

# Sisters-Camp Sherman Rural Fire Protection District

## 2020 Annual Report



This annual report is dedicated to the people and communities impacted by the 2020 Labor Day wildfires.

*“May we never forget those who lost their lives or homes,  
and resolve ourselves to making our communities more resilient”*



[www.sistersfire.com](http://www.sistersfire.com)

## Table of Contents

<b>Words from the Fire Chief</b> .....	3
<b>Governance</b> .....	5
<b>Organization Chart</b> .....	7
<b>Personnel</b> .....	8
<b>Our Awesome Volunteers</b> .....	9
<b>COVID-19 Pandemic</b> .....	11
<b>Financial Overview</b> .....	13
<b>2020 Call Response</b> .....	17
<b>Training</b> .....	17
<b>Emergency Medical Services</b> .....	20
<b>Wildfires</b> .....	23
Conflagrations .....	23
<b>2020 Accomplishments</b> .....	24
<b>Enhanced Interagency Coordination</b> .....	26
<b>Community Risk &amp; Fire Safety</b> .....	27
<b>Fire Corps &amp; Prevention/Education</b> .....	28
<b>Resident Volunteer Program</b> .....	37
Resident Volunteers.....	38
Where are they now? .....	38



*Crews training on the prop at the District's training site.*

# Words from the Fire Chief



It is an honor to present the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District's (District) 2020 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 life to serving the residents of our community.

2020 was an extremely challenging year for the District, as well as the entire state and country, as Covid-19 spread throughout the world and our local community. Covid-19 impacted the health and security of residents, and required significant changes to how the District responded to emergency incidents. 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 the peak of 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.

As if a global pandemic wasn't enough of a challenge, 2020 brought the most catastrophic wildfires to Oregon since 1936, when strong east winds fanned wildfires destroying the town of Bandon. The Labor Day fires of 2020 burned over 1 million acres, destroyed 4,000 homes, killed 11 people and left many communities in western Oregon in ashes. The District was threatened by two

wildfires in Camp Sherman, each started by lightning on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The Lionshead Fire north of Camp Sherman and the Green Ridge Fire to the east of Camp Sherman, both threatened the community. The Green Ridge Fire was contained prior to the strong Labor Day east winds developed. Due to the location of the Green Ridge Fire, had it not been contained prior to this date, the community of Camp Sherman would have suffered severe damage. The Lionshead Fire was fanned by the strong east winds and crested the summit of the Cascade Mountains and moved to the west, destroying most of the town of Detroit and homes in Idanha. The District deployed firefighters and equipment to Detroit and Idanha in the days after the initial fire front passed. District firefighters were able to prevent further loss of property through their efforts.

The District responded to 1,131 emergency incidents within our District in 2020, an increase of 9% from the year before. 82 percent of the requests for assistance were for medical emergencies. Local residents also seek medical care at the fire station. 72 people sought medical evaluation and treatment at the District's main fire station on Elm Street in 2020. This was a 50% decrease from the year before and was likely attributable to the office being closed to visitors for most of the year.

The District continues to work closely with our neighboring fire districts, and 2020 provided new opportunities for expanded coordination with the Cloverdale Fire District. The Boards of Directors for the two districts authorized the creation of a workgroup to analyze opportunities for enhanced coordination. The work group met for several months utilizing a consultant from Special Districts Association of Oregon. The work group completed their work early in 2021 recommending 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 local option levy will appear on the May ballot.

2020 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

# Governance

## Board of Directors

Position 1: Kristie Miller

Position 2: Roger White

Position 3: Jack McGowan (Secretary)

Position 4: Chuck Newport (President)

Position 5: Bill Rainey (Vice President)

## Term Expires

June 30, 2021

June 30, 2021

June 30, 2021

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.

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 2020 the majority of Board meetings were 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, 2021

June 30, 2021

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 goes before 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 2020 to approve the proposed budget.

