

THE SIREN



Presented By
Sisters-Camp Sherman RFPD

September 2008

CHIEF'S CORNER

-Fire Chief, Taylor Robertson

Welcome to the September 2008 edition of the Siren.

Can you believe it is already September? It seems like only a few days ago I put my wildland gear in the staff car and started thinking about fire season.

I want to thank all of you, particularly the crew at 701 and 704 for all the hard work and long hours you spent on the Summit Springs Fire complex. The crews worked from 8:30 pm to around 5 am the night the first round of lightning hit. We are fortunate that the fires were controlled over the following ten days without the loss of any structures. Let's hope we are through the wildland fire season and that fall is just around the corner.

I just returned from a two day pack trip up the South Sister to visit Carver Lake. As many of you know, this glacial moraine lake at the 8,200 ft level is a threat to the greater Sisters area due to the unstable debris dam that is holding back 33,000,000 cubic feet of water (see attached photo). These debris dams have a history of failing. The last debris dam which failed in 1970 sent debris and water down Whychus Creek. This event is called the 1970 Diller Debris flow. The flow was considerably less than the potential in Carver lake, and the flow which reached Sisters was not significant after the debris and water was distributed in the upper river canyon and out onto the flood plain.



Chief's Corner continued on page 2

ASSOCIATION NEWS

-President, Jeff Liming

Many thanks and congratulations to Fire-fighter Bill Hayes and his team of volunteers for their MDA fundraising efforts Labor Day weekend! Over the three day period these folks raised four thousand, four hundred dollars for the Muscular Dystrophy Association! Thank you for your participation and efforts. We once again showed our Department off proudly and helped to support a very worthy cause.

The Sisters National Professional Rodeo Association is coming to town on September 19th and 20th and I am looking for volunteers to staff our BLS ambulance. The NPRA has signed a contract with our Association and we will be paid for our services at this event. Please take a look at our sign-up sheet on the board at Station 701. We are providing EMS personnel and certified drivers as initial crew but I would encourage additional EMT- B and First Responders to also sign up. If you are a firefighter and would like to be a part of our crews please also put your name down. We would be pleased to have you. The monies we make on this event will help us fund our 2000 projects so please come along!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming "Halloween night at the fire hall" event for the community kids. October 31st falls on a Friday night this year and I expect several hundred costumed kids.

We have been receiving requests for the scholarship funds we designated last spring and the checks to our scholarship winners are going out. Thank you for the support you have given our fund raising efforts in making these scholarships possible.

As always I would like to thank all of our members for your continued support of the Sisters – Camp Sherman Fire and Ambulance Association.

TRAINING

-Chief Karjala

Training for the month of September will include training on Firefighter Safety and Survival-TIC/ICS and passport, Flu Fires, Firefighter rehab and EMS case reviews.

I mentioned that there is going to be a firefighter 1 academy sponsored by COFIA starting in September and running through the start of December. If you are interested please see me before September 5th for registration.

I would like to remind folks that there are several training opportunities coming up in the next few months that are available to everyone. One training event I want to recommend is the Oregon EMS conference hosted in Bend in October. 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.

If anyone is interested in attending the Fallen Firefighter's Memorial on September 19 on one of the Type VI engines, please contact Chief Enoch. We have room for 4 in the Type VI and if there are others who are interested, they can sign up to ride with Chief Karjala in his vehicle.

Lastly, we will be updating our individual and group department photos. Chief Robertson will be taking photos on October 20th prior to the Association Meeting for individual and group pictures. The dress attire will be class B uniforms with ties for the officers and polo's for all other personnel.

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

CHIEF'S CORNER cont.

-Chief Robertson

Unfortunately, there is the potential for a much larger debris flow and flood from the failure of the Carver Lake moraine dam. The volume of Carver Lake is three times that of Diller Lake. According to our Deschutes NF geologist, Bart Wills, "a conservative assessment of the risk of a failure suggests a one percent failure probability per year, or put another way, within 100 years Carver Lake will fail. Magnitude, duration and effects of such a flood at Sisters could be similar to a 500-year flood event".

I made this trip to Carver Lake with Director Chuck Newport and USFS District Ranger Bill Anthony. Thanks to both of them for their expertise (particularly Chuck Newport who tried to help me with my cowboy skills during the horse pack in to Park Meadow where we staged for the 3.5 mile hike to the lake.....and yes I did stay on the horse).

Through the efforts of Chief Enoch and our consultant team we are getting close to completion of our regional emergency plan which will address all of our local risks including the Carver Lake dam failure. This plan and the upcoming exercises (the first one is scheduled for 9/19) will help us address the threats we have to our community. Stay tuned for more information on the draft emergency operations plan and more information on the Carver Lake threat and our planned response should the dam fail.

As always, my office door is open and I look forward to seeing you. Thanks for your commitment to the fire district.

