

THE SIREN



Presented By

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD

Volume 1 Issue 40

June 2007

CHIEF'S CORNER

-Chief Robertson

Welcome to the June 2007 edition of the Siren.

Boy, have we all been busy! Moving the sleeper house, contractor meetings, architect meetings, tree falling and removal, chipping, excavating, training, demolition of structures, concrete removal, wildland fires, outfitting the new type 6 engine, commercial structure fire, and the list goes on.

It is wonderful seeing everyone pull together. The demolition work parties have been great, and you have saved the taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars over the cost of having a contractor bid all of the demolition work. A special thanks to Stuart Honeyman (Mr. Excavator) and Jay "Timber" Crawford for their work and coordination efforts. Also a special thanks to all the volunteers and career staff who have worked so hard to prepare the site and thanks to all of the vendors who have donated time and equipment.

We are blessed with a wonderful volunteer staff. The way the volunteers have come together to help with the building project is amazing. I can't tell you how much your administrative staff, board of directors, and the public we serve appreciate your work. Norman Vincent Peale, American clergyman and writer said "The more you lose yourself in something bigger than yourself, the more energy you will have". The level of participation and energy at the Fire District is certainly evidence of that.

Meanwhile, we anxiously await the new station construction bid opening on June 14 and hope that the bids are within budget. If you would like to be present for the bid opening, it is scheduled for 2pm on Thursday, June 14 and you are welcome to attend.

There will be plenty of changes and challenges as we begin construction. There will be some inconvenience and we will all be out of our comfort zones at times. Please be patient and keep in mind that the end results are worth the wait.

With a 100 acre wildfire and a commercial structure fire both occurring the last week of May, it is time to ensure we are all ready for the warmer season. I am proud of everyone who participated in both incidents and you all displayed professionalism and excellent firefighting skills as we met these challenges.

Thanks to all of you for all you do for the department and the citizens of the district, and have a great month of June. Please stop by my office any time.

ASSOCIATION NEWS

-President, Jeff Liming

I had the opportunity to attend the Sisters High School scholarship presentations a couple of weeks ago and what a treat it was! I am pleased and proud to announce that our Association contributed substantially at the program by way of four, five hundred dollar scholarships to four worthy students. The Association was ably represented by Chaplain John Gerke and EMT I Rita Hodge who presented the awards after briefly and eloquently reviewing the namesake of the scholarship, Jim Gentry, and you, the Association folks who made the awards possible. Thanks to all of the Association members who helped with fundraising efforts last year to help make these scholarships possible. Thanks also to everyone who will make the 2008 awards possible. It is your spirit of volunteerism that makes our Association a great part of the community.

The rodeo is just about on us and we welcome any EMT's, drivers and first responders to attend the rodeo as ambulance crew! Give me a call or see the sign-up sheet in station 701! If the slots are filled feel free to come as extra crew. We need you and remember that the money we make at this event goes right back into the Association account for scholarships! Take a look at the sign-up sheet for the Rodeo Parade also! We have opportunities for drivers and riders alike including your nieces and nephews, cousins and kids.

Thanks to John Gerke and crew for providing dinner for the Oregon State Overhead Team "Wildfire Workshop" hosted by Chief Robertson in Sisters June 2nd. Your work on this project is greatly appreciated and well represents our Association's name and character around the state.

Finally, thanks to Stuart Honeyman and Jay Crawford and all the Association members and friends that have helped so much to prepare for the new station! You folks continue to pitch in time and time again and your efforts are wonderful. Keep up the good work! If you have some free time call the station for current demolition schedules and come on down!

As always, thank you for your support of the Sisters -Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association!

FIRE & EMS EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

-Captain Ast

The new Type 6 engine, which will assume the designation of 740, has finally been delivered. Thank you to Captains Brown & Lovegren for their hard work on the installation of the emergency light, siren and radio packages. Please make a note of the scheduled in-service training that will take place this month to familiarize all of you with the operation of this engine. There are a couple of items that the dealer will change/repair on the engine, but these will not affect the engine from going in-service. A few of the items have already been taken care of by Captain Lovegren. I am pleased with the overall design and function of the engine. Thank you to the equipment committee members for your hard work in the design of the engine. This engine will also serve as the Shift Commander's staff vehicle, as the Expedition we have been using will be transferred to Captain Karjala for use as the Training Chief's staff vehicle.