## **Civil Service Commission**

Sheryl McLaughlin

Russ Morrison

Ken Jones

## **Term Expires**

June 30, 2022

June 30, 2022

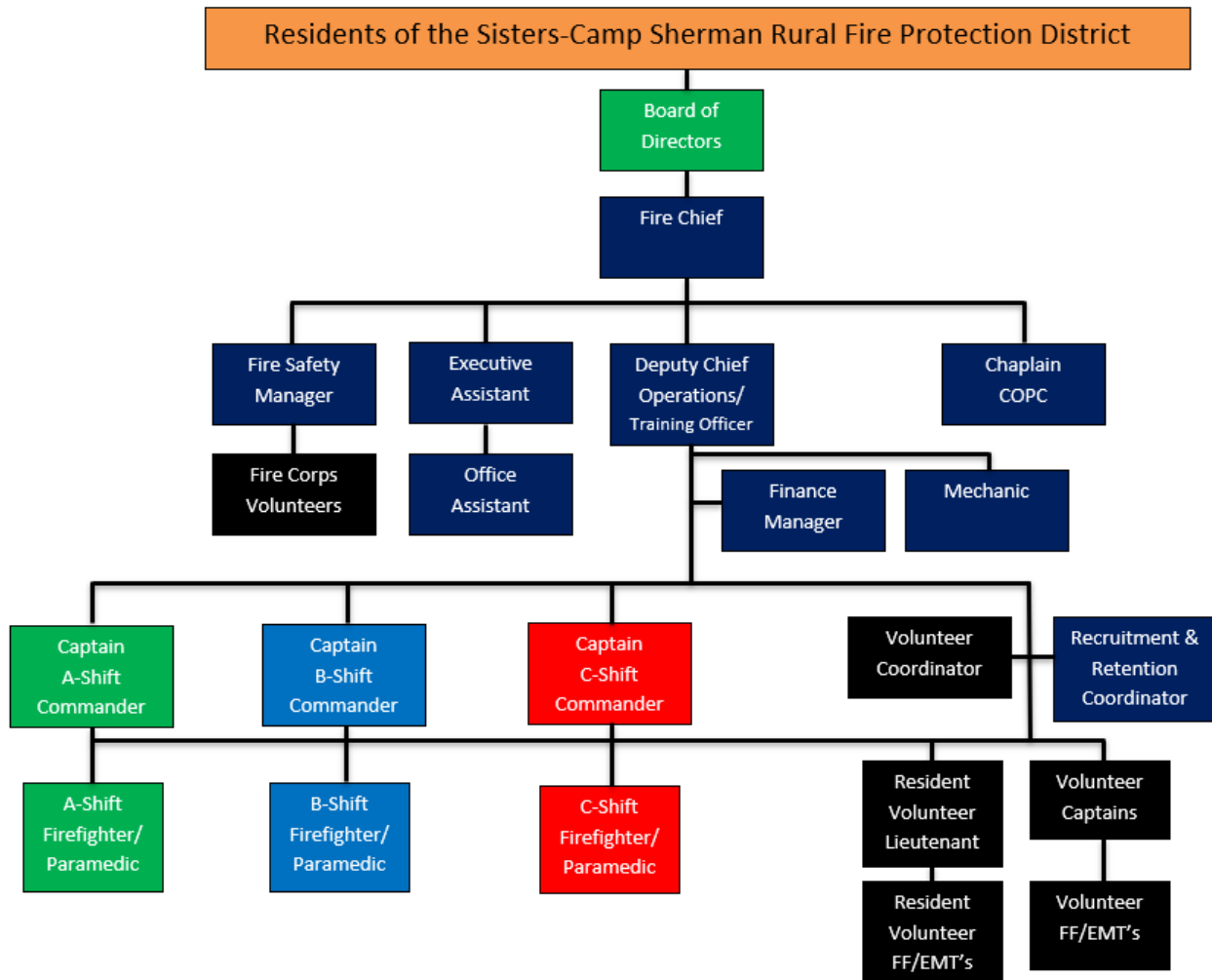
June 30, 2022

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. Two meetings were held in 2020: to approve amended Civil Service Rules and to review and certify the Recruitment and Retention Officer Testing Process.

# Organization Chart

## Organization Chart



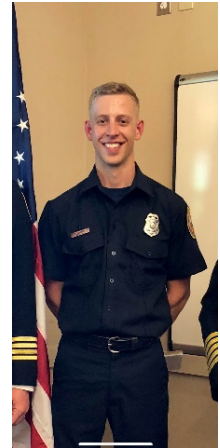
# Personnel

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

*Tyler Smith was hired as the full-time Recruitment and Retention Coordinator. This is a grant-funded position shared by Black Butte Ranch, Cloverdale and Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District.*



*Engineer/Paramedic Travis Martin completed his probationary period and had a badge pinning ceremony as the newest member of C-Shift.*

## Career Staff

### 'A' Shift

Thornton Brown	Shift Commander
Cody Meredith	Engineer/Paramedic
Pat Burke	Engineer/Paramedic

### 'B' Shift

Rob Harrison	Shift Commander
Matt Millar	Engineer/Paramedic
Damon Frutos	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, 2020.

## Firefighting & EMS Volunteers

Ken Ammann	Brennan Guiles	Doug Myers
Travis Bootes	Brad Harbert	Brody Nivens
Angel Cisneros-Thorsvold	Jessica Haury	Jesse Polay
Isaac Crabbe	Bill Hayes	Melody Reilley
Kevin Cramer	Tom Haynes	Peter Renggli
Roy Dean	Steve Huffman	Brian Schultz
Dominic Dertorossian	Ron Ketchum	Mike Terwilliger
Ben Duda	Jeff Lake	Mitch Turpen
John Failla	Jeff Liming, Captain	Jack Wales
Neil Fair	Cait Lucia	Steve Ward, Captain
Jordan Fanning	Scott Michalek	Dave Wellington, Captain
Sarah Ford	Brett Miller	Kyle White
Abraham Gonzalez-Reyes	Dave Moyer, Captain	

## EMS Only Volunteers

Barbara Haynes	Ben Pope	Phyllis Williamson
Rita Hodge		Tom Williamson

## Resident Volunteers

Campbell Clarke	Israel Pintor	Rachel Ulm
Tyson Gradwahl	Emily Spognardi	

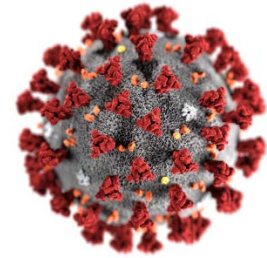


Since its start in 2004, Fire Corps has helped fire and EMS departments in 49 states to build more capacity by engaging community volunteers to assist in a variety of non-emergency roles. Fire Corps Volunteers provide compassionate support to victims of emergencies and support the firefighters by providing 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, 2020:

**Fire Corps/Prevention Volunteers**

David Adler	Ernie Halcon	Nick Newport
Susan Anderson	Barbara Holm	Dave Parman
Steven Anderson	Retha Lange	Rick Retzman
Gail Butler	Charlene Leep	Jeannie Sandeck
Chris Carr	Roxanne Lenahan	Les Schell
Chris Drew	Marjorie Lombardo	Larry Stuker
Philip Drew	Marcel Luz	Martha Stuker
David Gentry	Marsha Marr	Lois Wilson
Rick Gillaspie	Kirk Metzger	Jay Wymer
Beverly Halcon	Heather Miller	Katie Yates

# COVID-19 Pandemic



On January 9, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) announced a mysterious Coronavirus-related pneumonia (COVID-19) in Wuhan, China. Within a short period of time, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) began to see more cases pop up in places like Thailand and Japan causing the CDC to start screening for the disease in three U.S. airports that regularly pick-up passengers in the locations of the outbreak. On January 21, 2020 the CDC confirmed the first U.S. Coronavirus case in Washington State and a Chinese scientist confirms evidence of human-to-human transmission of the virus. By the end of January 2020, the WHO issued a global health emergency and shortly thereafter global air travel was restricted. On February 3, 2020 the U.S. declared a public health emergency, and by the end of February the CDC claims that COVID-19 meets two of three criteria for pandemic status. The first presumptive case of COVID-19 was discovered in Oregon on February 28, 2020.

Beginning on March 4, 2020 Chief Johnson and other management staff began to take steps to prepare the District's responders and staff for the likelihood of the virus appearing in Central Oregon. Staff attended multiple conference calls and webinars on a daily basis. The Deschutes County Health department started operating an emergency operations center (EOC) to coordinate local efforts to deal with the pandemic.

Staff began planning at the District-level by looking at internal practices and procurement to ensure responders had adequate supplies and protective equipment. District ambulances were stocked with N-95 masks, protective eyewear and Tyvek suits. Orders were placed for disposable gowns, additional sanitation supplies for both facilities and vehicles, thermometers, gloves and more personal protective gear. Dispatch and treatment protocols were put into place, as well as operational changes to limit the number of personnel needed for each type of call. Changes to office practices were also implemented including development of infection control practices for front office staff and directing visitors to the station not to enter the building if they were experiencing any flu-like symptoms.



