

Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District

2021 Annual Report



GRANDVIEW FIRE – PHOTO CREDIT PETER RENGGLI



www.sistersfire.com

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Personal protective equipment during COVID Pandemic includes Tyvek suits.

Words from the Fire Chief



It is an honor to present the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District's (District) 2021 Annual Report. This report provides an overview of how the District is governed, current staffing levels, services provided, annual budget information, and significant achievements for the year. The report is also designed to recognize the incredible people that dedicate their lives to serving the residents of our community.

2021 was another challenging year for the District, as Covid-19 continued to impact programs and services. The District office was closed to visitors, and staff were required to wear extensive protective clothing and respirators while responding to medical emergencies. The District also changed how community services were provided to account for enhanced statewide safety measures. District administrative staff shifted to remote work during spikes in the virus, and volunteer training sessions were also held remotely. District staff and volunteers continued to provide exceptional emergency services to the community, and there were no interruptions in service as a result of Covid-19.

The District responded to 1,222 emergency incidents in 2021, an increase of 8% from the year before. 79 percent of the requests for assistance were for medical emergencies. While fire responses only accounted for 4% of the total 911 calls received for the year, wildfire is still a significant threat for the fire district. This threat was realized on July 11, 2021 when the Grandview Fire started in Jefferson County and quickly spread south towards the District boundary on Wilt Road. The Grandview fire ultimately burned over 6,000 acres and cost over \$8.5 million dollars to

extinguish. Many residents received evacuation notices and the Governor invoked the conflagration act. Fire engines from other parts of Oregon were mobilized to help protect homes. The combined efforts of state, federal and local fire agencies prevented the loss of any structures during the fire.

The District continues to work closely with our neighboring fire districts, and 2021 provided new opportunities for expanded coordination with the Black Butte and Cloverdale Fire Districts. The three agencies continue to share a volunteer recruitment and retention coordinator which is funded through a federal grant. The agencies also adopted a new incident management communications system in the past year. All supervisors and incident commanders completed training and certification in the new system. The District also continues to work closely with our wildland partner agencies including the US Forest Service and Oregon Department of Forestry.

2021 was definitely a challenging and memorable year. Through all of the adversity, the District maintained its position as a strong and resilient emergency response organization. I would like to recognize the incredible people who make the District such a special place to work or volunteer. The District maintains a friendly and inclusive work environment for employees and volunteers who all contribute in unique ways. From the Board of Directors, appointed committees, career Firefighter Paramedics, Volunteer Firefighters / EMT's, Fire Corps members and Administrative Staff, everyone is dedicated to serving the Sisters Community with the highest level of dedication and professionalism.

Roger Johnson

Fire Chief



Chief Johnson (left) and Senator Ron Wyden (right) met with the USFS Sisters Ranger District to discuss the benefits of fuels treatment around Sisters Country.

Governance

Board of Directors

Position 1: Kristie Miller

Position 2: Roger White

Position 3: Jack McGowan (Secretary)

Position 4: Chuck Newport (President)

Position 5: Vacant (formerly Bill Rainey)

Term Expires

June 30, 2025

June 30, 2025

June 30, 2025

June 30, 2023

June 30, 2023

The Board of Directors is comprised of five elected community members. The primary duty and function of the Board of Directors is to establish policies for the governance of the District. It is the policy of the Board to delegate to the Fire Chief and staff the responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the District, in a manner consistent with the policies and directions of the Board.

Director Rainey (Position 5) resigned from the Board of Directors at the end of 2021 after moving out of State.

The Board holds its regularly scheduled meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. Traditionally, meetings are held at Fire Station No. 701, located at 301 South Elm Street in Sisters. In 2021 all but one meeting was held virtually. The community is invited to attend and participate in the Board meetings. Public comments are accepted at the beginning of each meeting.



Pictured: top left President Newport, Vice President Bill Rainey, and Secretary/Treasurer McGowan. Bottom left Director White and Director Miller.



Budget Committee

Ken Jones

Daly Haasch

Russ Morrison

Jeff Wester

Jeff Tryens

Term Expires

June 30, 2024

June 30, 2024

June 30, 2022

June 30, 2022

June 30, 2022

The Budget Committee consists of the Board of Directors and five (5) citizen members. The Budget Committee is responsible for approval of the annual budget document.

The annual budget for the Fire District is created by an internal budget team. The team is comprised of administrative staff including the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, Finance Manager, Executive Assistant, a Board Member representative and any other interested staff and volunteers.

The committee reviews historical data from previous budgets, forecasts from local taxing authorities and insurance carriers, reports from PERS, as well as other external factors affecting the District's fiscal environment. Once the proposed budget has been reviewed and balanced by the internal team, it is presented to the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee reviews the document, makes any necessary changes, and then approves the document to go before the Board at a Budget Hearing.

One Budget Committee Meeting was held in 2021 to approve the proposed budget.