A new infant/child sized Sager traction splint has been placed in service on 770 and has been placed in the same compartment as the adult Sager splint. The new splint functions the same as the adult splint and can be used for bilateral fractures.

With the station construction project, the fire equipment & PPE storage that was in the basement of the sleeper house has been relocated to a storage unit at Sisters Storage & Rental. The reason for this location is due to a lack of secure storage space at 701 and the need for the equipment to be readily accessible. For any equipment needs, please contact the on duty shift commander. Since the equipment may take a little more time to access, please call ahead, if possible so the equipment can be picked up and be ready for you. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

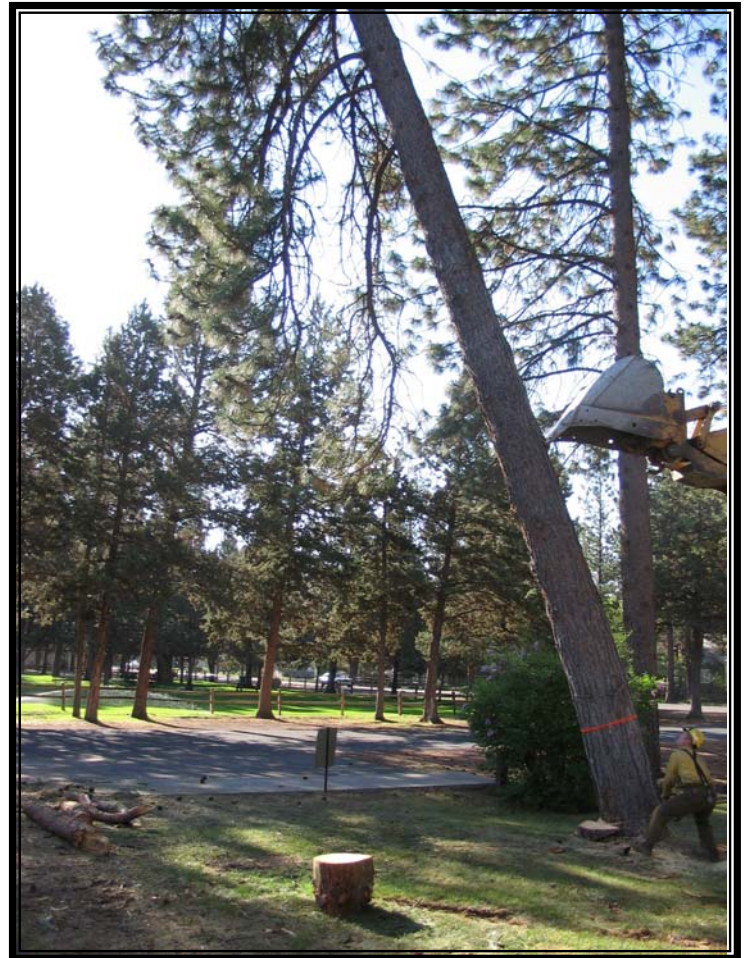
Along with the tree removal and demolition events that have taken place in recent weeks, it has been noticed that equipment (primarily hand tools) have been removed from first line apparatus and not returned. This poses a problem for emergency response for obvious reasons. Since we have spare hand tools in storage, please use these tools instead of those on the apparatus. If this is not possible, please ensure that the tools are returned and ready for use before leaving the work site.

For those of you that responded to the recent brush and structure fires, I would like to remind you to examine your PPE. In addition to checking your gear for damage, please ensure that it is laundered promptly. Please ask an on-duty person for assistance in operating the turnout washer/extractor. It is imperative to launder your PPE following fire incidents to avoid prolonged exposure to the carcinogens that become embedded in your gear.

