. We have begun the transition to NFPA compliance for firefighting gear that is 10 years old or newer, which will continue with this fiscal year's purchase.

I have noticed that the pump panel roll-up doors on 720 & 723 have been left open on a random basis. While these doors are not the smoothest to operate, it's necessary to keep them closed, especially while driving.

The location of the pump panel on these engines makes it prone to road grime, cinders, dust, etc. While most of the components on the panels are resistant to these conditions, the swivel couplings are not. I disassembled the swivel coupling for the 2½" intake on 720 and found it to be full of cinders and dirt, which obviously does not allow for a smooth operating swivel coupling. Please assist me in keeping these fittings in prime operating condition through more diligence in closing the roll-up doors when not in use.

As part of the construction project at 701, I have ordered a turnout dryer cabinet, which should arrive this month. It will be installed in the storage room adjacent to the SCBA compressor room and you will be notified when it is operational.

As always, if you have any equipment needs or suggestions, please let me know.

Happy New Year!

FACILITIES

-Captain Brown

December was a month to remember! Cold, snow and more snow! I know of several people that struggled with ice damming on their residences and snow buildup on their driveways and sidewalks. We were not exempt with the same problems at Station 701. It was a good test for the new construction and there were some areas of concern that we are addressing. There were some impressive ice buildups, both on the rooflines and on the sidewalks. With the extended cold, there was a problem with the gutter downspouts freezing and allowing water to run off and ice to build up in walkway areas. There was plenty to do to help alleviate the ice damming. Thanks to everyone who helped remove snow from both the roofs and the sidewalks at 701 and also to everyone at stations 702, 703 and 704 that helped with snow removal to make sure we could respond quickly. If you notice any damage, problems or potential problems at any of the stations please contact me to get them resolved.

You may have noticed that we are not using ice melt solutions or compounds on the new sidewalks at Station 701. This was requested by Sisters Public Works to help maintain the concrete and to help reduce spauling of the finish. In the place of the ice melt, we are using the recommended sunflower seeds to aid in traction of the high traffic areas. This seems to help some, but remember to use caution when walking on any icy areas. We try to keep a good supply of seeds spread on the entrances to the building, but with any additional snow and hungry squirrels, the effectiveness is diminished. We are looking into other solutions, but for now we will continue the use of a "green" solution (Besides, I think the squirrels appreciate our choice!).

A major concern is the electricity use during the winter. It has increased, as expected, in all stations. The bill for December for station 701 alone was \$3,000. Anything you can do to help assure the stations are secure, sealed and as draft free as possible is appreciated. Also, remember to turn out lights in any areas that are not being used. Just a quick once over the station before you leave will make a big difference.

COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

After several notifications that the new repeater was ready to install, test, and use, we are finally there! The radio equipment has been modified to the proper frequencies and PL tones and is awaiting installation at the sand shed on Santiam Pass. There was one last "hiccup" with the frequency change in that the PL tone installed would have conflicted with the Henkle Butte repeater and caused an annoying feedback situation. After some discussion with the radio technicians, the problem was resolved and the radio was re-programmed

correctly. By the time you are reading this article, I hope to have all the equipment installed and operating at the site. Once this is completed, notification will be sent out and training will begin on the new frequency and its use. Remember, we are being allowed to broadcast into the Santiam corridor by permission, including their Dispatch Center. Keep you traffic to the absolute minimum to be a responsible user and to maintain the good relationship we have with our neighboring districts on the west side.

Thanks for your patience with this important project and for your continued good radio etiquette during calls and routine communications.