Chief Robertson



SCBA INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

When was the last time you checked your SCBA face piece for cleanliness, fit, and operation? It seems we use this safety equipment more on drills than on emergencies, but it still needs to be ready and able to perform. There isn't anything more frustrating than being on a scene or at drill and your equipment malfunctions, usually in front of your peers, and in my case one of the chiefs. Take a few minutes this week to pull out your face piece, look it over for cleanliness and any damage it may have sustained. This means cracks in the "HYGAR" material (rubber like body), deformation of any part of the mask, especially the skin contact parts, or loose connections at the regulator receptacle area. Look at the head netting making sure it is uniform and without cuts or tears, making sure the adjusters are let all the way out to facilitate easy donning of the face piece. Look at the viewing area, making sure it is clear and without sight obstructing scratches. There may be a few fine lines that don't distort your vision, but

make sure there is not a large area of scuffing that makes it hard to see. Generally, the lens needs a good cleaning with a nonabrasive compound and you are good to go. Hold the mask to your face, making a good seal by applying pressure to your skin. Exhale through the face piece, making sure the flow is not impeded by the exhalation valve and that it does not "stick". This is usually due to not being thorough with rinsing after the cleaning process. Now cover the regulator receptacle and inhale, listening and feeling for any leaks in the mask or on your face. Sometimes our shape changes and the mask we have been issued for years does not provide an adequate seal. Better to find out during a routine check instead of during a fire (bad time) or during the annual Fit Test (embarrassing time). Next turn on your amplifier and talk into the mask, still holding it tight to your face. You should see the red light on the top of the amplifier and clearly hear your voice coming from the amplifier body. This will complete your self inspection of your issued SCBA face piece, if you find any damage or problems, contact me and we can get it repaired.

FIRE PREVENTION

-Captain Wheeler

Fire Prevention Week is October 5-11. We will be visiting all local school age children from Kindergarten to 4th grade to talk to them about fire safety and the Fire buster's Program. Fire busters involves giving school age kids a worksheet to take home after the classroom presentation with questions about various aspects of fire prevention. The kids are asked to watch the 5 o'clock news on KTVZ channel 5 all week long and with their parents help, answer the questions on the worksheet and turn it back in to school. Prizes are awarded which include: bikes, t-shirts and Frisbees.

During that week there will be articles in the Nugget outlining what the adults can do at home to help prevent home fires. This article will cover checking smoke detectors, home fire escape plans and looking for common household problems. Almost 70% of home fire deaths in this country result from fires in homes where there were no smoke alarms or non-working smoke alarms. As always, please stop by and ask if you have any questions.

CHAPLAIN CHAT

-Chaplain Hayes

See You In September!

Here it is September, and this time of year typically presents us with the challenges of being up close and personal with Mother Nature. Cool air and warm air mix to create instability in the atmosphere and electrical storms may remind us that autumn is again on the way. Summer is going out with a bang and sometimes electrical service goes out with it! Not only does the lightning wreak havoc for firefighting, electrical outages make doing business challenging and interesting in our computer-aided lives. Amidst the confusion and frustration of trying to carry on without anything that plugs in, there is a certain peacefulness arising from the extreme and unexpected silence. There is a

required surrender to do only that which can be done without power – which often isn't much. We wait, we talk, we tell stories, we make do, and we are certainly reminded of all the blessings of harnessed electricity that we invariably take for granted. One night this month, whether by choice or chance, light a candle, sit in the silence, and ponder life. ** Just remember to blow out the candle when you are done!!!

EQUIPMENT NEWS

-Captain Lovegren

Pump testing will take place in September (dates to be announced at drill). Pumper testing is good practice for an engineer or a great learning tool for someone who wants to be one. If you are interested in helping and it fits into your schedule, please let me know.

It took a while but we finally got all the A/C issues completed on the ambulances. Normally it is a simple recharge and we are back in business however, this year we had both leaks and mechanical problems to be dealt with. 771 seemed to spend more time at Myrmo's for repairs than at 701 this summer. Please let me know if you have any other issues.

COMMUNICATIONS

-Captain Brown

August 18th drill was cancelled due to the wildland fire activity during the previous two days. This drill was to review radio use, both navigating through the equipment programming and proper radio technique and etiquette. There has been some discussion concerning the ability of personnel to navigate through the channels and zones of the portables and apparatus radios. I believe everyone was fairly proficient in using these communication devices until just recently. Like so many other skills, this one is lost if not used on a regular basis. Chief Karjala will be scheduling another drill for this on October 13, and we can follow up on the training by

FIRE AND EMS EQUIPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

-Captain Ast

The new brush engine for station 703 should be completed this month. After a brief amount of time to outfit the engine with its complement of equipment, install the radio and resolve any "bugs" that may be evident, the engine will be moved to its new home.