Civil Service Commission

Sheryl McLaughlin

Russ Morrison

Ken Jones

Term Expires

June 30, 2022

June 30, 2022

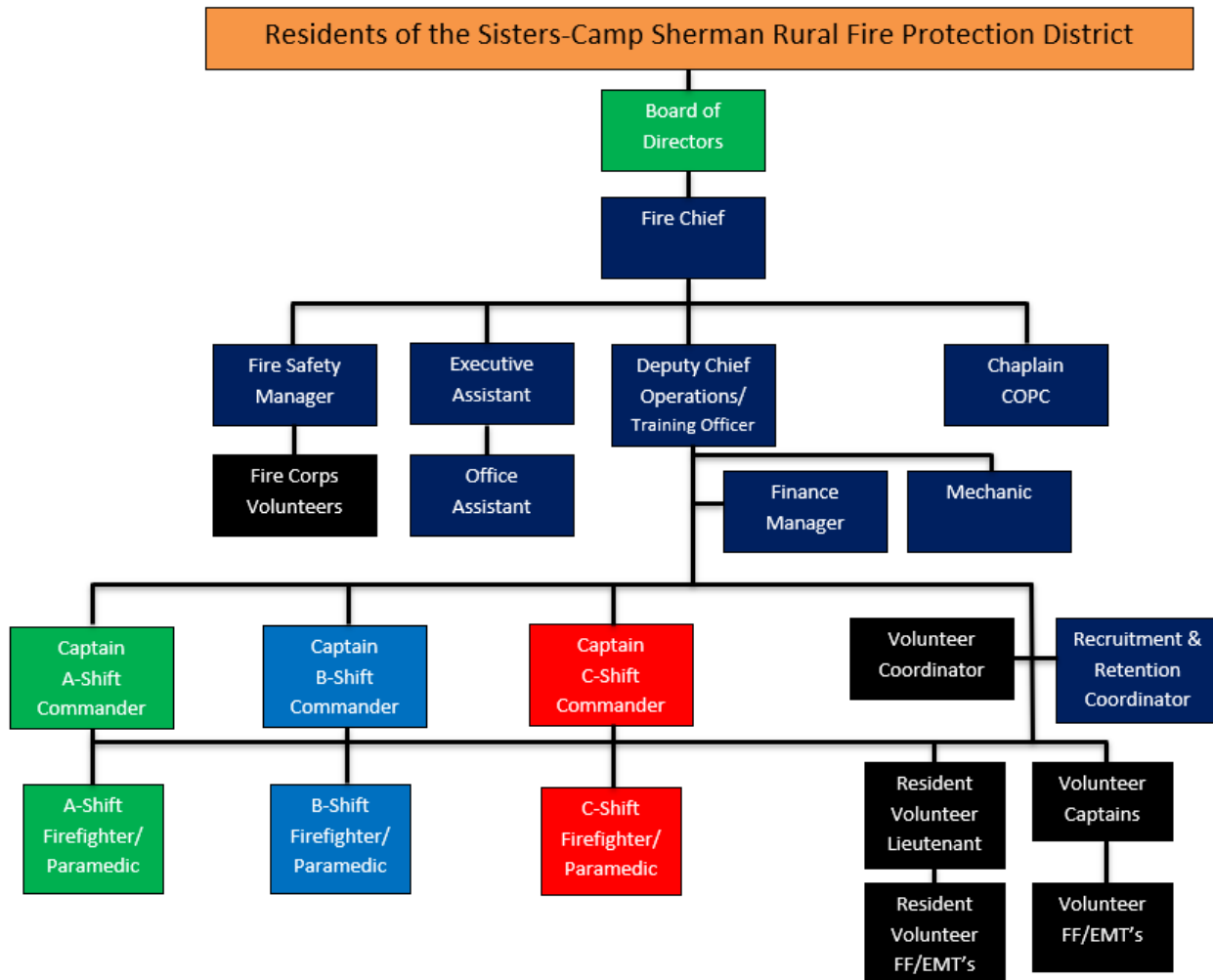
June 30, 2022

The Civil Service Commission is made up of three citizens of the District who are not members of the Board or employees of the District. They are independent individuals appointed by the Board for an uncompensated term of four (4) years.

Primary responsibilities include working cooperatively with the Board of Directors and Fire Chief to maintain a current list of all classifications and grades of Civil Service positions within the District, overseeing proper administration of all Civil Service exams, and maintaining a current database of all employees holding Civil Service positions within the District. Commissioners also adopt and oversee proper administration of the Rules relating to conducting Civil Service exams, appointments, promotions, demotions, transfers, reinstatements, suspensions, and discharges for Civil Service positions. One meeting was held in 2021: to certify the Shift Commander promotional register and appoint a Temporary Firefighter/Paramedic.

Organization Chart

Organization Chart



Personnel

The Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District is a combination career and volunteer fire department which blends a 24-hour career staff with volunteers who are ready 24/7 to assist in any emergency.

Administrative Staff

Fire Chief	Roger Johnson
Deputy Chief of Operations	Tim Craig
Fire Safety Manager (P/T)	Doug Green
Executive Assistant	Julie Spor
Finance Manager (Contractor)	Kay Johnson
Office Assistant (P/T)	Sarah Bialous
Recruitment/Retention Coord.	Tyler Smith



Fire Chief Roger Johnson is presented the Community Champion Award for his efforts in making the Sisters Community resilient. Pictured left to right: Emme Shoup – City of Sisters, Chief Johnson and Tammy Baney – Deschutes County.



Cody Meredith was promoted in December from Engineer/Paramedic to Shift Commander on A-Shift after Captain Thornton Brown's retirement.

Career Staff

'A' Shift

Cody Meredith	Shift Commander
Damon Frutos	Engineer/Paramedic
Dominic Dertorossian	Temp - Engineer/Paramedic

'B' Shift

Rob Harrison	Shift Commander
Matt Millar	Engineer/Paramedic
Pat Burke	Engineer/Paramedic

'C' Shift

Jeremy Ast	Shift Commander
David Ward	Engineer/Paramedic
Travis Martin	Engineer/Paramedic

Other Personnel

Tom Ward	Mechanic (P/T)
Jeff Liming	Volunteer Coordinator (P/T)

Our Awesome Volunteers!

The District relies heavily on its volunteers including Resident Volunteers and Fire Corps members. Traditional (Fire & EMS) volunteers provide firefighting and/or emergency medical services, vehicle extrication and specialized rescue and fire prevention services to a 55 square mile area including the City of Sisters and the Camp Sherman community from three fire stations. In addition, the District provides advanced life support emergency medical and ambulance transport services to an area over 800 square miles. The following is a list of volunteers as of December 31, 2021.