*Resident Volunteer Campbell Clarke showing off the new Tyvek suits now required for any suspected COVID response.*

On March 8, 2020 Governor Brown declared a State of Emergency in Oregon and the Oregon Legislative Emergency Board approved \$5 million in state funding for coronavirus response. By mid-March the District had transitioned all in-person Tuesday night drills to online format. The Northwest Fire agencies of Black Butte Ranch, Cloverdale and Sisters-Camp Sherman began operating in a unified manner in regards to COVID-related changes. Further changes to business



operations at the District included keeping doors locked to visitors and encouraging normal business to be conducted by phone or email. Community Hall reservations were canceled or put on hold. Extensive training was assigned to all personnel regarding how to properly put on and remove personal protective equipment, application of new guidelines and patient interviews from a safe distance. Governor Brown announced all K-12 schools will close through the end of March and implements statewide cancellation of all events and gatherings larger than 25 people with certain exemptions. Office staff that were able to, began working from home. The Fire District's annual awards ceremony and dinner are canceled.

On April 7, 2020 Northwest Fire agencies began requiring daily wellness checks for all personnel within their fire stations. Tests were conducted twice daily and included a health questionnaire to report any symptoms as well as temperature checks. Points of entry by staff and volunteers at the stations were limited to two doors. Governor Brown extends the closure of K-12 public schools through the end of the academic year. Stay at home orders and bans on dine-in at restaurants are extended. The Fire District sponsored Community Easter Egg Hunt is canceled for the first time.

During May 2020, 31 of Oregon's 36 counties gained approval for a partial re-opening, part of a 3-phase re-opening plan developed by the State. Within weeks of the partial re-opening several counties see a spike in new cases. Changes to wildland fire response are implemented to comply with COVID social distancing restrictions and adjustments are made to personal protective equipment requirements. Additionally, staffing of emergency calls continue to be limited to essential personnel only. Personnel at the fire station is restricted to essential staff only and volunteer time is limited. During the District's budget process, the Board adopts financial management contingency plans in the event the pandemic disrupts the District's revenue stream. Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) allocates funding to reimburse local governments for certain COVID-related expenses. The reimbursement is expected to be less than 100% of expenditures. Expenses related to COVID-19 are tracked for potential reimbursement.

During June and July requirements to wear face coverings in public is implemented for some counties followed by a requirement for them to be worn in indoor public spaces throughout the state of Oregon. Governor Brown issued a statewide ban on indoor social get-togethers of more than ten people. August 2020 new face covering requirements for public and private office work are implemented across Oregon. District personnel participate in the 2020 simulated stair climb for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society after the live event is canceled due to COVID. The District's submits its first reimbursement to OEM

for reimbursement of COVID-related expenses. Total invoices for COVID-related materials and supplies are approximately \$7,200.

In the height of a significant fire season in Oregon, public meetings generally held at local schools or the Fire District Community Hall are held virtually for the first time, to inform residents and visitors about local fires impacting the area. The first grant reimbursement from OEM is received for \$4,600. The Fire District partnered with Your Care to provide multiple community flu shot clinics in an effort to help control a spike in flu cases during COVID. The Fire District sponsored community Halloween Carnival and Safety Fair are canceled for the first time. In lieu of the in-person event, District staff and volunteers prepared Halloween Safety and treat bags to deliver to local schools to be handed out to school-age children.

Nearing the end of 2020 as COVID-19 positive cases ramp up again, Governor Brown implements a new two-week freeze for all of Oregon and recommends all Oregonians work from home when possible. District administrative staff begins an office rotation schedule that allows one administrative staff member to be in the office at one time. Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) implements temporary workplace rules that affect all District facilities. The District's Safety Committee works to adopt and implement the following: COVID exposure risk assessment for all personnel, COVID infection control plan and mandatory training for all personnel. During December 2020, Oregon Health Authority begins vaccine prioritization identifying three phases (1A, 1B and 2), and begins working with local EMS agencies to identify partners to help with vaccine administration. All Fire District personnel are eligible to receive the vaccine in phase 1A, and the Chief Officers for the District poll staff and volunteers to determine who is interested in receiving it. The annual Spirit of Christmas Giving Tree program continues with slight modifications. Toys and gifts are collected as usual, but rather than distribution at the Community Hall like normal, a drive-through system is implemented where families can pull into the line and have their gifts delivered to their car to limit exposure to COVID. The annual Community Christmas Dinner sponsored by the Fire District cannot be held in the Community Hall due to limits on social gatherings and the committee modifies the event to include meals to go through a drive-through system at the main fire station. On December 30, 2020 the first three District staff members received their initial COVID vaccination. Since then, over 55 District staff and volunteer members have been fully vaccinated.



*Fire District staff receiving first dose of COVID Vaccine. Pictured from left to right: Engineer-Medic Cody Meredith, Captain Rob Harrison and Engineer-Medic Matt Millar*

# 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.

## 2019/20 Actual Revenue Summary

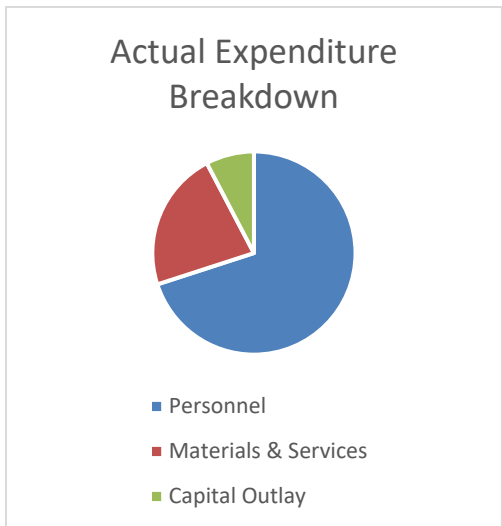
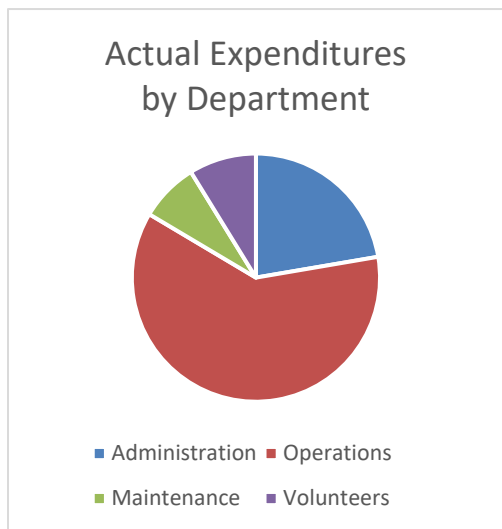
Property Taxes	\$2,851,869
Fees for Service	\$ 465,691
Interest Income	\$ 54,602
Grants	\$ 80,874
Other	\$ <u>81,337</u>
<b>Total 2019/20 Actual Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,534,373</b>

