

# THE SIREN



Presented By

## Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD

Volume 1 Issue 41

July 2007

### CHIEF'S CORNER

-Chief Robertson

Welcome to the July 2007 edition of the Siren.

Great news! The surplus house has been moved and we are reminded of our imminent groundbreaking every day. All that remains of the old sleeper house is an open basement area, waiting to be filled in and built upon.

The Fire District unanimously approved award of the construction bid for the new fire station to Woodburn Construction Co in the amount of \$3,399,650.00 at a special board meeting Tuesday evening, June 27. The board decided to trim the bid by approximately \$42,000 eliminating the following alternate bid items:

- Wood trim windows (all windows will be vinyl)
- Community room fireplace
- Lift security gate (rear access will be rolling-type)

While the bids came in high (the architect had estimated \$3.2 million), we have been saving for the project utilizing the building reserve fund and we have the money available to meet the bid amount with money remaining in the building reserve fund after project completion. We have also provided for unforeseen change orders with a 5% contingency fund (\$170,000.). We are in the process of signing a construction contract with Woodburn Construction, and the groundbreaking date is still projected to occur before the end of July.

I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their support and willingness to make the tough decisions. They have been patient and open to suggestions as we have worked through the many funding options and bid analysis. In the end, I believe they have chosen the best options which preserve the infrastructure of the project and eliminate the "nice-to-have" alternate items. Thanks again to the building committee and everyone who assisted with the demolition project this last month.

I would like to suggest that we begin to think about a "time capsule" to include in the new building. I see this project being a joint effort between the Association, the career staff and the chiefs. We could include documents, pictures, history items and information, and anything you suggest that has value in preserving fire district history for our successors. I will be discussing this idea with Association President Jeff Liming, and it is my hope that we can put together a committee to make this a reality.

*Continued next column*

Thanks to all of you for all you do for the department and the citizens of the district, and have a safe and enjoyable month of July and summer season. Please stop by my office anytime.

### ASSOCIATION NEWS

-President, Jeff Liming

The Sisters' Quilt Show is happening all over town on Saturday, July 14 and service opportunities for our Association members abound! We will need plenty of help with "hanging of the quilts" early that morning. Please plan on arriving at station 701 at 06:30 in uniform for assignments. During the day we are also staffing ambulance 772 downtown with volunteer crew and we need you! Toward the end of the event please also plan on returning to 701 for assignments to remove the quilts. A schedule will be provided early in the day. This event is a wonderful occasion to showcase our community support as well as a terrific fund raiser for our Association.

I would like to say "many thanks" to Association volunteers who were able to work as ambulance crews at the recent Sisters Rodeo performances. The ambulance was in attendance at four performances and qualifying day for a total of twenty-three hours and it was filled with qualified personnel! It was a pleasure to have such a great response from our pool of firefighter drivers, first responders, EMT B's and I's. I would also like to thank our medical director, Dr. Joyce Carnes, for her continued support at the Rodeo. There was certainly one EMT-B (me) who was pleased to have her at the bucking chutes Saturday night when the cowboys were coming off the bulls.

We were able to provide six pieces of apparatus for the Rodeo Parade this year and all were filled with Association members, family and friends. Thanks for your support! You all looked great coming down the street with lights on and arms waving.

In other news, the Association fund-raising committee is continuing work on our proposed community mailer and we look forward to beginning that project this early Fall. Also, another rodeo is coming to Sisters in September and we have responded to their management's request for a quote for stand-by ambulance services. Should they sign a contract with us we will again be asking for crews for this three day event. Thank you for your continued support of the Sisters - Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association!

## FIRE & EMS EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

-Captain Ast

As an update from the last issue of *The Siren*, the new brush engine (740) is officially in service. For those that did not attend the in-service drill, please contact the on-duty shift commander to arrange an orientation on the vehicle. Although the pump operates similarly to the other light brush engines, there are a few items that you need to be familiar with prior to driving and operating the engine. See Captain Lovegren's article for important information on the use of the vehicle's transmission. You will notice that the compartments have equipment organizers and mounting brackets installed to improve the organization of the vehicle. Thank you to Fire medic Crawford for the construction of the wood organizers and installation of the equipment mounting brackets. The organization of equipment via mounting brackets and organizers is a high priority for the equipment committee, and funds have been budgeted to purchase the necessary brackets, etc. to better organize the other apparatus in our fleet.