Firefighting & EMS Volunteers

Travis Bootes, Lieutenant	Jessica Haury	Ciara Needles
Angel Cisneros-Thorsvold	Tom Haynes	Jesse Polay
Kevin Cramer	Kaden Henkle	Melody Reilley
Roy Dean	Derek Hill	Peter Renggli
Ben Duda, Lieutenant	Ron Ketchum	Brian Schultz
John Failla	Jeff Lake	Derrick Snow
Neil Fair	Chris Lamaita	Justin Spelatz
Abraham Gonzalez-Reyes	Jeff Liming, Captain	Mike Terwilliger
Brennan Guiles	Ethan Logan	Jack Wales
Brad Harbert	Dave Moyer, Captain	Steve Ward, Captain
Bill Hayes	Doug Myers, Captain	Kyle White

EMS Only Volunteers

Matthew Dunn	Stephen Huffman	Phyllis Williamson
Barbara Haynes	Rita Hodge	Tom Williamson

Resident Volunteers

Campbell Clarke	Brian Heisler	Rachel Ulm, Lieutenant
Avery Deutz	Matthew Maupin	Jacob Van Lieu

For information about Volunteer Opportunities please visit www.sistersfire.com, or scan this QR code with your smart phone.



Fire Corps

Since its start in 2004, Fire Corps has helped fire and EMS departments in 49 states to build more capacity by engaging community volunteers to assist in a variety of non-emergency roles. Fire Corps Volunteers provide compassionate support to victims of emergencies and support the firefighters by providing food and drinks during extended fire operations. Fire Corps Volunteers also provide fire prevention, public education, and community service programs within the communities of Sisters and Camp Sherman. The following is a list of our Fire Corps/Prevention Volunteers as of December 31, 2021:

Fire Corps/Prevention Volunteers

Barbara Bajec

Gail Butler

Chris Carr

Chris Drew

Philip Drew

Mary Fry

David Gentry, Spec. Projects

Rick Gillaspie

Beverly Halcon

Ernie Halcon

Barbara Holm

Michael Johnson

Dave Kell

Joan Kizziar

Dennis Kizziar

Retha Lange

Charlene Leep

Pat Lenahan

Roxanne Lenahan

Marjorie Lombardo

Marcel Luz

Marsha Marr

Kirk Metzger, Spec. Projects

Scott Michalek

Nick Newport

Dave Parman

Donna Pieper

Rick Retzman

Jeannie Sandecki

Ralph Salisbury

Les Schell

Larry Stuker

Martha Stuker

William Waters

Katie Yates



Pictured: Fire Safety Manager Doug Green presents Fire Corps Volunteer Chris Carr the 2020 Fire Corps Volunteer of the Year Award.

Financial Overview

The Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District is a special district operating under Oregon Revised Statutes Chapter 478 as a separate municipal corporation overseen by a Board of Directors composed of a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and two members at large. The Board employs the Fire Chief to manage the day-to-day operations of the District.

The District receives over 80% of its annual revenue through assessed property taxes with a permanent tax rate of \$2.7317 per thousand of taxable assessed value. Additional funding sources include fees for services including ambulance revenues.

2020/21 Actual Revenue Summary

Property Taxes	\$2,934,699
Fees for Service	\$ 628,267
Interest Income	\$ 20,840
Grants	\$ 322,991
Other	\$ <u>37,671</u>
Total 2020/21 Actual Revenue	\$3,944,468

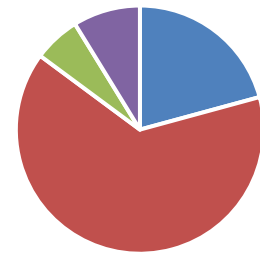
2020/21 Actual Expenditures Summary

Administration	\$ 672,697
Operations	\$2,084,793
Maintenance	\$ 197,015
Volunteers	\$ <u>284,149</u>
Total 2019/20 Actual Expenditures	\$3,238,654

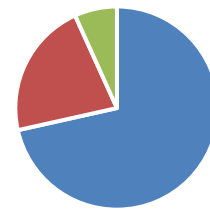
2020/21 Actual Expenditure Breakdown

Personnel Services	\$2,315,789
Materials and Services	\$ 703,864
Capital Outlay	\$ <u>219,001</u>
Total 2019/20 Actual Expenditures	\$3,238,654

Actual Expenditures by Department



Actual Expenditure Breakdown



The District has a fundamental philosophy of funding its programs, including capital outlay programs, through the use of General Fund dollars whenever possible. In keeping with that philosophy, the District has set aside Reserve Funds and created equipment replacement and building maintenance plans to ensure the future financial stability of the District. Also, because tax funding arrives during the month of November, the District must have a beginning fund balance to cover operating costs from July through October.