## 2019/20 Actual Expenditures Summary

Administration	\$ 651,603
Operations	\$1,787,987
Maintenance	\$ 224,307
Volunteers	\$ <u>256,450</u>
<b>Total 2019/20 Actual Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,920,347</b>

## 2019/20 Actual Expenditure Breakdown

Personnel Services	\$2,044,437
Materials and Services	\$ 651,603
Capital Outlay	\$ <u>224,307</u>
<b>Total 2019/20 Actual Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,920,347</b>



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.



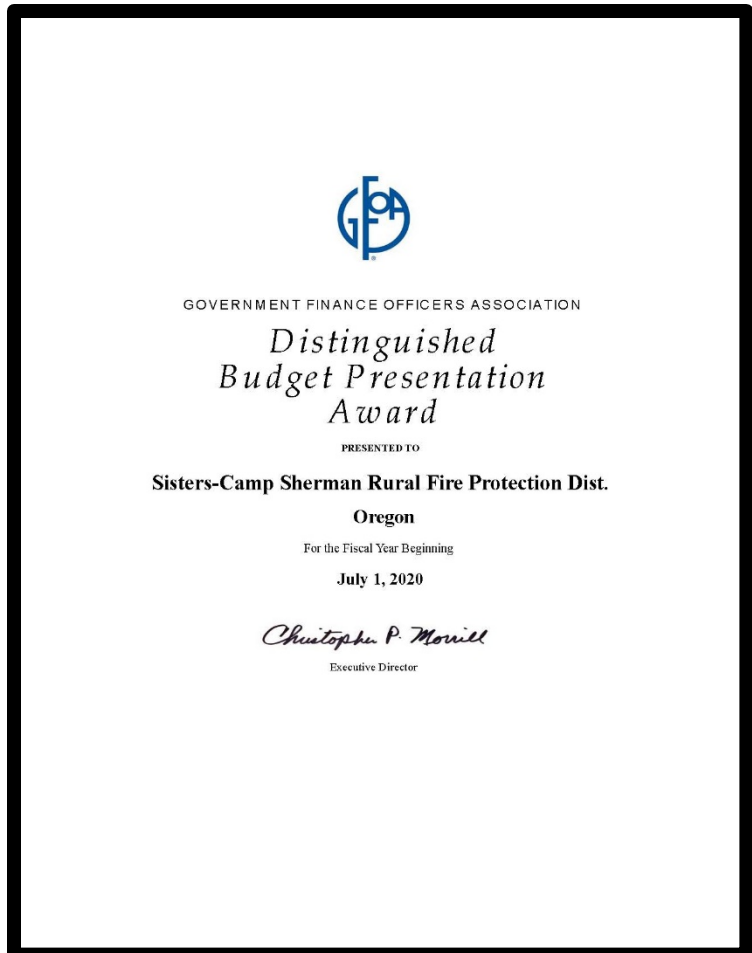
**Ending Fund Balances – June 30, 2020**

General Fund	\$1,646,876
Employment Reserve Fund	\$ -
Equipment Reserve Fund	\$ 557,251
Building Reserve Fund	\$ 162,623
Debt Service Fund	\$ 50,850

**Total Fund Balances 6/30/20 \$2,417,600**

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 2020.

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	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Property Taxes	2,405	2,523	2,660	2,852
Charges for Service	422	420	411	466
Interest	30	51	88	55
Grants	4	184	103	81
Other	14	50	20	81
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2,875</b>	<b>3,228</b>	<b>3,282</b>	<b>3,535</b>

EXPENDITURES	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Personnel	1,871	2,232	1,967	2,044
Materials/Services	536	502	605	652
Capital Outlay	65	42	226	224
Contingency	0	0	0	208
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>2,472</b>	<b>2,776</b>	<b>2,798</b>	<b>3,128</b>

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Change in Fund Bal	39	4	94	36
Beg Fund Balance	1,747	1,708	1,704	1,610
<b>End Fund Balance</b>	<b>1,708</b>	<b>1,704</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>1,646</b>

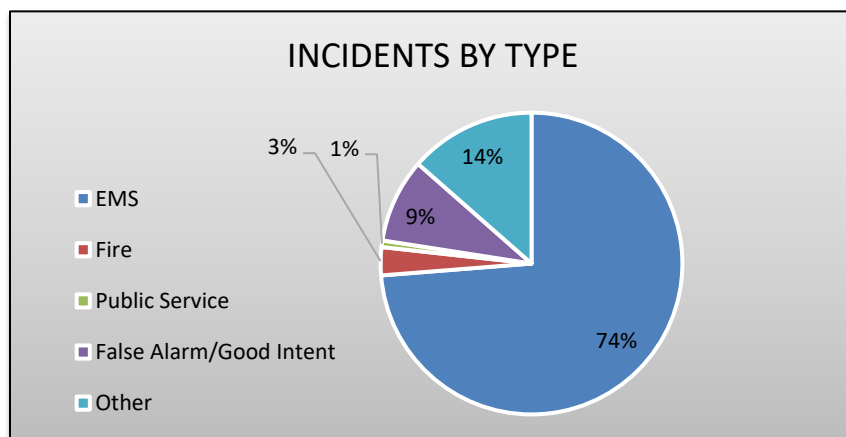
	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
General Fund	1,708	1,704	1,610	1,646
Employment Reserve	139	604	1,084	0
Equipment Reserve	668	665	677	557
Building Reserve	257	94	102	163
Technology Reserve	9	0	0	0
<b>End Fund Balance</b>	<b>2,781</b>	<b>3,066</b>	<b>3,473</b>	<b>2,366</b>



# 2020 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 2020, the District responded to 1,131 emergencies including 34 fire-related calls, 834 EMS related calls, 8 public service calls, 102 false alarm/good intent calls and 153 other calls. Emergency call volume increased about 8% from last year. Patients who sought treatment at the main fire station totaled 72 for 2020. This was a significant decline over the previous year (46%) and is attributed to COVID. The District responded to 193 back-to-back incidents. Back-to-back incidents occur when a second incident is dispatched prior to the completion of the first incident.