A new Zoll AED Plus has been purchased and placed in service on Medic 774 in Camp Sherman. This AED purchase was made possible by a donation received by the Kiwanis Club of Sisters. This AED is the same as the one in service on Engines 723 & 744. To aid in equipment familiarity for our Camp Sherman personnel, the old AED on 774 was replaced so that both units are identical. The defibrillation electrodes used by the new style AED's can be attached to the defibrillators carried on 770 and 771. In order to provide a better response in the event of a cardiac arrest on a brush fire where an ambulance is not likely to be present, the older style AED that was taken from 774 has been placed on 740. In addition to the new AED, was the purchase of an AED trainer, which was needed for obvious reasons.

Also to be added to 740 & 744 are medical kits, which will take place this month with the start of the new fiscal year. The kit that will be added to 744 will be

equipped with assorted supplies, including oxygen and c-spine equipment for use by 704's first responders when an ambulance has not yet arrived at the scene. 740's kit will be primarily a first aid kit, with a small amount of ALS supplies, for use when ambulance access may be delayed due to location on a fire.

With a few months of using the new 770 under our belt, a couple of "quirks" have been noticed that are a characteristic of the redesigned Freightliner chassis. First is the air dump system that depletes the air reservoir when the engine is off, such as during patient delivery at the hospital. To remedy this problem, I have ordered a 12-volt air compressor that is specifically designed to keep the air reservoir "topped off" when the engine is not running. Many departments use this type of compressor in their vehicles rather than having an air shoreline hose connection. The second issue is the increased height of the chassis from the ground. This may provide for better ground clearance, but it has made entry through the side entry door difficult for some, and most notably ambulatory patients that are not able to step to the required height. The step stool that's available could be hazardous to use on slippery and/or uneven surfaces found at the scene. To resolve this issue, I have purchased an electric step similar to those found on motor homes. The step is automatic and will automatically stow when the door is closed. In the event that you do not want to use the step, an override switch will be installed. It's my hope that both of these items will improve the operation of the vehicle and make entry/exit safer for responders and patients alike.

With the new fiscal year upon us, now is the best time to forward any equipment recommendations you may have to myself and the equipment committee. Doing so will help us prioritize the purchase of equipment from the funds that have not yet been allocated. Your ideas and suggestions are important to us! As a reminder, your other equipment committee members are: Captains Gary Lovegren, David Moyer, Les Schell and Dave Wellington.

Have a safe Independence Day holiday!

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## CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

-Chaplain Hayes

### ANOTHER WAY OF THINKING ABOUT IT

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!! Independence Day. More than just BBQ's, outings, and fireworks; what does this celebration really mean to you? Rather than thinking of the word "independence" and being "independent", I like to think of it as "in dependence" and reflect on how dependent we are on things beyond ourselves.

As much as we each might like to think of ourselves as self-sufficient and not really needing others, I ask you to see your dependence in an appreciative way and take time to offer gratitude for the things you are actually dependent on.

Most of us depend on there being food at the grocery store when we visit to make a purchase. We depend on gasoline being available for our vehicles. We depend on a hospital and a myriad of helpers being available should we have a medical crisis. We depend on water coming from the faucet in our home. Maybe we depend on a paycheck and our ability to work. Perhaps we depend on support from our spouse, family, kids or friends. We surely depend on gravity to keep our world in place. So, as "in-dependence" day approaches, perhaps solicit a conversation with others about how dependent you really are on each other and find a way to feel good about the interdependence of a greater community of which you are an integral part. Along with consideration of our dependence, be sure to have a wonderful Independence Day!

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## FIRE FITNESS

-Fire Medic Storton

Be honest: The problem isn't time, money or even interest. Thirty minutes a day can be scraped up from anywhere without being missed. Ab crunches are free and who wouldn't want to feel 10 years younger. The real threat to our fitness regimen is motivation, isn't it? That has always been my biggest problem: *"If it doesn't revolve around using a ball, it's too boring. If I don't work out before noon, it won't get done. Man, oh man is it hard to get back into it!!!"* Sound familiar? The following are some ways that both you and I can get rid of our excuses and get motivated to train for firefighting and fitness.

**Be realistic:** You're not going to see changes right away. Local trainers have told me that it takes approximately 8 weeks before we will notice some changes and feel the endorphin high. The best way to get through this initial phase is to set goals. How many sets can I do? Can I press five more lbs? How much longer can I go? Etc.