New full-brimmed wildland helmets that were purchased through grant funding will be distributed this month. I will be distributing them to all fire personnel when the final components arrive. These helmets will add increased protection to the neck & back from falling debris and sun exposure.

Our ground ladders have received their annual service testing and all passed inspection by the testing company. Thank you to Captain May for volunteering your day to help make this event a smooth operation.

As always, please contact me or the on-duty shift commander if you have any immediate PPE needs. If you have any equipment recommendations please contact me or any of the equipment committee members.



Fire Medic Crawford and Firefighter Honeyman (on backhoe) dropping tree at 701. Above.

FIRE PREVENTION

-Fire Marshal Wheeler

First of all, I would like to thank everybody who helped with Team Teaching last month. The kids enjoyed themselves and as always enjoyed seeing Smokey Bear. I had the opportunity to help with Redmond's Team Teaching, and after one of the classes, one of the kids gave Smokey a box of matches he found out on the playground. It's nice to see the prevention message at work.

The summer events calendar is filling up with various fairs in Sisters. If you are interested in helping with the prevention tent handing out brochures, doing blood pressure checks, etc. please contact me at 701.

Fire Free Weekend was successful again this year with a new record of 300 loads brought in. That is approximately 50 more loads than in previous years, with Tollgate bringing in the most loads for the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District. A big thanks to all that volunteered their time to help.

As you drive around Sisters, you will see all the new development starting. There are at least 5 new developments starting up just in Sisters alone. This does not include all the homes that are going in around the rural area. Next time you decide to take a drive, check it out and familiarize yourself with all the new subdivisions. You will be amazed at all the new construction.

Have a fire safe month.

FIRE FITNESS

-Fire Medic Storton

I'm sorry. For those of you who are expecting to get together clad in leg warmers and headbands ready to sing Olivia Newton John's 1981 hit "Physical", you're out of luck. Instead I want to begin this new article by informing you of what's up and coming to pump you up. When the new 701 expansion is complete, we will have a fitness room filled with hustle and muscle. We have also applied for a grant that, if we are successful, will provide us with money to equip our fire gym. Along with this grant we will also have a trainer to set up fitness and nutrition programs. Once this first step is taken, we will begin working toward the NFPA fitness standard for staff and volunteers.

I know what you're thinking... "That's a great long term goal, but what about fitness for this summer?" With wild land fire season already upon us, it is vital that every-one places fitness higher on the priority list. Many of you already hike, bike, run, walk, or work out at one of the gyms in town. Great! For those of you who have been waiting for

a nudge to get back into it, getting started is as simple as a walk in the park, literally. Heart attack's are the #1 killer of firefighters and taking a 30 minute walk several times per week is a giant leap for reducing your risk. It is also one of the best things to burn off your winter insulation. Finally, I would really like to hear from you what it is that you want to learn about in your Fire Fitness articles. Whether about nutrition, strength, flexibility, power, firefighter specific programs, or even Fire jock competitions, I'll research your topic and let everyone know. I also encourage each of you to grab a partner or issue a challenge and get to it. Ready? Set? Go!

CONGRATULATIONS...

TO JOHN LIMING AND AUSTIN ENOCH

On their upcoming High School Graduations!

Good luck in your future endeavors.

Also Congratulations to Austin Enoch on his upcoming wedding. Best of Luck.

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

-Chaplain Hayes

Welcome Back Summer –

Summer's not even officially here yet, but Memorial Weekend quickly reminded me that we're back in the busy season for fires and public assistance. Like many of you, we try to have plans like "normal people". Friends came from out of town to help us finish siding our house. A few hours into this big project, a brush fire is reported and off my dedicated responder goes to help...someone else.

Last summer, every time we started a project, the

pager would go off and so would my help! I learned how to build a fence by myself. This year, I've already learned how to put siding on a house. We're just starting to build a deck and pond. I'm sure that by the end of this summer, I'll be an experienced home improvement expert. Being "normal" is overrated anyway ~

So, to those of you who have partners who run off in the middle of a family BBQ, birthday party or home improvement project, I share your frustration. Hopefully, like most of life's trying times, it will teach us to grow, and stretch us beyond our limited ways of thinking and being. Who knows...the next uninvited skill you learn just might turn into an exciting hobby or your life's work!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS!!!!