## Training

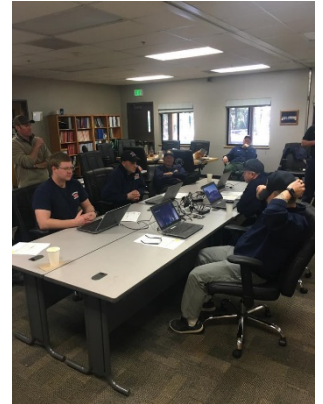
Training is an important component to our Fire District and the safety of our employees and volunteers. Volunteer drills are held on Tuesday nights at 7 pm every week. A majority of Tuesday night training was restricted to online only due to COVID-19 restrictions. Additionally, career staff and volunteers trained throughout the year in order to earn new certifications and keep up on current certifications. 54 volunteer certifications and 9 career certifications were earned in 2020. 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

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Volunteer	4524	5538	5510	5549	3366
Career	1885	2834	2729	2081	1485

### FIRE OFFICER 1 ACADEMY

In January 2020 nine firefighters from Sisters-Camp Sherman, Cloverdale and Black Butte Ranch Fire Districts began their Fire Officer training. This training prepares firefighters to take initial command of incidents such as structural and wildland fires and motor vehicle accidents.



### FIREFIGHTER 1 RECRUIT ACADEMY

In September 2020, eight new recruits from Central Oregon began a ten-week academy to become certified 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.

### INSTRUCTOR RECOGNITION

In December 2020 seven volunteers were recognized for their dedication in training the latest recruit academy. Picture from left to right: FF Travis Bootes, FF Mike Terwilliger, FF Ben Duda, FF Kevin Cramer, Captain Jeff Liming and FF John Failla spent hundreds of hours training and preparing the District's newest



firefighters to ensure they are well trained and prepared to respond to the needs of the community.

## OTHER TRAINING

Much of the training planned for 2020 was modified to include either online study through the District's training software platform Target Solutions, or moved to an outdoor, or small group in-person drill.

Additional training throughout 2020 included: annual mandatory Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) fit testing, active shooter/mass casualty incident, joint officers tactical structural fire size-up, ropes and knots, hose evolutions, low angle rescue, sprinkler alarm systems review, emergency and priority radio traffic, taskforce deployment preparation, structural triage and wildland gear preparation, hazardous materials refresher, firefighter 1 skills, ground ladders, pumping operations and tender set up, master stream deployment, active threat protocol and procedure, pediatric emergencies, live fire training in Redmond, vehicle stabilization and extrication, flue and attic fire review, salvage and overhaul, joint aerial ladder training and building familiarization with Black Butte Ranch Fire Department.



*Pictured above aerial ladder training with Black Butte Ranch Fire; pictured right Big Saturday water drill.*



*Building familiarization training.*

Volunteers and staff also spent countless hours training on new COVID protocols and OSHA-mandated rules.



# 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 2020, 74% of all emergency 911 calls received were for a medical emergency. 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 2020:**

Paramedic	13
Emergency Medical Technician	23
Emergency Medical Responder	7
CPR/First Aid only	<u>19</u>
Total Emergency Response Personnel	62

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 2020. 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 2020 all District paramedics were scheduled to take Advanced Cardiac Life Support continuing education, but it was postponed until 2021 due to COVID.



*District staff responded to a motor vehicle accident on Santiam Pass and transferred care to Life Flight.*

Below is a listing of the most frequent types of medical calls and the number of calls received in 2020. Many of these calls result in a transport to St. Charles Medical Center in Bend or Redmond.

### 2020 Emergency Medical Calls

<u>Call Type</u>	<u># of Calls</u>
Shortness of Breath	56
Syncope	56
Chest Pain	47
Altered Mental Status	41
Weakness	30

*District staff along with Bend Fire Technical Rescue team, OSP, USFS, and others worked a very complicated motor vehicle accident above Suttle Lake. Photo shows responders pulling on a rescue rope to raise an injured victim up a steep embankment.*



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:

2017	2018	2019	2020
10	14	11	7

### 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	2017	2018	2019	2020
Ground Ambulance	496	472	437	441
Air Ambulance	11	7	7	10
Total Transports	507	479	444	451



# Wildfires

The Camp Sherman area experienced some fire activity with the Green Ridge Fire (12 miles northwest of the City of Sisters) that started on August 16, 2020 from a lightning event. Jefferson County ordered evacuations to multiple areas (some within the District) due to the fire, which ultimately burned approximately 4,338 acres. Thankfully no structures within the District were impacted.

However, the wildfires that swept across the State starting on Labor Day were unlike any wildfire disaster seen before. A significant wind event that began on September 7, 2020 triggered what became the greatest wildfire disaster in State history and more than one million acres in Oregon were lost to fire.



## Conflagrations

The Emergency Conflagration Act gives the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal authority to mobilize local structural firefighting resources in response to fire, a heightened danger of fire or a significant reduction in available firefighting resources. Conflagrations are invoked only by the Governor and allow the State Fire Marshal to mobilize firefighters and equipment from around the state. In September 2020 alone, conflagrations were enacted for 13 fires across Oregon. Estimates at the end of October 2020 included three Oregonians missing, more than 4,500 structures destroyed (including homes) and hundreds of families displaced.

The District deployed firefighters and equipment to the Santiam Complex Fire in Detroit and Idanha as part of a Central Oregon structural task force in the days after the initial fire front passed. District firefighters were able to prevent further loss of property through their efforts.

# 2020 Accomplishments

## 1. Facilities

- The bay door reconfiguration project at Station 703 was completed.
- Exterior LED lighting was added at Station 704.
- Additional roof heat tape was added to roofs of Station 701 and 703 to help prevent ice-dams from forming.
- Gutters at Station 701 were replaced.
- The Locust Street Training Site Hydrant project was completed.



*Station 703 – Before Bay Door Reconfiguration pictured above and after pictured below.*

## 2. Equipment

A new ambulance and captain's response vehicle were approved for purchase based on the District's Apparatus Replacement Plan. The new ambulance is expected to be delivered in Spring 2021.

