

THE SIREN



Presented By

Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD

Volume 1 Issue 26 March 2006

CHIEF'S CORNER

-Chief Robertson

Welcome to the March 2006 edition of the Siren!

With many of our staff at training classes and seminars, you will find a number of our regular columns in this edition of the Siren are missing. Our Association President, Jeff May is away at the National Fire Academy, and others are at the Northwest Leadership Seminar in Portland.

Thanks to all of you who attended the awards banquet last weekend. We had over 70 staff, volunteers and family attend. Congratulations to our Firefighter of the Year, Jeremy Ast; Rookie and EMT of the Year, Ben Bruegeman; Volunteer of the Year and Water Shovel Award recipient, Jeff May; and finally Julie Spor who received the Chief's Award for Excellence.

We will be providing an Officer's Leadership class for all of our Chief Officers, Company Officers, Fire Medics, and interested Volunteers. The tentative dates are March 27, 28, and April 3. These will be approximately 3 hour afternoon sessions with lunch provided. The class is based on the real-life documentary "The Last Place on Earth" which is the story of the race to the South Pole with Scott and Amundson. There are many lessons in leadership, planning, and project management in this presentation and the group discussion. Attendance is mandatory for Chief Officers and Shift Commanders. I encourage everyone to attend. Please contact Chief Enoch if you are interested.

I have included the Chief's address in this edition which I presented at the Awards Ceremony last weekend. Please take time to review this look into our "possible future". Whether you agree with the picture I have painted in this address or not, one thing is for certain: what we see today will not be the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District of tomorrow.

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

Once this is complete, there will be some training on the equipment. If there is any possibility that you may be carrying a portable, talk with me about this.

We are missing one portable radio. It is a Motorola MT 2000. Keep your eye out for it and if you find it be sure to give it to the duty officer so I know it has been returned.

AWARDS BANQUET ADDRESS

2/18/06—Chief Robertson

First of all, I want to recognize all of you, our men and women who serve our community so diligently and faithfully. It is an honor for me to be associated with all of you and this great organization.

Just as important, we should recognize those in our lives who support us: wives, husbands, family, and friends. Many of them are here with us tonight. We owe them a lot for the support they provide every time you participate in the many drills, emergencies, and activities you do for the department. We all need to say thank you for all their patience and support over this past year.

I want to throw a bit of a curve at you tonight. In the past, I have talked about our accomplishments over the past year and the new equipment, station projects and other things that we, together have done. As I thought about this fact, I realized that it is good to think about our successes, but what about our challenges? I decided that tonight I would focus on our future and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Vision is a critical factor for looking down the road: what is it that we want our department to look like in 5, 10, or 20 years from now? So what is vision? I believe it is best defined as "what we want our organization to look like in the future". All successful organizations need to define where they expect to be in the future. We have already begun to define that vision. You may want to review the vision statement we created in the strategic plan in 2004.

We can reach this vision only through positive change, understanding and patience. Change is a roller-coaster. Sometimes it is difficult to see the end result in the middle of the change. R.D. Lange once said:

"We live in a moment of history where change is so speeded up that we begin to see the present only when it is already disappearing."

Awards Banquet Address Continued on page 4

COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

Everything is going well with the communications equipment for the district. There are still some issues with the repeater at Five Mile Butte and we are hoping to have them resolved before spring settles in. There will be some minor changes to the portable radio operation. *Cont. next column*

FACILITIES

-Captain Brown

Good News! The roof at Station 704 is complete and looks great. After waiting for scheduling difficulties and the weather, the contractor got on it and finished it in short order. If possible, make a trip out and look it over. It is the same roof style and color as the Community Hall and it really adds to the look of the station and ties it all together for that area. This style of roof should eliminate the continuing problem of the roof leaking in the same area each year. There is some more cleanup to be done by the contractor and a small repair that the workers caused, but overall it was a job well done and completed properly.

All buildings look to have weathered this winter well, but if you notice any needed repairs, be sure and notify me so we can get it worked into the schedule. Thank you for your help in the maintenance and cleaning of the areas around the stations this winter, it is truly appreciated.