**Take the fitness challenge:** One great way that has worked for me is to sign up for an event such as a run/walk, triathlon, marathon, or even biking a century (100 miles). Having committed monetarily and publicly to such an event is a very motivating experience.

**Keep training:** There are such things as "easy days" and "rest days". Commit to a routine and keep going. Even if you aren't feeling it, just going through the motions will help keep you on track. If you get off track, just get back on.

**Find a training partner:** Having someone waiting for you, relying on you to show up is very motivating. Of course the same effect happens to your partner. Plus, it is so much more fun to have someone to workout with. It is kind of a win-win-win situation. This goes double if you are able to hire a personal trainer. Just be careful what you wish for...right Lyle?

**Fear:** I read an article about heart health in Outside Magazine Aug, 2005 that basically stated that whatever you do (or don't do) in your 20s will affect you in your 30s. And, everything you do in your 30s affects you in your 40s and so on. I've noticed that the people who tell me "Everything changes when you turn 30" are often the same people who stopped being active in their mid-20s. Have you ever heard about those people who, in their 80s, do marathons or iron man triathlons? Wouldn't it be great to rough house with your kids or grandkids? If you are still alive, there is still time to invest in your next stage of life.

**Get creative:** I love T.V. Don't you? How about doing crunches, push ups, squats or stretches during commercial breaks? Another one of my favorites is getting free audio books from the library and going on a run, walk or bike ride. Trust me, at some point you won't want to stop. Keep a fitness calendar and check off everyday that you do something healthy. After getting, let's say 25 checks per month, it's reward time baby!!!

Good luck and let me know how I can help. Ready? Set? Go!!!

## FIRE PREVENTION

-Fire Marshal Wheeler

This month's topic is about station tours. I've had several people ask what they should do to make the tours beneficial. I thought that if a few people asked, then more probably have the same questions. I have a guide in my office that explains what to do with the different age groups. A typical station tour should include the following:

- Determine the number of people and age group
- Select an age appropriate outline for the age group
- Choose some handouts
- Ensure the adult chaperone knows what to do if we are called out on an emergency during the tour.

Examples of topics for the various age groups are as follows:

**Ages 3-5** (Stop Drop and Roll, smoke detectors, 911,

exit drills, apparatus tours, and Elmo visits the Fire Station DVD)

**Ages 6-8** (Good Fire, bad fire, Stop Drop and Roll, stay low in smoke, Sparky the fire dog costume and apparatus tours)

**Ages 9-11** (Fire prevention, EDITH\*, smoke detectors and apparatus tours)

**Ages 12-15** (babysitting responsibilities, emergencies, cooking, security, home fire safety, EDITH\*)

**Adult** (General fire department information, basic fire prevention, smoke detector, EDITH\*, wildland fire safety)

*Please note: Children under the age of 9 should not wear our structure helmets as they could injure themselves.*

*\*Exit drills in the home.*

Have a fire-safe month of July

### JULY BIRTHDAYS!!!!

Please wish the following personnel a HAPPY July BIRTHDAY...

- Jeremy Ast      **The BIG 30!**      June 1

- Jeff May      July 21
- Jeff Denning      July 22
- John Pagano      July 22
- Les Schell      July 29

## TRAINING

-Chief Karjala

Training for the month of July will consist of electrical emergencies, heavy rescue operations, engine company operations and MCI/MPI operations. Just as a reminder EMS breakfast is the third Wednesday of each month held at Coyote Creek Restaurant at 0700. I want to encourage all volunteer and career staff to attend this training. The scheduled training this month will be extreme heat emergencies.

I want to recognize two individuals that have done a tremendous amount of training over the last few months. Liz Mckittrick completed her EMT Basic training, haz-mat awareness and operation and emergency vehicle operations. Guy Selig completed his entry level structural fire academy along with the Central Oregon Wildland Fire Guard School

which consisted of 40 plus hours of classroom and live fire training.

On Monday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wes George, one of our newest students will be arriving to start his initial training. Wes is currently qualified as a firefighter one, EMT Basic and wildland interface firefighter. Wes will be in training for his first two weeks and then transition to one of our temporary employees for the summer. The current plan is to house all three of our students at station 703 until completion of the new fire station.