## 3. Resident Volunteers

Two of our Resident Volunteers completed their Paramedicine or Fire Science programs in 2020 and one new Resident Volunteer was selected to participate in our program.



## 4. District Plans & Policies

District staff and volunteers completed updates and the Board of Directors adopted the following in 2020:

- ✓ Strategic Plan
- ✓ Financial Management Contingency Plans
- ✓ Civil Service Rules
- ✓ Public Contracting Rules
- ✓ Wildland Urban Interface Code (WUI)



## 5. Employment Changes

The SAFER Grant funded Volunteer Recruitment and Retention position transitioned from part-time to full-time and Tyler Smith was hired to fill that position.

## 6. Sisters Country Prepared and Ready Campaign

A team from the Fire District created a preparedness campaign “Sisters Country Prepared and Ready,” that would meet the Board’s goal to focus on community preparedness for wildfire, flooding, severe weather events and Cascadia, as well as support the efforts of the Sisters Country Vision Project.

A four-page informational insert was prepared and published in October by staff in partnership with the Nugget Newspaper, Deschutes County Emergency Management and the Oregon Office of Emergency Management. The four-page insert provided readers with information on how to be prepared for any disaster in Sisters Country.



Sisters Country is a magical place, surrounded by majestic mountains and clear flowing rivers. This landscape is also fraught with risk from natural hazards. The beautiful mountains that grace the horizon are actually dormant volcanoes that once were active. The meandering creeks and rivers that flow through our community are subject to flooding and ice dams. Significant wind, hail and snow storms can cause extensive damage. And it is rare to make it through the summer season without a wildfire on the landscape. Even with these natural hazards in our back yard, there isn't a better place to call home.

Thank you for reading the Sisters Country Prepared and Ready publication. This publication was prepared by the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District in partnership with The Nugget Newspaper, Deschutes County Emergency Management and Oregon Office of Emergency Management. Our hope is that you review the following information and evaluate your level of preparedness. We also encourage you to share this

information with friends and family. The Sisters Country Prepared and Ready insert is divided into three distinct sections. The first section encourages residents to be prepared, and provides helpful checklists to make sure you are ready for what could happen at any time. The second section provides specific information about the Cascadia Subduction Zone and how an earthquake on the Oregon coast could have significant impacts in Sisters. This section also includes information on how you and your family can participate in the Great Oregon Shakeout, the world's largest earthquake drill. The last section of the insert is dedicated to home safety and includes important information about how to make your home more resilient to wildfires and prevent kitchen fires. We have also included information about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

We encourage you to keep this insert and to refer to it as you prepare for what could happen in Sisters Country. We also hope you will join us on October 15 for the Great Oregon Shakeout exercise. For more information visit [www.sistersfire.com](http://www.sistersfire.com) or on Facebook [@SCSRFPD](https://www.facebook.com/SCSRFPD).

The Sisters Country Vision Project encourages Sisters residents to be prepared and ready for any type of disaster or emergency.

In 2018, hundreds of Sisters Country residents provided input regarding a shared vision for the future of Sisters Country. From this input, the Sisters Country Vision was born. The Vision consists of 20 Vision Strategies in four focus areas: Prosperous, Livable, Connected, and Resilient Sisters. Within the Resilient Sisters focus area are a total of five vision strategies. Disaster preparedness and response is the fifth strategy and calls for the provision of enhanced coordination of disaster preparedness and response in Sisters Country within the statewide network. Improved and enhanced natural disaster preparedness, and socioeconomic resilience training and education programs are also identified as top priorities. The information provided in this insert supports the efforts of the Sisters Country Vision and provides important information for all Sisters Country residents. For more information about the Sisters Country Vision, visit [www.sistersvision.org](http://www.sistersvision.org).

### Preparedness happens in steps

Jack McGowan has been on a decades-long journey into emergency preparedness. He emphasizes that it is a journey — and it starts with the first steps. Few people can afford to lay in a big stockpile of supplies and gear. Like Jack, they add to it incrementally.

"You don't have to have a lot of economic resources," he said. Looking over his kit, he noted, "This is over many years... You have to take the first step and the first step doesn't have to break the bank."

Thirty-five years ago, when he was working for Mayor Bud Clark of Portland, McGowan got a personal tour of the city's vulnerabilities from Portland's emergency services manager. "I walked away from that a changed man," he said.

Most of us go through our days not thinking about what could — and inevitably will — happen when the earth shakes, the forests burn or a crippling winter storm howls in. Jack learned to think about those things and to be prepared.

"I brought that message everywhere I could," he said. Being prepared means you're ready to keep your family safe — and it means taking the pressure off first responders in a major emergency.

"The more responsibility, the more resilience we put upon ourselves... we can say to those first responders, 'We're OK, you go help others.'"

Preparedness is within everyone's reach with simple steps. It really just requires continued awareness. Every step taken toward greater preparedness creates a greater sense of capability of responsibility and resilience, helping Sisters Country to be ready to take care of our own.



messaging was correct.

Pictured left: A copy of the newspaper insert published as part of the Sisters Country Prepared & Ready campaign. Right: Recruitment & Retention Officer Tyler Smith participates in the Great Shakeout Drill.

# Enhanced Interagency Coordination

In September 2017 the Boards of three local fire districts Black Butte Ranch, Cloverdale and Sisters-Camp Sherman (Northwest Fire Agencies) approved the creation of interagency coordination committees to find ways for increased regional cooperation. Several different committees were created including: operations, training, equipment and finance.

In July 2019, the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District Board of Directors adopted a revision to the Strategic Plan which included a goal (1.6) to increase interagency coordination with neighboring agencies. Several areas of efficiency have been recognized and implemented.

In September 2020, Sisters-Camp Sherman and Cloverdale Fire Districts hired Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) to facilitate further analysis of enhanced interagency coordination through a committee of board and staff members from each agency. The overall goal is to improve emergency services throughout Sisters Country through operational efficiencies, additional funding and consistent training.

The committee held meetings in October and November to evaluate existing and possibly new endeavors that will further enhance coordination and collaboration between Sisters-Camp Sherman and Cloverdale Districts. During the first meeting, the committee developed a timeline, purpose statement and outlined future challenges for each agency. A second meeting was held to review a spectrum of joint operating options/mechanisms and to discuss Cloverdale's priorities for enhanced services and associated costs.