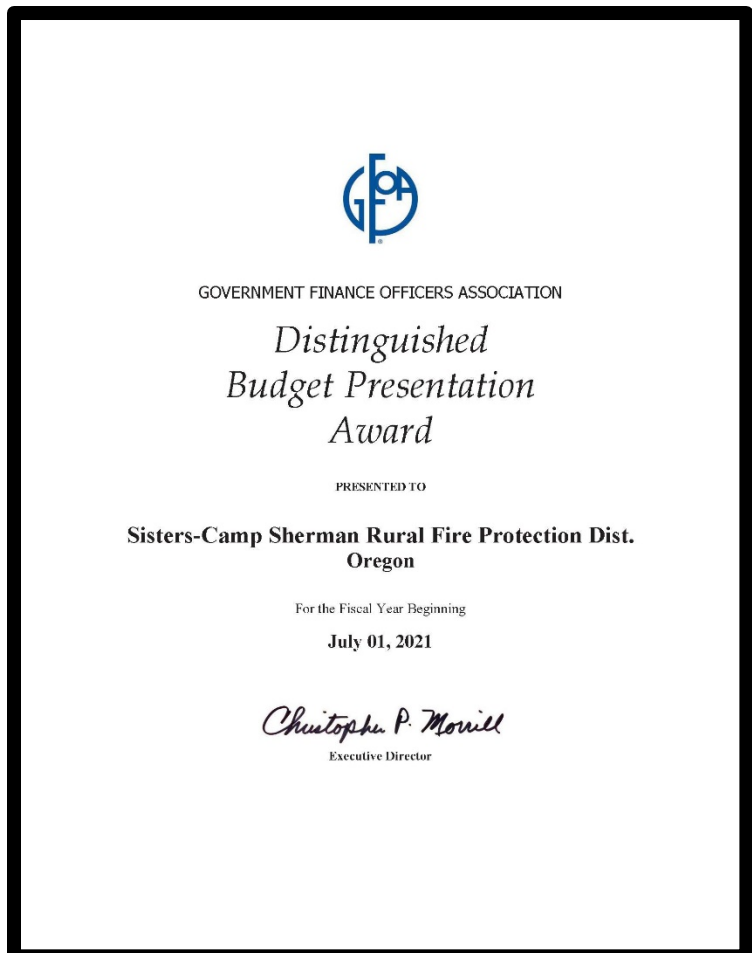
Ending Fund Balances – June 30, 2021

General Fund	\$1,751,757
Employment Reserve Fund	\$ 161,471
Equipment Reserve Fund	\$ 678,230
Building Reserve Fund	\$ 194,856
Debt Service Fund	\$ 45,926

Total Fund Balances 6/30/21 \$2,832,240

The District received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its seventh year in a row. The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is the highest award in governmental budgeting. Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District is one of only a handful of fire districts in Oregon who have received the award in 2021.

In order to receive the budget award, the District had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. The guidelines are designed to assess how well the District's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and a communications device. The budget document must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award.



Annual Financial Comparisons

(In Thousands)

REVENUE	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Property Taxes	2,523	2,660	2,852	2,935
Charges for Service	420	411	466	628
Interest	51	88	55	21
Grants	184	103	81	323
Other	50	20	81	37
Total Revenue	3,228	3,282	3,535	3,944

EXPENDITURES	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Personnel	2,232	1,967	2,044	2,316
Materials/Services	502	605	652	704
Capital Outlay	42	226	224	219
Contingency	0	0	208	0
Total Expenditures	2,776	2,798	3,128	3,239

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Change in Fund Bal	4	94	36	105
Beg Fund Balance	1,708	1,704	1,610	1,646
End Fund Balance	1,704	1,610	1,646	1,751

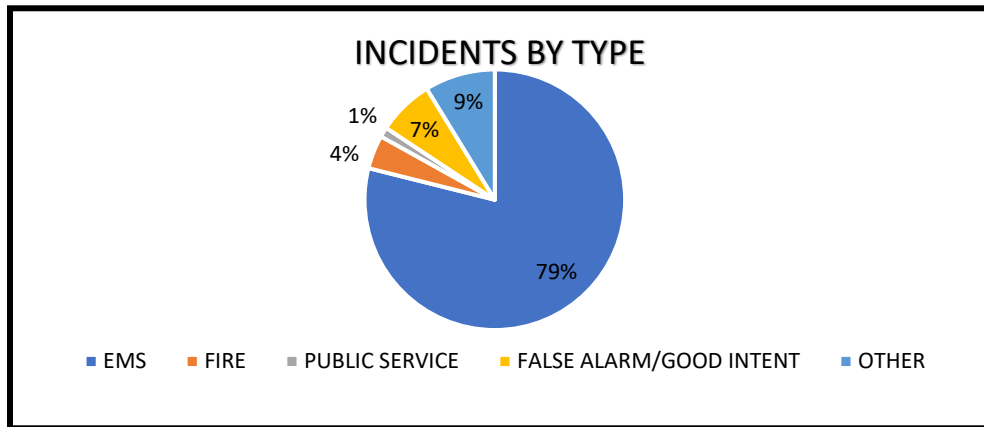
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	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
General Fund	1,704	1,610	1,646	1,752
Employment Reserve	604	1,084	0	161
Equipment Reserve	665	677	557	678
Building Reserve	94	102	163	195
Technology Reserve	0	0	0	0
End Fund Balance	3,066	3,473	2,366	2,786

2021 Call Response

Three work shifts are staffed by a Shift Commander/Paramedic and two career Engineer/Paramedics. Resident volunteers work 48-hour shifts with 96 hours off. Additional staffing needs are met by District volunteers.

During 2021, the District responded to 1,222 emergencies including 51 fire-related calls, 965 EMS related calls, 15 public service calls, 85 false alarm/good intent calls and 107 other calls. Emergency call volume increased about 8% from last year. Patients who sought treatment at the main fire station totaled 21 for 2021. This was a significant decline for the second straight year (71%) and is attributed to COVID. The District responded to 181 back-to-back incidents. Back-to-back incidents occur when a second incident is dispatched prior to the completion of the first incident.



Structure Fire on Mountain View Road - 2021

Training

Training is an important component to our Fire District and the safety of our employees and volunteers. Volunteer drills are held on Tuesday nights at 7 pm every week. A majority of Tuesday night training was restricted to online only due to COVID-19 restrictions. Additionally, career staff and volunteers trained throughout the year in order to earn new certifications and keep up on current certifications. 46 volunteer certifications and 9 career certifications were earned in 2021. The District also successfully completed recertification of national standard fire certifications through the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST). The DPSST certifies/licenses fire service professionals in the State of Oregon.

TRAINING HOURS

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Volunteer	5538	5510	5549	3366	3927
Career	2834	2729	2081	1485	1694

FIREFIGHTER 1 RECRUIT ACADEMY

The District held two Firefighter 1 Recruit Academies in 2021. One was held in the spring with two new recruits and one in the fall with 4 new recruits. The ten-week academy is designed to certify the recruits to Firefighter 1. These recruits will help to supplement staffing in both Sisters-Camp Sherman and Cloverdale Fire Districts at the completion of their academy. The academy, taught primarily by Captain



and Volunteer Coordinator Jeff Liming, teaches the minimum job performance requirements for firefighters whose duties are primarily structural in nature.

OTHER TRAINING

In-person volunteer drills were able to resume sporadically throughout 2021.