I have also included in this article the critique from the structure fire at the art gallery. Please take a look at the critique and if you have any additional feedback or comments, forward them on to me as soon as possible.

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

## COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

As mentioned in the SCBA article, we have improved our radio communication with the addition of the Radio Interface units. There are two on 724 and 723, and nine on 721. We are going to be adding more on each engine as budgets or additional grants allow. You may be directed to a task that requires the use of the Radio Interface and you will have to retrieve one of the extras from 721. If you do, remember to return it to the apparatus that you got it from in a cleaned and ready to respond condition.

Now that the radios have been placed in position on apparatus, you do not need to get one from the charger if

you are spending a shift at the station. You will have a radio to use on the apparatus that you respond on. This has created a small problem with the implementation of this practice. Personnel used to get a radio and put it in their turnouts to be ready to respond. Now, that is not necessary to have a radio for each person. We have noticed a "fluctuation" in the radio inventory for apparatus and at Station 701. Luckily, the radios have been found left in someone's turnouts and were quickly returned to the right location on the apparatus. Until we are all used to putting the radios back where they belong, check each other when returning from calls to insure this communication piece is where it can be readily used when needed. Also, remember to change the battery if the radio was used and get batteries for each radio in the apparatus as you respond to calls.

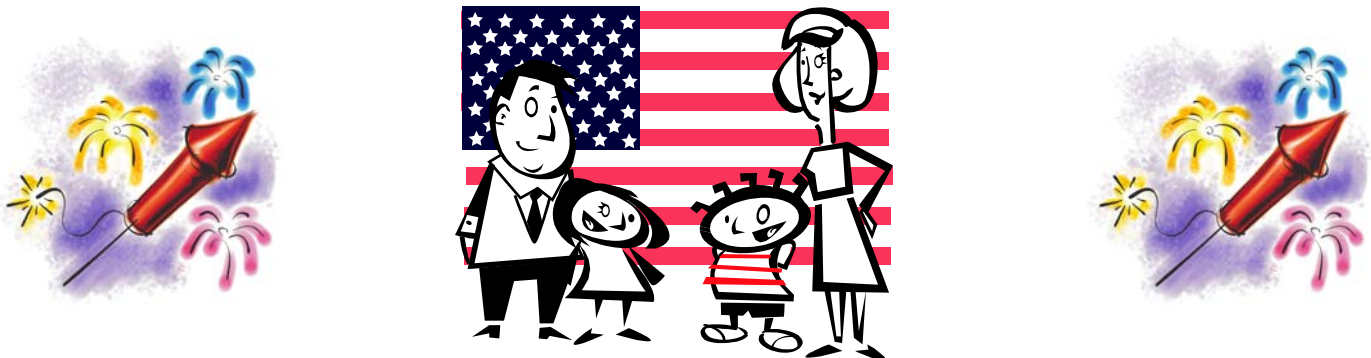
## FACILITIES

-Captain Brown

By the time you read this edition of the Siren, the bid will be released on the construction project at Station 701. Also, the bid alternates will have been decided and the total construction package will be determined. Stop by to see what all this means and get a picture of what the station will look like. Thanks to all who assisted in the planning of this important project.

As I was looking over the site now that the house is moved to its new lot, I was amazed to realize how much had been removed and the majority of it was done by volunteer

labor and commitment. Buildings, trees, stumps, and fences are gone and the volume of materials created in this was enormous. The work and coordination required for this phase of the project was implemented by a few core people and supported by many volunteers on work days. All who assisted in this, thank you! You have not only saved the district quite a sum of money, but have also allowed it to offset some costs in the sale of the timber harvested from the site. Even though the lot looks empty, the anticipation of the finalized project and what it will mean to the operation of our emergency services fills my imagination completely. As everyone knows, it will be a beautiful building that reflects our dedication to the community we serve and also reflects their support of our services.



## RESPONSE INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

Last month I mentioned the increased traffic on Highway 20 and the main streets in Sisters as the summer vacation season starts. Now that school has ended for the kids in our community, be aware of not only the increased vehicle traffic by the teenagers, but also the foot and bicycle traffic of the younger ones. It is summer and that means they are just enjoying the season and may not be paying attention to everything around them. Our community not only expects us to protect them and come to their aid, but also to respond with utmost care and caution to emergency calls. Be sharp, be aware, and be safe when responding and

also when just driving around this summer. We need each one of you to contribute in our service to the community.