Please wish the following personnel a **HAPPY June BIRTHDAY...**

• **Angie Ward** **June 1**

- **Kirk Metzger** **June 1**
- **Derek Ralls** **June 12**
- **Jeff Liming** **June 22**
- **Ben Bruegeman** **June 30**

TRAINING

-Chief Karjala

Training for the month of June will include: emergency driving, wildland fire, vertical ventilation, in-service training for our new Type 6 engine and HIPPA/lockout tagout. With the weather getting warmer and drier you will notice we are transitioning to outdoor training. This will continue until fall.

I haven't had anybody sign up for the Oregon Volunteer Fire Association conference. The classes include building construction for the fire service, officer development, RIT for small fire departments, incident safety offi-

cer, flashover trailer and many more. This is a great conference and I encourage anybody that wants to attend to see me by June 8th.

The student testing process that we completed last month went great! We have selected two individuals that will fit into our organization very well. Andrew Mustola and Wes George will start working as temporary employees early this summer. They come to us with a great deal of training so the transition should be quick. I am excited to have these two individuals as students; I believe they will represent our department with high integrity and dedication. I want to thank all the staff that assisted with this evaluation process.

COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

All of the new portable radios have been issued and placed on apparatus. For the most part, there is a radio for each person responding to fire emergencies. Remember to put the radio in your turnouts or wildland gear when getting in the apparatus and return it to the position you retrieved it from when you return to quarters. Also, have someone from each apparatus get enough spare batteries for each radio before you leave on the call. This will assure continuous communication on extended incidents. If the radio was turned on, replace the battery when you return to the station to maintain full batteries for each call. The batteries are on a weekly replacement cycle and will be replaced by staff when the apparatus checks are being done. There are conditioner/chargers at Stations 701, 703, and 704. There will be clear instructions and storage sites for batteries charged and needing charged. Your help in maintaining the batteries will be greatly appreciated. Be sure to

familiarize yourself with the operation of the new Motorola radios. They are not too complicated, but can be frustrating if not used on a regular basis. The older Motorola portables (MT2000) have been placed on ambulances and 760. They are programmed for in-district response and EMS calls. To help keep it all clear, there will be reference sheets for each type of radio that is carried on apparatus placed in the binders for each rig. Remember, if you get confused as to what channel you need to be on, or are on, just look at the display, it will be readable even if in a shortened style.

We are still moving forward with the acquisition of a backup repeater on Black Butte. It just takes some time and coordination to get it completed. At this time, the neighboring Chiefs have worked with Chief Robertson and are agreeable with our receiving and using that location. At this time it looks like it will be used as an alternative communication site that will improve our transmissions and reception beyond the summit of the Santiam Pass. We will keep you informed as this project progresses.

FACILITIES

-Captain Brown

There are big changes at Station 701! During the last two weeks, there was a major cleanup of the grounds, the storage shed behind the sleeper house, and the old city shop. There was a lot of debris and miscellaneous trash removed, items taken to Stations 702 and 704 for storage during the construction period and removal of wiring and metal fixtures in preparation for the demolition of the buildings. This was necessary to enable delivery of the debris to the tub grinder for recycling. After an asbestos survey of the properties, asbestos was found in the main station (701) floor tile mastic and in the glazing compound of the windows of the city shop buildings. The windows have been removed and the mastic will be processed during construction. The other change is the removal of trees for the new building. Jay Crawford is really enjoying himself, reliving a past career of falling and tree harvesting. Stuart Honeyman is like a kid with a new toy, heading up the demolition of the old buildings and the stump removal. His skills with the excavator are excellent! A huge thank you to all who have helped in this process and who continue to help in the completion of the project. Jay and Stuart have contributed greatly, using their knowledge, skills and con-