The new cardio equipment that was mentioned in last month's article has arrived and is ready for use in the fitness room at 701. The functional strength fitness trainer should be arriving soon.

Now is the time of year when we can easily be fooled into a dangerous situation. With higher temperatures during the day we tend to forget what will happen very soon: namely, early frost at higher elevations in the morning. Slick corners on the pass in the mornings will be evident very soon and we do not want to be caught off guard. Keep this in the back of your mind when responding to emergency calls and slow down if you see the temperature beginning to drop to near freezing. We do not want to be thinking cold yet, but it is not uncommon to dip below 32 degrees at pass elevations this time of year.

practicing the use at the end of each drill, whether in separate station drills or combined company drills. I am always ready to help anyone who is unfamiliar with the radios, but remember as officers we are trying to perform many tasks at once on an emergency scene. Being skilled at the use of all our equipment should be a high priority for everyone. Become and remain familiar with radio use and applications. Stop by and see me if you need any assistance in using these tools.

I purchased a new type of adult AED electrode for the Zoll AED and M-Series machines. The new electrodes are equipped with a sensor that evaluates the rate & depth of compressions during CPR, and provides feedback when the rate and/or depth need to be changed. If you missed the demonstration of these new electrodes, please stop by for one.

Get out and enjoy the remaining days of summer!



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

- | | | | |
|-------------------|------|---------------|------|
| • Tom Haynes | 9/8 | • Don Rowe | 9/16 |
| • Chief Robertson | 9/8 | • Ryan Roy | 9/16 |
| • Rick Davidson | 9/15 | • Mark Foster | 9/19 |

FACILITIES

-Captain Brown

Congratulations! We finally have the building to ourselves. Although there are still a number of items to be corrected or finished, there are no work crews running around or big repairs being completed. It certainly feels a little bit more like home. I know I am grateful for the new station, the organization it affords, the atmosphere created here and all that it stands for.

A great big thank you to everyone who helped at the open house and everyone who helped prepare the station and grounds for the ceremony. There were a tremendous number of items to complete and without your help we would not have finished in time. There was a great turnout from the community (I am sure some were at the park for the country fair) and those I visited with were impressed with the facility. Several times I heard the comment, "You have needed and deserved a facility like this for a long time!" Once again, the support from the community and their gratitude for your service is truly a blessing.

Even though the bulk of the work is done, we still have plenty of small projects to complete. This goes for the outlying stations as well. If you have some time and would like to help out with some small projects, please contact me.

All of our students are now living at Station 701. Be sure to make them feel welcome when you see them around. There are a total of six, and with the shift personnel, all the sleeping quarters are filled other than the four bed dorm. Please respect their privacy when at the station and remember that they may be in their rooms studying during the day. Remember, for those of you who want to spend an evening or night shift, there is the dorm room available at the west end of the upstairs living quarters.

A special thank you to Captain Les Schell and Gail Butler for their donation of a patio set for the covered deck in the living area at Station 701. Gail has mentioned how nice it would be to sit out there and enjoy lunch or dinner and now they have made that very thing possible. Make sure and take a trip upstairs to see the addition to the station and thank them for the thoughtful donation. I know everyone will enjoy this for a long time to come!

RESPONSE INFORMATION

-Captain Brown

This month I would like to cover a response area that may be a bit out of the ordinary. Any apparatus that responds out of the back of the station headed west will exit through the gate on Ash Street. I know we are charged with responding quickly to emergencies, but remember we are expected to protect the rest of the public on our way to the scene. When leaving a parking area, all vehicles are required to stop before crossing a sidewalk. This provides for the safety of the pedestrians using the sidewalk. When we provided for security by placing the fence around the parking and training area at the back of the station, we now have a visibility concern when entering Ash Street. There is a large STOP, sidewalk crossing sign on our side of the gate to remind the officer and driver to look for any pedestrians before proceeding. In addition to this warning, there are two signs on posts on the sidewalk to alert any pedestrians of the possibility that vehicles may be exiting the parking area at any time on emergency calls. With all these warnings in place, it is still your responsibility to stop at

the sidewalk and look for anyone who may be entering the drive through area. Pedestrians will always have the Right of Way on the sidewalk, so please yield to them. This also applies to anyone coming into or exiting the parking area for any reason. Keep safety foremost and our relationship with the public intact in every way possible.

A reminder to take all your issued PPE on calls. This applies to MVC's especially. Everyone has been issued turnouts with safety vests (firefighters) or EMS turnouts (EMT's). These are for your protection, both from blood or body fluids and from cut hazards on scene. If there is a fire hazard on scene, those with issued structural turnouts will take care of it. The EMT turnouts are made of nomex, but are not designed for fire-fighting applications. Wear the complete set (coat and pants) for the duration of the call; they are for your protection. The district provides them to you to keep you safe.