Be ready to respond to the wildfires during this season. Check your gear, have it handy, and make sure all the equipment works and the PPE fits properly. I know we have mentioned this in training sessions and in the newsletter, but we want you to be safe and able to respond to these emergencies. And don't forget to keep on top of your structural gear, it will come into play if any structures become involved in a wildland incident. If you find any needs, contact Captain Ast for replacement or repair.

As always, check out the latest response information posted at each station.

## EQUIPMENT NEWS

-Captain Lovegren

I made an error in the last issue of the Siren and would like to correct it. Due to the weight of equipment on the new Type VI brush engine, you must put the transmission in the tow/haul mode. This is done by pushing the round button on the end of the automatic transmission shift lever. Once pushed, a light on the dash will illuminate indicating it is engaged. Putting the truck into a lower gear will not accomplish the same thing because Ford transmissions stay locked in that specific gear. For example if you are in 2<sup>nd</sup> gear that is the specific gear it will start out in. Each time you start the truck remember to change the transmission mode, it does not stay engaged after you turn off the ignition.

We are moving into fire season now that hot summer days are here. This is harder on equipment and vehicles. Watch the temperature gauges more often and make sure your pumps are circulating water. The pumps and shafts will heat up quickly in hot weather. Remember to open the hoods for better radiator cooling when the engine is stationary for long periods of time. This is also the time to remember to keep your self rested, cooled and hydrated. You don't work any better than your engine if you are overheated.

The A/C has been repaired on 770, it was not working because a screw from the fog light penetrated the condenser and the Freon leaked out. The condenser has been replaced and the

system refilled, cool air on these hot days is now available. Braun made the mistake and is going to warranty the error. This little mistake cost about \$600.00. The A/C on 771 will be recharged the first of July and it too will be ready for summer.

I have the parts for the 2 1/2' intake gated wye for 724 and will get them installed as soon as possible. This will stop the leaking. This style gated wye is a discontinued unit and the parts needed to be located. Thanks for your patience.



## SCBA INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

The Radio Interface units for the SCBA face pieces have been placed in service and are ready to use. They are located on 721 (Station 701), 723 (Station 703), and 724 (Station 704) in the black Pelican Case in the cab. Remember, they are to be used on the initial attack by the personnel that are making entry into the structure or IDLH atmosphere to increase communication clarity. Attach them to your face piece and to one of the radios that are in each apparatus, turn on the amplifier and the radio, and adjust the ear piece close to your left ear. The volume is controlled by the radio control and should be adjusted so you can easily hear without causing damage to your hearing. The amplifier you mount on your face piece will be your communication piece with your crew and other close by members, and the Interface Box will allow for transmissions over the

radio. All personnel in the immediate area will be able to hear any radio traffic through the Interface Box. When you are outside the IDLH atmosphere and your mask is removed, you can transmit directly into the Interface Box the same as the regularly mounted remote microphone/speaker. The large button on the front of the Interface Box is the Push-to-Talk switch (radio transmission) and should be easy to use, even with structure gloves on. Stop by and become familiar with the application and use of this new communication equipment.

If your issued face piece is not currently fitted with an amplifier, contact me as I need to install the mounting bracket for the Radio Interface voice amplifier. I would like to arrange this for one of my shift days and will accommodate your schedule as much as possible.