tacts to actually put some money in the bank to complete something that was an expensive line item in the construction budget. We are actually able to sell the logs for a profit and obtain money for the metal recycling. Businesses that have donated equipment and time include T2 (tub grinding of demolition debris at no charge); Knife River (formerly Hap Taylor) through Bill Hayes is hauling the debris to the site at no charge; Petersen Equipment (CAT) is providing the excavator for just the delivery and pickup fees (no charge for the unit itself); Bear Mountain for chipping the tree debris and delivering it to the City of Sisters Treatment facility (no charge); and The City of Sisters who is receiving the debris at no charge to use in their debris recycling project. This all shows the community support of our fire district and their appreciation for what you do.

One last thing: we will be closing the Washington Street entrance (to the rear of the station) the first weekend in June. The access will be from Ash Street, clearly marked. This will continue during the construction phases and become permanent at the completion of the project. Remember safety and watch the area when entering and leaving as the recycle center will be just south of our access for two more months. Keep in mind that this will also be the construction access with limited parking while the building is under construction.

RESPONSE INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

We had the first major wildland fire response last month, with a great turnout. Reports I received are that everyone did well and worked hard. This is our wakeup call for the wildland season. Be sure and check you gear, have it available and remember to bring it with you to all calls.

It looks like we are still on track to keep the average two calls per day volume going. From my perspective, it looks like it will be a busy summer season. This is based on the dry conditions around us and the increased traffic on Memorial Day weekend. The congestion was backed up one mile west of town and I heard one report of it extending clear to Cascade Meadow Ranch entrance. The increase in traffic during the summer usually means an increase in MVA's and calls to assist people out enjoying the area. Be safe in your response to the station and responding to the emergency itself. The public depends on us to respond to



their emergencies, and to not become an incident on the way to the call.

EQUIPMENT NEWS

-Captain Lovegren

By now, most of you have probably seen the new Type 6 wildland engine at Station 701. It was delivered on Monday evening May 21st. I will be installing the light bar and the intersection lights over the next few shifts and Captain Brown will install the radio as soon as the center console arrives. The light and siren controller will also have to wait until the console comes in but all the wiring should be complete by the time it arrives. If you haven't had a chance to see it, stop in and see the progress we are making. It is very nice looking and a very functional truck.

Once the Type 6 is in service, the Shift Commander vehicle (Expedition) will be transferred over to Chief Karjala and the Shift Commander's will respond in the new Type 6 during their shifts. This transition allows Chief Karjala a more reliable vehicle and eliminates the need to purchase something new. So when you see the Shift Commander's driving around in the new engine, it's not just because we love the new truck, we have a plan!

770 has a latch on the sliding door now and will lock in the closed position preventing the door from banging back and forth. However, the latch does present a slight problem: if you need something from the front and the door is closed you will have to go outside to the cab door and get in to get what you need. Please be patient until we can come up with a better solution and, if you have a suggestion please let me know.



SCBA INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

New SCBA equipment is the topic for this issue. We have purchased radio interface units for face pieces through a last minute grant extension. They will be placed in service on 721, 723, and 724. This puts the new equipment in each station, and can be used by initial responders to structure fires. The best part of this acquisition is the improved communication when wearing an SCBA and transmitting on the radio. This is important for initial attack teams, RIT teams, and Search and Rescue teams and for anyone entering and working in and IDLH (immediately dangerous to life and health) atmosphere. Even when wearing a voice amplifier, you had to shout over any scene noise

to be heard on the radio and your voice would be transformed in to something similar to Mickey Mouse. Now you can talk normally when transmitting, as the sound is received directly from the diaphragm in your face piece. There will be two units in 723 and 724, with the remainder located on 721. They have been placed in black Pelican cases in the passenger compartments of each engine so you can attach them to your face piece while enroute to the fire. Remember to use these whenever SCBA's are included in drills to become familiar and proficient in their use.

One more item: please contact me if you do NOT have a voice amplifier on your face piece. I will need to install the mounting bracket and voice diaphragm as soon as possible so you can use the radio interface equipment.