Three joint operating options were ultimately presented to a group of stakeholders including volunteers, officers, boards and employees of each District. Option 1 Cloverdale hires three shift personnel and maintains autonomy; Option 2 Cloverdale hires three shift personnel and contracts with Sisters-Camp Sherman for administrative leadership and oversight, functioning as one organization operationally while maintaining autonomy of board and budgets; finally, Option 3 Cloverdale annexes into Sisters and Cloverdale Fire District dissolves.

The Committee presented options to their respective Boards of Directors in November where each agreed to move forward with the Committee researching and analyzing further Option 2.

The work group completed their work within the first few months of 2021 recommending 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 local option levy will appear on the May 2021 ballot.

# 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 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 2020 there were a total of:

<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<i>*Note significant reductions in some services due to COVID restrictions.</i>
76	88	Commercial Plans Reviewed
14	84	Public Event Plans Reviewed
62	664	Business License Inspections
34	23	Final Commercial Occupancy Inspections
68	75	Annual Inspections
18	64	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 30 Fire Corps Volunteers and assists with Fire Corps specific projects as well as supports the Fire Prevention/Education Divisions.

Heather Miller (pictured top right) is the volunteer in charge of the Prevention/Public Education programs at Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District. She spends many hours educating school-age children and citizens of our community in fire prevention with support from staff & Fire Corps volunteers.

## **STATION TOURS & SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

Due to COVID there were no station tours or classroom visits in 2020. The Firebusters program went virtual in 2020 due to COVID. 327 kindergarten through fifth grade students from Sisters Elementary, Sisters Middle and Black Butte schools participated in the program. Topics presented in 2020 included: gun safety, being a good passenger in a vehicle, seatbelt safety, making good decisions about fire and campfire safety.

## **SMOKE ALARMS**

The District received 30 requests for service of smoke and/or carbon monoxide alarms in the community. Volunteers and staff installed 8 battery-powered smoke alarms and provided 24 batteries. 5 batteries were provided by the resident. When checking alarms for functionality, one smoke alarm 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 canceled in 2020 due to COVID restrictions.

- **Senior Health Fair**

The 4th 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 third symposium was not scheduled for 2020 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**

This event was canceled during 2020 due to COVID. The committee had planned one outreach event for seniors and a second event for new, high school age drivers. CarFit events assist drivers in adjusting vehicle equipment such as seat belts, steering wheels and mirrors for proper fit.

- **Senior Lunch Outreach**

Senior lunch gatherings were canceled in 2020 due to COVID.

- **Matter of Balance**

This evidence-based class was presented one time at the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District Community Hall. 5 seniors participated in the 8-week classes, learning exercises and building awareness to decrease fall risk.

- **Tai Chi**

Based on fall prevention recommendations from the CDC, Tai Chi instructor Shannon Rackowski partnered with Sisters Drug to present a class free of charge to the community once per week at SPRD, and a second at The Lodge Assisted Living Facility. In the few months that the program was offered prior to the COVID lockdown, approximately 150 people attended class.

- **Senior Resource Guide**

The committee partnered with Age-Friendly Sisters Country to continue distributing a resource guide for seniors in the Sisters area. Contacts include resources from the Council on Aging, SPRD, fire departments, medical providers who accept new Medicare patients, and utility assistance. There is also a Spanish version.



- **Home Safety**

The home safety program 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. Two visits were performed in 2020, with COVID limiting outreach.

- **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.

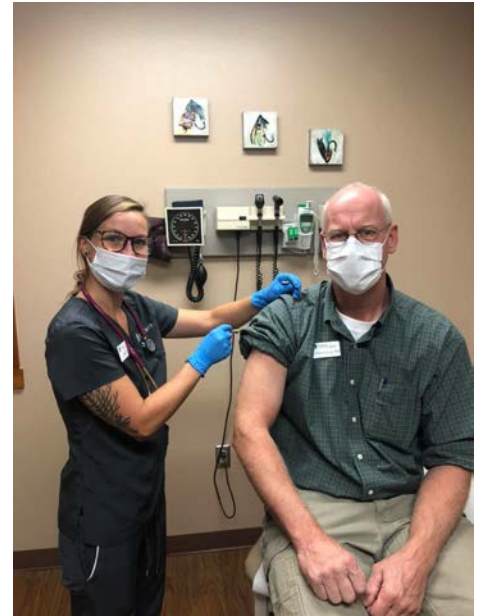
Almost 100 packets were distributed in 2020.

## **ADDRESS SIGN INSTALLATION**

Fire Corps volunteers install address signs to help crews quickly locate addresses within the fire district. A total of 30 address signs were made and installed in 2020.

## 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 2020, three separate flu vaccination clinics were held (two at Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District community hall and one at Black Butte Ranch Fire) where a total of 111 flu vaccines were administered. This total is approximately double what has been administered in the prior year.



*Dr. Wattenburg receiving his annual flu vaccine.*

## 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 2020.

## BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING

Volunteers staff a Blood Pressure Clinic at Bi-Mart on the third Tuesday of each month and also do blood pressure checks monthly at the senior luncheon. Blood pressure readings totaled 51 for the year. Of those, four were referred to their physician for follow-up on their reading. Fire Corps members discontinued public blood pressure screenings in early 2020 due to COVID.

## CPR/FIRST AID CLASSES

Rick Retzman, Chris Carr, Beverly and Ernie Halcon taught 41 students from Heart of Oregon in Heartsaver CPR/AED and First Aid. Classes for the year were cut short in early 2020 due to COVID.

## CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECKS

One volunteer is certified to check child car seat safety. Regularly scheduled regional car seat clinics were canceled due to COVID. 11 seat checks were performed in 2020 in Sisters.

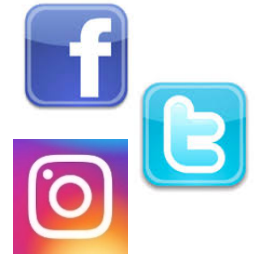
## AED GRANTS

The District set aside grant funds to encourage more businesses in the community to purchase Automated External Defibrillators. Fire Corps member Larry Stuker led the charge and helped coordinate training. An additional 4 AED's were added to our community! Studies have shown that public AED use increases the survivability of a heart attack.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Julie Spor manages the social media for the District through the District's website ([www.sistersfire.com](http://www.sistersfire.com)), Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The District's Facebook page increased its followers last year over 23% to 4,562 followers. Twitter followers increased 15% to 557 Twitter followers. The District's Instagram account was started in August 2019. The Instagram account has 654 followers. Social media provides a quick way to disseminate information to the public in real time and the public appreciates it. There were over 240 Facebook and Twitter posts in 2020 and 67 Instagram posts. The top five posts and people reached were:

1. Increased fire behavior on Green Ridge fire (pictured below) (8/18/20) (41.2k)
2. Structural Task Force to Santiam Complex (9/10/20) (23.3k)
3. C-Shift gives tour of Engine 726 (18.8k)
4. Staff return from Santiam Complex fire (13.6k)
5. Air resources assigned to Green Ridge fire (12.4k)



*Pictured left: Top Facebook post for 2020 – Green Ridge Fire.*

*Pictured bottom: Sending a structural task force to the Santiam Complex Fire*





# 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.

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.