## CRITIQUE—CLEARWATER GALLERY COMMERCIAL FIRE

-Chief Karjala

### What actually happened?

1. 710 (Robertson) arrived on scene established IC and sized up the situation.
    - Fire showing “C” side with smoke from attic area.
    - “A” side on Cascade Street of building.
    - Power line with fire impingement on side “C” to pole on South Pine Street. (SAFETY concern)
    - ODOT & DCSO on scene blocking off Cascade & doing traffic control
    - Tac 8 broadcast thru Dispatch for arriving units to switch to.
    - 721 requested to set-up on Cascade for IA.
  2. 711 (Enoch) arrives; assigned Operations.
  3. 714 (Karjala) arrives; initially Safety then command; Safety passed to 780.
  4. 721-Takes hydrant (Houser) on South Pine; positions at “A/D” corner of building. Ast (712)/Harrison force entry; start IA to rear of building with 1 ¼ attack line. (200’ no foam). Visibility good; fire in rear of building (office/ storage area) attic space. Front door glass broken out then forced due to double dead bolt in door by Crawford.
  5. 711 requests PPF to “A” entry point to pressurize building prior to IA.
  6. 711 requests piercing nozzle. Must be retrieved by IA team; no separate line attached.
  7. 770 arrives with Pagano/ Moyer, Sr.
  8. Sets up “rehab” in parking lot of Space Age gas station.
  9. 783 (May) assigned “B/C” Division; exposure protection.
  10. Storage shed, fencing, neighboring businesses.
  11. Assigned to extinguish shingles & force entry thru attic vent to extinguish attic fire. (Fire continues to flare up)
  12. One exposure line established.
  13. Building owner & artist, with friends, desire to enter building to salvage art.
    - Note: (Bystanders, owner, artist, & friends hindered ingress/egress of firefighters past “A” to “B/C” side due to being focused to salvage art through front door)
  14. 851 arrives taking hydrant (LDH) on corner of Cascade at North Pine. Does face to face with OPS for assignment.
    - First assignment to force entry through “A” side attic vent.
    - Second assignment to ladder roof & remove shingles N/side of chimney. 851 vents roof (2’X 2’ opening)
  15. 712/Harrison force entry into attic extinguishing flames.
    - Could see flames from attic access/ stairs.
    - Flames/hot spots next to entry & in “B/C” corner of attic space.
    - 712 notes melting of insulation on HVAC “B” side to “C” side. Solid deck planking for AC units on “C” side of attic opening.
  16. 720 arrive; reports to command; assigned RIT.
  17. 720 parks on South Pine instead of Cascade.
  18. 781 Moyer, Sr. blocks off South Pine/Hood with cones.
  19. 714 takes command from 710; 780 (Wheeler) assigned Safety.
  20. 760 requested through command for Sawzalls/equipment.
  21. Houser & Wheeler start handing art to bystanders through front door
  22. 723 arrive; assigned duties.
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## CRITIQUE—CLEARWATER GALLERY COMMERCIAL FIRE cont.

-Chief Karjala

### What was intended?

1. To extinguish fire; salvage art & essential business records; no injuries to firefighters or bystanders.

### What went well & why?

1. Large community support; bystanders to salvage art; Sno Cap, Sisters Coffee House, Gallery brought over drinks & food to firefighters; ODOT & DCSO blocked & controlled traffic/ redirect.
2. Fire put out with “minimal” damage.
3. No injuries to firefighters or bystanders.
4. CEC arrived & disconnected live power in timely manner.
5. Accountability maintained through passport system; Personnel calm & focused on tasks and assignments.
6. Exposures protected.
7. Little interior damage from smoke or water; mostly in back office & attic.
8. Salvage started early (laptop, art, misc.)
9. Volunteer response good. Had enough resources.
10. 2 in/2 out; RIT established.
11. Firefighters did what asked/assigned to do; little to no freelancing.
12. 851 sounded roof prior to venting; found spongy area between chimney & “C” side; notified personnel of fact.
13. Cones blocked off South Pine at Hood marking hazard (downed wire) limiting access into area.
14. Tac 8 assigned/announced early in fire attack through Dispatch.
15. Dispatched called out burn time consistently.
16. PPF & ventilation of building & attic done early.

### What can be improved & how?

1. Control of civilians out of IDLH & around sides & front door.
2. Power line down (SAFETY); numerous people walked under or near charged line. Flagged or coned off earlier. Keep everyone away from area until power off/disconnected.
3. Additional line attached to piercing nozzle; additional exposure line for “B/C” while on roof.
4. Announcement of transfer of command & who was new safety officer.
5. Rehab not set up or run properly. Training issue.
6. No water ever squirted through roof vent hole while personnel interior.
7. Cover valuables sooner.
8. Remain packed up while in IDLH even during overhaul.
9. Proper engine placement as per commands orders (721, 720, 723)
10. RIT must have own pump & water supply (723).
11. Safety Officer does nothing but safety.
12. Focus on primary tactics (primary & secondary search) announce on radio to command.
13. Stage at Level 1 & II; as SOG’s state.
14. IA or exposure teams take tools with them to assignment

### Things to look at for the future

1. Ball valve connection to allow IA team to switch from nozzle to piercing nozzle.
  2. Discuss whether to put hydrant gate onto hydrant for all “taking of hydrant” including LDH.
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