2021 firefighter training included:

- Search and rescue with self bailout techniques and air conservation.
- Lifting, moving and transporting fire victims or downed firefighters.
- Incident command training, which is the foundation of safe operations in some of the most dangerous incidents firefighters respond to.
- Aerial ladder truck training with neighboring agency Black Butte Ranch R.F.P.D.

Additional training throughout 2021 included: annual mandatory Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) fit testing, active shooter, structure fire size-up, FLAG training, RIT/Mayday, wildland fire, pumping operations, tender setup, flue/attic fires and extrication.



2021 EMS training included: cold weather emergencies, heat-related emergencies, pediatric emergencies, mass casualty incidents, emergency medical technician skills, anaphylaxis emergencies and triage.

Emergency Medical Services

The Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District is similar to most modern fire departments in that the majority of 911 emergency calls are for a medical emergency. In 2021, 79% of all emergency 911 calls received were for medical in nature. All Sisters-Camp Sherman career firefighters are also paramedics. Many volunteer firefighters and administrative staff are also certified as paramedics or emergency medical technicians.

The following is a breakdown of emergency response personnel and level of certification in 2021:

Paramedic	16
Emergency Medical Technician	18
Emergency Medical Responder	7
CPR/First Aid only	<u>17</u>
Total Emergency Response Personnel	58

All District emergency medical personnel provide medical care within the framework of standard medical protocols. District personnel also work under the direction of a licensed emergency physician called the Physician Advisor. Dr. Rosenberg is the District's Physician Advisor for 2021. Dr. Rosenberg is also an Emergency Room Physician for St. Charles Medical Center in Bend.

Emergency medical personnel receive annual training to maintain certification levels and also receive specialized training in high risk / low frequency interventions. In 2021 all District paramedics completed Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support – Experienced Provider (ACLS-EP) training.



Pictured right: Physician Advisor Dr. David Rosenberg

Below is a listing of the most frequent types of medical calls and the number of calls received in 2021. Many of these calls result in a transport to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend or Redmond.

2021 Emergency Medical Calls

<u>Call Type</u>	<u># of Calls</u>
Shortness of Breath	51
Chest Pain	51
Altered Mental Status	47
Dizziness/Weakness	41
Fainting (Syncope)	38

Cardiac arrest is not listed as one of the most frequently occurring types of medical calls but it often is the most catastrophic. If CPR is not initiated shortly after the heart stops beating, the chances of survival diminish greatly. Also important to the chances of survival is having access to an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and rapid advanced life support ambulance response. The District actively promotes installation of AED's within the community and provides low-cost community CPR training. The following chart shows the number of cardiac arrests in the greater Sisters area for the past four years.

Cardiac Arrests in Sisters:

2018	2019	2020	2021
14	11	7	9



District staff transfer care to Life Flight crew for transport to hospital.

Membership programs:

The District participates in the FireMed ambulance membership program which provides coverage if residents are transported to the hospital by ground ambulance. Membership provides coverage in over 64,500 square miles of Oregon. In addition to ground transport membership programs, two air ambulance companies provide transport by rotary or fixed wing aircraft for critically injured or sick patients. Life Flight Air Ambulance and Air Link Air Ambulance both operate within Deschutes and Jefferson Counties and offer membership programs. The vast majority of medical patients are transported by ground ambulance.

Ambulance Transports by Type:

Transport Type	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ground Ambulance	472	437	441	509
Air Ambulance	7	7	10	6
Total Transports	479	444	451	515



Resident Volunteer Jake Van Lieu with District ambulance 776



Wildfires

The Grandview Fire was reported at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, July 11 approximately 10 miles Northeast of Sisters on lands protected by the Oregon Department of Forestry and Crooked River National Grassland. Total personnel working the fire was 366 and was estimated at 6,032 acres. This fire impacted the Northeast corner of the Fire District including the Squaw Creek Canyon Estates subdivision.



Photo taken from Grandview Fire

On August 13th, the second conflagration of the Oregon fire season was declared for the Patton Meadow Fire in Lake County near the city of Lakeview. The OSFM mobilized a total of nine task forces and requested the assistance of the state of Washington through EMAC. The District deployed firefighters and equipment to this fire as part of a Central Oregon task force.

The District responded to a total of 26 small brushfires throughout the District in 2021, and 8 bark dust fires.



2021 Accomplishments

1. Facilities

- The heaters inside the bays at Station 703 were replaced with more efficient radiant propane heat.
- A live fire prop construction project began at the Locust Street Training site with completion anticipated in early 2022.



Retired Captain, Gary Lovegren working on the live fire prop.

2. Equipment

- The District received an Office of State Fire Marshal grant for new portable Very High Frequency (VHF) radio equipment.
- Supported Deschutes County 911 in improving radio communications throughout the District on the primary digital radio system.
- The AT&T First Net tower broke ground in Camp Sherman. This will provide improved communications capabilities in the Metolius Basin.

3. Resident Volunteers

- We welcomed three new Resident Volunteers in 2021: Brian Heisler, Jake Van Lieu and Matt Maupin.
- Two of the District's former Resident Volunteers tied the knot. Congratulations to Nic and Rachelle Otasu. Nic is currently serving in the military and Rachelle is working as a Paramedic in Southern California.



- Former Resident Volunteer Emily Spognardi received her Paramedic license and is currently working for a private ambulance company in the San Francisco area. Israel Pintor also received his Paramedic license during 2021 and is now working as a Medic at McMinnville Fire.
- Avery Deutz (pictured left) completed his Paramedic schooling in Texas in early 2021 and is now back as a Resident Volunteer for the District completing his fire science degree. He received his National Registry EMT-Paramedic license in the fall.

4. Staffing Changes & Accomplishments

- A-Shift Captain Thornton Brown (pictured right) retired from the District after 31 years of service. Captain Brown joined the volunteer ranks in September 1990 and was hired as a Firefighter/Paramedic on January 1, 1994. Captain Brown's construction background was a huge asset in leading many major District facilities projects over the years including major remodels of three stations and the District's training grounds development. Captain Brown will re-join the volunteer ranks and continue to serve the District in the future.