Remember the addition/remodel of Station 701. If you have any questions or concerns, contact one of the committee members, we may be able to answer it right away or will be glad to take it to the committee for consideration.

The next meeting should be the middle of March and will include the architects providing the initial station layout and cost estimates.

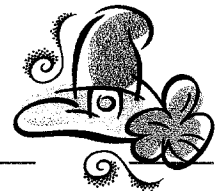
RESPONSE INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

It appeared we were starting out a bit slow this year, but overall we are continuing an increase in our call volume. The calls always seem to creep up on us, with the majority of the calls "blessing" one shift each time. There has been a great response from volunteers in filling in and pulling shifts. This has really helped out in our response times and ability to staff second out units. I think everyone has noticed the increase of instances where both ambulances have been out on calls recently. This not only

indicates the increase in people living in our area, but also in people enjoying the recreation opportunities.

Remember to take advantage of the shift sign up and the benefits that accompany it. The meal reimbursement, possibilities of going on calls, training with the duty shift, and the best benefit-getting to hang out with a group of really great people like yourself!



TRAINING

-Chief Enoch

Department training dates to remember for March 2006 are:

Entry Level Firefighter

- March 11, 0800, Intro to firefighter Safety, Communications and Fire Behavior
- March 12, 0800, Water Supply, Hose and Fire streams
- March 18, 0800, PPE, SCBA, Search and Rescue
- March 19, 0800, Ladders, Salvage, Overhaul and Extinguishers
- March 25, 0800, Haz/Mat Awareness and Operations
- March 26, 0800, Haz/Mat Operations

Monday Night Fire Drill

- March 6, 1900 hrs, Ladders, Engine Company Standards #7
- March 13, 1900 hrs, Pump Operations
- March 20, 1900 hrs, all personnel at Station 701, Passport System

EMS Drill

- March 15, EMS breakfast Musculoskeletal injuries
- March 27, Medical Patient Assessment

Officer Training

- March 27, 12 noon, Officer Leadership
- March 28, 12 noon, Officer Leadership
- April 3, 12 noon, Officer Leadership

We are offering training for everyone this month and it is my hope that all will be able to participate. The department has new volunteers that will be attending the entry level firefighter course. This course is open to all firefighters who want to sharpen their skills and get to know the new volunteers. Chief Robertson will be bringing a Leadership class to us, which was a part of his training at the National Fire Academy. For more information about the Leadership class, see Chief Robertson's article in this issue of the Siren.

Thank you to all who participated in the live fire training last month. We were able to get thirteen interior attacks on the structure. Everyone did an outstanding job fighting the fire and staying safe. I hope you enjoyed the training as much as I did. You all looked and performed very professional.

FIRE & EMS EQUIPMENT

-Captain Ast

With March upon us, the spring season is near, leaving the wildland fire season just around the corner. I am in the process of making the final purchases for the 2005/06 fiscal budget year, so please inform me of your equipment or PPE needs as soon as possible, including repair & replacement of your current gear.

The new gurney that was mentioned in the last edition of *The Siren* has arrived and has been placed in-service on 770. If you have not yet had the opportunity for a "hands-on" demonstration of the gurney, please ask any of the line staff at your earliest convenience. The new gurney operates differently than the older style, and the emergency scene is not the proper venue for becoming familiar with its operation.

The specifications for the new ambulance are

complete and have been sent out to several manufacturers for the bidding process. The bids must be received from the manufacturers no later than March 17th, after which the Board will accept or reject the bids.

The medical, trauma and airway jump-kits have been streamlined/revised in 770 & 772. In the medical kit, surplus medications, dressings, etc. have been removed and the nebulizer medications have been moved to the airway kit in the compartment where the nebulizer is stored. Excess dressings, etc. have also been removed from the trauma kit. The reason for the above changes was to help reduce the clutter in the kits & improve access to contents. I believe you'll find that new arrangements have resulted in lighter kits where the drugs & equipment are more readily identified during emergency operations. Please familiarize yourselves with the changes to the kits.