*Association President Jeff Liming*

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 2020 the Association met virtually due to COVID.

Following are some of the Association's District-sanctioned events and special projects for 2020:

## **EASTER EGG HUNT**

Hundreds of eager egg hunters from infant to 11 years old turn out for the annual Sisters Easter Egg Hunt at Creekside Park. The Easter egg hunt is co-sponsored by the Sisters-Camp Sherman and Cloverdale fire department volunteer associations. More than twenty volunteers hide 6,000 plastic eggs throughout the park for two hours. The eggs are snatched up in about 5 minutes. Sadly, the event had to be canceled in 2020 due to COVID.

## **RODEO STANDBY & PARADE**

The 2020 Sisters Rodeo held annually on the second weekend in June was canceled due to COVID.

## **ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF**

The annual multi-department chili cook-off was canceled in 2020 due to COVID.

## QUILT SHOW

District staff and volunteers 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. In normal circumstances, Sisters welcomes more than 10,000 visitors from all 50 states and 27 foreign countries that arrive by tour bus, RV, bicycle, motor vehicle and even on foot to take it all in. In 2020 this event was “reimagined” and held virtually due to COVID.



## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS STANDBY

Local high school sport events were canceled across the board during 2020 due to COVID. District volunteers normally stand by as backup EMS personnel and provide an on-site ambulance for the Sisters High School home football games as well as the SALI lacrosse tournament.

## COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE FUND

This fund has been set up 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 2020, a total of 61 requests for assistance were filled with a total of over \$792 in gas/food vouchers and bus tickets.

## 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 \$18,000 in 2020. The event was ultimately canceled due to COVID and a virtual event was held instead.



*2020 Sisters Country Stairclimb Team*

## SPARROW CLUB FUNDRAISER

District staff and volunteers participated in a Sparrow Club charity run/walk at Summit High School in Bend to raise funds to help cover medical bills for a local boy, Tytan Neff who is battling cancer.

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY FAIR

The District was unable to host its traditional annual Halloween event including a haunted house for children and their families in 2020 due to COVID. In lieu of the in-person event, staff and volunteers prepared Halloween bags filled with prevention and safety materials and a few holiday treats for over 360 school-age children in Sisters and Black Butte school districts.

## 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 2020, 40 applicants were submitted for the Jim Gentry Memorial scholarship. The Association's Scholarship Committee chose four students who each received the \$750 award: Charmaine Owens, Karina Bowen, Madison Anderson and Daniel Schmidt.

## SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

With a lot of hard work from staff, volunteers and event partners, the Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire & Ambulance 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. Over 150 applications for assistance were processed with 80 families requesting gifts for 202 children with total gifts donated at a value over \$10,000. In addition, the Association received approximately \$10,000 in cash donations for this program.



*Sparrow Tytan Neff pictured above with District personnel who participated in charity run/walk.*



*Staff and volunteers prepare Spirit of Christmas family bags for distribution day.*

## 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.

During 2020 the event had to be modified 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 150 meals were handed out in 2020.

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

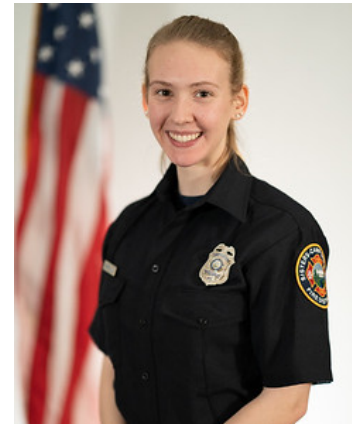


*Cars in line to pick up their Christmas Dinner prepared by volunteers and staff on Christmas Day.*

# Resident Volunteer Program

The Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire District offers individuals 18 years and older the opportunity to apply for their 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.



Pictured above: Lieutenant Rachel Ulm

Currently, the program includes four 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. A promotion to Resident Volunteer Lieutenant comes along with the fourth-year scholarship. 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 left to right: Tyson Gradwahl, Israel Pintor, Emily Spognardi and Campbell Clarke

## Resident Volunteers Where are they now?

**Andrew Pace** (pictured top right)

Andrew began his time with the District in June 2017 as a newly-recruited Resident Volunteer. He completed his EMT and Firefighter certifications while obtaining an Associate's Degree in Structural Fire Science. Andrew spent the latter half of his time as a Resident Volunteer living at Station 704 in Camp Sherman. Andrew enjoyed the District's close proximity to the Cascade mountains, tight-knit community and the area's famed Metolius River. Since leaving Sisters, Andrew has completed his probationary year as a Firefighter/EMT with the Missoula City Fire Department in western Montana.



**Connor Briggs** (pictured left)

Connor started with the Fire District in 2013 as a volunteer EMT. After his first year, he entered the Resident Volunteer program and completed his Associate's Degrees in Fire Science and EMS. After earning his degrees, Connor took a job in 2016 as a Paramedic on a private ambulance in the Portland Metro area. In 2017 Connor was hired as a career Firefighter/Paramedic with Canby Fire District #62, and has continued to enjoy working there!

**Luke Boskovich** (pictured right)

Luke began his Resident Volunteer position with the Fire District directly after graduating high school in 2011. As a Resident Volunteer, Luke earned his Associate's Degrees in Structural Fire Science and EMS. Luke was hired as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Bend Fire and Rescue in 2015. Since getting hired with Bend, Luke has completed his Bachelor's Degree in Fire Service Administration, and is currently on the Engineer promotional list.





*“Protecting Life and Property through Quality Service”*

*We Value:*

*Community  
Service  
Excellence  
Wellness  
Respect  
Stewardship  
Compassion  
Integrity  
Innovation  
Inclusiveness*