- A-Shift Engineer/Paramedic Cody Meredith successfully completed a promotional process and was hired as the new Shift Commander for A-Shift. Captain Meredith began as a Resident Volunteer with the District in August 2008 directly out of high school. Cody left the District for his Paramedic internship in the summer of 2010 and was hired at Metro West (2011) and later McMinnville Fire before returning to the District when he was hired as a Firefighter/Paramedic in 2012.



- Volunteer Firefighter/Paramedic Dominic Dertorossian was hired as a temporary employee to cover the vacancy on A-Shift until a hiring process can be completed in 2022 to permanently fill out A-Shift.
- Heather Miller, the District's Prevention and Education Chair retired after accepting a job with the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal. Heather joined as a volunteer in prevention/education in April 2014. Heather was a leader in senior safety with an emphasis on falls as well as other programs including: station tours, Firebusters, Team Teaching, Smoke Alarm Program, Sound Off Program, Fire Free and much more.



- Volunteer Captain Dave Wellington officially retired from the District in 2021. Captain Wellington joined as a volunteer in April 2003 shortly after retiring from his career employment with Hillsboro Fire as a Battalion Chief. Dave was promoted to Captain of Station 703 in July 2005, was a program lead for the Sisters High School Fire and EMS program, spent time as a volunteer coordinator and so much more.



- Firefighter/Paramedic Travis Martin was promoted to Engineer.
- Deputy Chief Tim Craig completed his National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer program (EFO). The EFO program is the premier fire service executive development program, and the flagship program of the National Fire Academy.
- Recruitment & Retention Coordinator Tyler Smith earned his National Registry Paramedic.
- Executive Assistant Julie Spor earned her Associates of Arts Oregon Transfer degree and is continuing her educational goals at Eastern Oregon University to earn a Bachelor’s degree in Accounting.

5. Sisters Country Prepared and Ready Campaign



Continuing the tradition started in 2020, the District prepared and published two preparedness campaigns, one in the spring and one in the fall in hopes to help residents and visitors to be prepared and ready for any disaster in Sisters Country.

Enhanced Interagency Coordination

The Enhanced Interagency Coordination Committee created in September 2017 to find ways for increased regional cooperation completed work in the first few months of 2021 with a recommendation that the Cloverdale Fire District seek voter approval of a local option levy and enter into a shared services agreement with the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District.

The ballot measure failed to pass in May 2021 with 70% voting no. Cloverdale is now seeking a local option levy for additional staffing on their own.

Community Risk & Fire Safety

Doug Green is the District's Community Risk and Fire Safety Manager and oversees the Fire Prevention and Fire Corps programs. Services to the community from these divisions include:

- Plan review for new construction to meet requirements of the Oregon Fire Code.
- City of Sisters Business License Inspections.
- Commercial and Industrial Fire Safety Inspections conducted by a certified Inspector.
- Fire Cause and Origin Investigations in concert with Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office.
- Wildfire Safety such as NFPA Firewise, Local FireFree & IAFC Ready, Set, Go Programs.
- Engine Company Fire & Life Safety Evaluations for low hazard businesses.
- Home fire safety consultations.
- Fire Corps Program.
- Fire safety education and public awareness programs for all ages, school, home & business.
- Fire station tours.
- Regularly scheduled CPR and First Aid classes by certified instructors.
- Child safety car seat clinics.
- Residential smoke alarm program.
- Address sign program.
- Senior Safety Program.
- Blood Pressure Clinics.



In 2021 there were a total of:

<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	
81	76	Commercial Plans Reviewed
19	14	Public Event Plans Reviewed
59	62	Business License Inspections
38	34	Final Commercial Occupancy Inspections
66	68	Annual Inspections
14	18	Engine Company Inspections

Fire Corps & Prevention/Education



Beverly Halcon (pictured top left) is the Chair of the Fire Corps Division of the Fire District. Beverly is responsible for organizing 36 Fire Corps Volunteers and assists with Fire Corps specific projects as well as supports the Fire Prevention/Education Divisions.

Heather Miller (pictured top right) was the volunteer in charge of the Prevention/Public Education programs at Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District. Heather spent many hours educating school-age children and citizens of our community in fire prevention with support from staff & Fire Corps volunteers. Heather retired from the District in 2021 after accepting a job with the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal.

STATION TOURS & SCHOOL PROGRAMS

COVID continued to impact many in-person programs in 2021. The Sisters Elementary School was chosen as the 2021 Firebusters Grand Prize Winner. The winners received a high-flying first responder party at the elementary school with AirLink helicopter flying in “Buster” the fire dog. Topics presented in 2021 included: pedestrian safety, alarm sounds, cell phone use, bicycle safety and evacuation tips. 238 children in the Sisters and Black Butte School Districts participated in the program.

In addition, District volunteers and staff were able to resume some in-person school visits and celebrations including trips to Mountain Montessori, Wellspring Preschool and Firebusters Pizza parties visiting over 120 children in 2021.



Sisters Elementary School Principal is awarded the Grand Prize for Firebusters 2021

SMOKE ALARMS

The District received 19 requests for service of smoke and/or carbon monoxide alarms in the community. Volunteers and staff installed 16 battery-powered smoke alarms and provided 34 batteries. They also installed four carbon monoxide alarms. When checking alarms for functionality, eight smoke alarms did not function when tested. The District-provided alarms were received as part of a grant awarded in 2019.

SENIOR SAFETY PROGRAM

The Senior Safety Committee includes representatives from the Council on Aging of Central Oregon, Sisters Park and Recreation, and Fire District members from both the Operations and Fire Corps Divisions. One large focus of the committee is to reduce fire department responses to falls in the senior population. Many of the traditional senior safety programs were once again put on hold due to COVID restrictions.