I hope the beginning of the spring season is a safe one for you all and may the luck of the Irish be

FIRE PREVENTION

-Fire Marshal Wheeler

With the spring and summer months fast approaching, it's time to start thinking about the many fire prevention fairs coming up. The majority of these events will be primarily providing handouts at a booth, but I would also like to provide blood pressure checks and EMS handouts when possible. Please stop by for a complete list of dates.

Team teaching for the area schools will take place on April 27th. I need volunteers for the Sparky costume and additional help with the first grade kids. It's possible that we will be involved with end of the school year activities (spraying water for the kids to play in) as we did last year.

If anybody is interested in helping with these activities, please stop by or call me at the station.

Have a good month and stay safe.

SCBA INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

I noticed at the Burn to Learn on February 25 that everyone did really well with the use of the SCBA's. Great job! Only one minor malfunction that is easily remedied. Thank you for bringing it to my attention and reminding me after the training exercise of the problem. Please remember to fill out the repair forms if I am not around so it can be repaired promptly.

We are starting the budget process for the next fiscal year and one of the items I am trying to have included is voice amplifiers for all personnel. This was tied to a grant we were not awarded last year, so we were not able to purchase them. I will keep you informed on the progress of the purchase. Check your department mail boxes this month for new name cards for your SCBA face piece bags. I have included the equipment number on the card to make it easier to keep track of the equipment issued to you.

CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

-Sana Hayes

March 21st brings that first full day of Spring. Spring is generally considered a time of renewal, a time of new beginnings and new growth. What does Spring mean for you? Spring cleaning?... recommitment to your New Year's resolution?... a new class at a community college?... a new hobby?... a new attitude or new way of being in the world?

In our home, March brings us a newly adopted 5-year-old rescued dog. We hope our new family member, Wendy, a Chihuahua mix, will become a certified therapy dog, following in the pawprints of her senior sisters who are now retired. If you have an animal companion who you believe could be a "compassionate canine", there are many opportunities to be-

come a certified team (animal/handler) and volunteer in your community. There are dogs who visit hospice patients in their homes. And, of course, there are dogs who visit patients and staff in hospitals and care facilities. For more information on how you and your dog, cat, bunny, guinea pig or llama can participate, please contact me at Revsana@juno.com

Science has finally proven what many of us knew all along ~ animals have an amazing power to heal and be unconditionally present. If you or an animal friend is in need of prayer, don't hesitate to reach out to your department chaplains. We are HERE to HEAR whatever is on your mind or in your heart.

AWARDS BANQUET ADDRESS

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

-Chief Robertson

Often, the change is resisted. Sometimes in the middle of the change or project, it will appear we are failing, but we do push on and prevail. Over the last two years, the significant changes we have initiated have been well-accepted, but change is always difficult. I believe that we need to continue positive change in the department, and our strategic plan will help guide our work.

So what will our department look like in twenty years? That would be the year 2026. I wasn't able to locate a crystal ball, but I did find an 8-ball in my office (remember we want to be in front of the 8-ball, not behind it). Obviously, the 8-ball is not the preferred sphere. Imagine I am holding up a crystal ball. I would like to look into our imaginary crystal ball, and see what our future holds:

- The population of the fire district will be around 20,000 persons. Of those, approximately 7,500 will live in the City of Sisters based on projections by the city and our fire marshal's office. Along with the large projects in the City of Sisters, numerous larger subdivisions and resorts will be built in the available county areas. The greater Sisters-Camp Sherman area will continue to be a highly desirable community in which to live.
- Our fire call volume will not accelerate significantly, but calls for EMS service will. We provided 752 total calls for service in 2005. By 2026, we will provide in the neighborhood of 5,000 calls a year.
- A strong prevention and education program and aggressive code enforcement will make our homes and buildings safer and less prone to fire. Our personnel will realize that every time the fire equipment responds, it means we have failed in some way to prevent the emergency from happening. Our primary focus will be on preventing fires, not putting them out.
- A zero square foot (100%) required sprinkler ordinance for new construction in the district will significantly reduce our fire loss and fire occurrence.
- With an aging population, EMS will be 90% of our calls for service. Our prevention and education efforts will be focused on health issues. We will realize that health education, particularly for the elderly and children, must be our mission and priority. "You will probably be visiting me in the rest home with this message".
- Improvements in technology and firefighter safety are everywhere in the year 2026, with emergency service still being provided by ambulance, but with EMS procedures and equipment we can only now dream of.
- We will maintain a top-quality fleet. I see firefighters with improved personal protective equipment and thermal imaging technology in every face piece and improved breathing apparatus. I also believe there will be extinguishing agents available which will allow our fire-

fighters to insert an applicator into the burning building, and extinguish the fire by inhibiting the chemical chain reaction without ever having to enter the structure.

- With changing weather patterns and poor forest health, we will have experienced at least one more B&B magnitude wildland/interface fire. Our communities will be threatened. If we are able to improve our interface fuel situation in the short term, those communities will be saved. In the long term, vegetation management projects and appropriate forest management will create a safer environment in the interface.
- I believe our department will remain healthy: financially, organizationally, and spiritually. It will remain a family environment. In the face of declining volunteerism across this great country, I believe the citizens will step up, and the volunteer ranks will be in the neighborhood of 80 personnel rather than our current 40. Career staff will increase as well, with shift strength at five to seven on every shift.
- Volunteer benefits will increase over the years, with an improved high-paying retirement system in place for all who give of their time and talents. EMT certified volunteers will outnumber firefighters. We will have well-trained and highly educated firefighters, EMT's and administrators.
- I believe that the three fire districts in this region will combine to form one fire district. While this is still a change for the future, I believe this consolidation needs to happen in the interest of efficiency and economics.
- And finally, we currently experience a huge amount of support in the community due to the excellent customer service that you all provide. I see it in the feedback we receive every day from our EMS customers. I hear it in the comments from the members of our community and the support we receive from our Board of Directors. We will continue to provide quality service with high customer satisfaction to the year 2026 and beyond.

So there it is, your visioning presentation for tonight. As we move toward our future, it is important to ensure that our vision is consistent with our planning and that our vision is well communicated throughout this great organization. I look forward to being a part of that process as we work together to create excellence.

I would like to conclude with a quote from President Harry S. Truman:

"Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better."

I challenge you all to be good leaders and practice good followership as we pursue our common vision. I am honored to have the pleasure to live and work in this community with all of you. You are the best!

March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Officers Meeting 1800 hrs Fire Drill 1900 hrs 701, 703 & 704 Ladders, Engine Company Standard #7	7	8	9	10	11 Entry level FF 0800 Sta 701 Intro to FF Safety Communications Fire Behavior
12 Entry level FF 0800 Sta 701 Water Supply Hose Fire Streams	13 Safety Meeting 1800 Fire Drill 1900 hrs Sta 701, 703, & 704 Pump Operations	14	15 EMS Breakfast 0700hrs Coyote Creek Musculoskeletal inj. 0800 Staff Meeting	16	17	18 Entry level FF 0800 Sta 701 PPE/SCBA Search & Rescue
19 Entry level FF 0800 Sta 701 Ladders, Salvage & Overhaul Extinguishers	20 Asso. Meeting 1800 Fire Drill 1900 hrs Sta 701 Passport System	21 BOARD MEETING STA 701, 1700HRS	22	23	24	25 Entry level FF 0800 Sta 701 Haz/Mat Awareness Operations
26 Entry level FF 0800 Sta 701 Haz/Mat Operations	27 EMS Drill 1900hrs Pt. Assessment Skills Fire Drill 704 Engine Company #4 Officer Leadership 1200 hr Sta 701	28 Officer Leadership 1200 hr Sta 701	29	30	31	April 1 Entry level FF 0800 Sta 701 Blood Born Path 2-in-2-out Accountability

2006