- **Senior Health Fair**

The Annual Senior Health Fair usually occurs in September, but was canceled this year due to COVID. The event includes presenters from local physical and massage therapists, hearing, vision, foot and heart specialists, and agency representatives from the Age Friendly Sisters, Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District and Sisters Parks and Recreation District and offers free screenings and information for attendees.

- **Fall Prevention Symposium**

A symposium was not scheduled for 2021 due to COVID. In previous years, presenters such as physical therapists, doctors, chiropractors, eye specialists, pharmacists and social workers bring awareness to fall risks and prevention practices.

- **AARP Driver Safety/CarFit, Senior Lunch Outreach, Tai Chi and Matter of Balance Classes**

These events remained on hold during 2021 due to COVID.

- **Home Safety & Senior Resource Guide**

The home safety program and senior resource guide was developed to bring awareness to residents of fire and fall hazards in the home. Trained volunteers visit homes to check for working smoke alarms, and to walk through the home with the occupant to look for fire and fall hazards listed on a checklist provided by the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal. Five visits were performed in 2021, with COVID limiting outreach.



2,151 Hours
Volunteered
in 2021 from
Fire Corps!

- **File of Life**

The file of life program was developed to assist responders with obtaining a patient’s medical history. The form is filled out by a person prior to needing emergency medical attention, where it may be easier to recall information in a non-stressful situation. The packets are intended to be placed in an obvious location, such as a refrigerator, where responders can easily access it. The committee invited the Black Butte Ranch and Cloverdale Fire Departments to participate as well making the packets available at many doctor’s offices and physical therapy locations in Sisters. 20 packets were distributed in 2021.



Fire Safety Manager Doug Green along with Fire Corps members Schell and Holm completing a wildfire home safety assessment.

WILDFIRE HOME SAFETY ASSESSMENTS

Fire Corps volunteers began accepting requests during the 2020 Preparedness Campaign for residents in Sisters interested in having their home and property assessed to determine how defensible it would be during a wildfire. In 2021, volunteers assessed 21 homes.

ADDRESS SIGN INSTALLATION

Fire Corps volunteers install address signs to help crews quickly locate addresses within the fire district. A total of 67 address signs were made and installed in 2021.

COMMUNITY PARTNER IN HEALTH - Flu Shot Clinics

For the past several years, the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District has partnered with Your Care Medical to provide vaccination clinics to Sisters Country. In 2021, three separate flu vaccination clinics were held (two at Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District community hall and one at Black Butte Ranch Fire).

YOUTH FIRE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

The District has three trained interventionists that evaluate youth who misuse fire and establish a plan for them. The District did not participate in any intervention programs with juveniles during 2021.

INCIDENT SUPPORT VEHICLE

The Fire Corps received the District's retired ambulance (pictured bottom right) in 2021 in order to create an incident support vehicle that Fire Corps members will be able to staff during large-scale incidents or large training events. At the end of 2021, Fire Corps volunteers had spent a total of 78 hours into training, decal removal and stocking of the unit.



SOCIAL MEDIA

Julie Spor manages the social media for the District through the District's website (www.sistersfire.com), Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The District's Facebook page increased its followers last year over 30% to 5,954 followers. Twitter followers increased 8% to 600 Twitter followers. The District's Instagram account was started in August 2019. Instagram account followers increased 67% to 1,095 followers. Social media provides a quick way to disseminate information to the public in real time and the public appreciates it. There were over 260 Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts in 2021. The top three social media posts by reach for 2021 include:

1. Here are a couple of photos of the #GrandviewFire burning northeast of Sisters from @CentralORFire (pictured below) (7/12/21) (28.9k)
2. Grandview Fire Update (7/13/2021) (24.2k)
3. Level 3 Evacuation Notice (7/12/2021) (24.1k)



Pictured left: Top Facebook post for 2021 – Grandview Fire

Pictured bottom: Grandview Fire -07/13/21



Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire & Ambulance Association

The Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire & Ambulance Association (Association) is the social, civic and charitable group of career and non-career District members.



Association President Jeff Liming

The goals of the Association are:

1. Provide opportunity for fellowship between Association members and their families.
2. Support and enhance fire service traditions through community events, educational programs and activities.
3. Raise funds in support of the Jim Gentry Memorial Scholarship Fund, Association-designated charities, District-sanctioned events and special projects.

The Association is governed by a Board consisting of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member At-Large. Monthly meetings of the Association take place on the third Tuesday of each month. In 2021 the Association met virtually due to COVID.

Following are some of the Association's District-sanctioned events and special projects for 2021:

EASTER EGG HUNT

The annual Community Easter Egg Hunt was canceled for a second-year in a row due to the COVID pandemic. In lieu of the public event, the District's volunteers and staff created an Easter coloring contest that was published in the Nugget Newspaper. Winners each received an age-appropriate Easter basket with fire prevention and safety supplies, goodies and socially-distanced visit with the Easter Bunny to collect their prize.



RODEO STANDBY & PARADE

The 2021 Sisters Rodeo held annually on the second weekend in June was canceled for a second year in a row due to COVID.

ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

The annual multi-department chili cook-off was canceled in 2021 due to COVID.

QUILT SHOW

District staff and volunteers (pictured right) provide help in hanging and taking down quilts throughout the entire town of Sisters for the annual Sisters Outdoor Quilt Show. The District also staffs a First Aid booth located centrally within the City during the event. After holding a virtual event last year due to COVID, the event was back on in 2021.



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND

This fund was established to help members of the community who would endure a further hardship without financial assistance. Under this program, employees are allowed to spend up to \$100 to provide assistance beyond basic fire suppression and EMS. The fund has been created from non-public funds, including donations made to the District and employee/volunteer contributions. In 2021, a total of 30 requests for assistance which were filled with a total of over \$598 in gas/food vouchers and bus tickets. Donations to the program from staff, volunteers and the community totaled \$2,000.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS STANDBY & SUPPORT

District volunteers stand by as backup EMS personnel and provide an on-site ambulance for the Sisters High School home football games. Three home games were staffed in 2021.

District staff and volunteers supported the Outlaws Volleyball team as they headed off to the State Volleyball Championships. Photo right.



STAIRCLIMB FUNDRAISER



Sisters-Camp Sherman staff and volunteers raised funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help find a cure for blood cancers. The team raised approximately \$7,311 in 2021. Engineer/Medic David Ward was the lead on fundraising for the District bringing in \$3,582. The event was held virtually for the second year in a row due to COVID.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY FAIR

The District was unable to host its traditional annual Halloween event including a haunted house for children and their families for the second year in a row due to COVID. In lieu of the in-person event, staff and volunteers once again prepared Halloween bags filled with prevention and safety materials and a few holiday treats for over 500 school-age children in Sisters and Black Butte school districts. Staff and volunteers also participated in Halloween drive-through parades at both the Sisters Middle and High Schools handing out candy to those that participated.

JIM GENTRY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Association participates in the Sisters Graduate Resource Organization (Sisters GRO) supporting community efforts aimed at helping Sisters High School students obtain their post-secondary dreams by awarding grants through donated funds to the Association. In 2021, the Association increased the total for scholarships to \$1,000 and recipients included: Dillon Tucker, Emilie Turpen, Austen Heuberger, Pearl Gregg, William Grace and McKenzie Ryan.

CAMP SHERMAN HOLIDAY PARADE

District staff and volunteers were invited to participate in the Black Butte School holiday performance and parade through Camp Sherman.



SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

With a lot of hard work from staff, volunteers and event partners, the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire & Ambulance Association were able to continue a long-standing tradition of providing Christmas gifts to families in need in Sisters Country over the holiday season in a modified fashion again this year. In 2021 over 120 applications for assistance were processed with 50 families requesting gifts for 140 children. Total gift donations are estimated at a value over \$7,000. In addition, the Association received more than \$4,000 in cash donations for this program.



Tables of donated gifts ready for sorting and packaging for the Spirit of Christmas program.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire & Ambulance Association traditionally cooks and serves a community Christmas dinner on Christmas Day serving over 180 people in the Fire District's Community Hall.

In 2021 the event had to be modified again due to COVID. District staff and volunteers continued the tradition of preparing a full Christmas meal at the Sisters Community Church. Then, the food was transported back to the Fire District's Community Hall and packaged up for community members who reserved a meal ahead of time.

On Christmas Day staff and volunteers operated a drive-through pick-up service for the meals. Over 175 meals were handed out in 2021. In addition, the Association received over \$550 in cash donations during the drive-through event.

It takes many volunteers hours to shop for the food, prepare it, serve it and clean up afterwards.

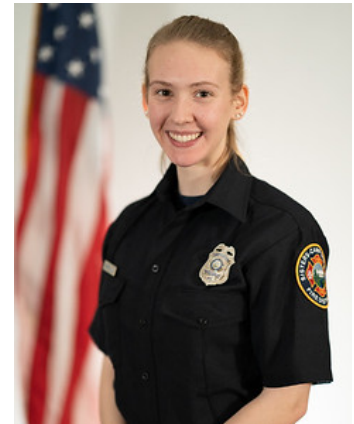


Resident Volunteer Program

The Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District offers individuals 18 years and older the opportunity to apply for the Fire/EMS Resident Volunteer Program. The program is designed to promote knowledge of the basic operating principles of the fire and emergency medical services through day-to-day operations, hands-on experience and actual classroom time. Resident Volunteers are trained on the principles of firefighting, fire prevention, fire control, rescue and emergency medical services.

In addition to in-house training, Resident Volunteers are enrolled in the Fire Science and Paramedic programs at Central Oregon Community College and are assigned to a shift and perform activities with that shift. Resident volunteers will benefit from learning the actual conditions that may be encountered in the job market.

Currently, the program includes five Resident Volunteers and one Resident Volunteer Lieutenant. The Resident Volunteer Lieutenant position is offered to an existing resident based on budget conditions, and allows them to remain in the program for one additional year and earn a bachelor's degree in Fire Service Administration or EMS Administration from Eastern Oregon University. While working under the direct supervision of the Deputy Chief of Operations, the Lieutenant is responsible for many administrative functions within the Resident Volunteer Program. The Resident Volunteer Lieutenant may also be delegated incident management functions under the direct supervision and mentorship of the shift commander.



Pictured above: Lieutenant Rachel Ulm



2021 Resident Volunteers pictured left to right: Brian Heisler, Jake Van Lieu, Matt Maupin, Lt. Rachel Ulm, Tyson Gradwahl, Campbell Clarke and Levi Janssen.

Resident Volunteers Where are they now?

Emily Spognardi *(pictured top right)*

Emily began her Resident Volunteer position with the Fire District in June 2019. As a Resident Volunteer, Emily earned her Associate's Degrees in Structural Fire Science and Paramedicine. She currently resides in San Francisco where she works as a Paramedic and is pursuing Firefighting jobs in the Bay Area. In her free time, she enjoys hiking in National Parks and trail running.



Israel Pintor *(pictured left)*

Israel became a Resident Volunteer at the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District in June 2019 after earning an Associate's Degree in Business at Chemeketa Community College. During his time with the Fire District, Israel earned his Associate's Degree in Paramedicine. Israel was hired as a Firefighter/Paramedic with McMinnville Fire Department in February 2022. He is currently working on completing probation, and is loving every minute of it!





EVERY VOLUNTEER HAS A STORY. START YOURS WITH US!



Photo Credit: Jerry Baldock

For information about Volunteer Opportunities please visit www.sistersfire.com, or scan this QR code with your smart phone.



“Protecting Life and Property through Quality Service”

*We Value: Community, Service, Excellence, Wellness, Respect, Stewardship, Compassion,
Integrity, Innovation, Inclusiveness*