

MAASH POINT

Who Is Lane County Fire District #1?



Lane County Fire District #1 provides a wide range of fire suppression, public education, fire prevention and emergency medical/rescue services to its patrons. The District covers over 200 square miles and includes the communities of Crow, Elmira, Noti, Veneta and Walton. Major roads within the fire district include Butler, Central, Gimble Hill, Highway 126, Lawrence, Lorane Highway, Spencer Creek, Territorial, Vaughn and Wolf Creek. Nearly 7000 residential and business addresses are served with a total population approaching 15,000. Last year LCFD#1 responded to well over 1,000 emergency calls.

In addition, a significant task of the Board is to establish a direction for the District through long-range planning. We are currently in the early developmental stages of such a plan. You can expect that we will be requesting input from our community throughout this important process. I look forward to working with the Board, our career and volunteer staff and the community in order to identify and deliver the desired level of service to our citizens.

Welcome aboard Tim, Del and Mike.

Have a Healthy & Safe Summer

By Chris Benson, EMS Coordinator



From the Fire Chief's Desk

By Marty Nelson, LCFD#1 Chief

Summer is here, the mud is drying up, and a variety of gardens are seeded and growing. For Lane County Fire District #1, the May election planted three new board members in our governing body, Tim Baune (Crow area), Del Hawkins (Spencer Creek area) and Mike Montgomery (Noti area). At the July 9, 2003 Board meeting, each Board member took the oath of office finalizing the effects of the election.

All of us here at Lane County Fire District #1 would love to get to know you better. However, we know that you would prefer not to have that happen because you called us for an emergency. So please, take a moment to consider your safety as we enter a season that accounts for a lot of injuries.

One way to stay healthy is to stay hydrated during this season's hot days. Dehydration plays a role in a good portion of the calls that we receive in the summer. It alters your judgment, makes you more prone to injury, and significantly exacerbates existing medical conditions such as Diabetes, Asthma, seizures and heart disease, to name a few.

Dehydration can sneak up on us during the heat, but fortunately it is easily prevented with a little forethought. Make sure you're drinking fluids before you feel thirsty so that you stay hydrated instead of trying to play catch up. Drink juice,

(continued on page 2)

The Board of Directors is to be commended for their dedication and willingness to serve our community. These elected volunteers must study the basic laws, rules and regulations that apply to the governing and operations of Lane County Fire District #1. They must then apply that knowledge in a practical manner to bring about effective policy making.

Healthy and Safe Summer (continued)

water, or sport drinks instead of alcohol and soda. Alcohol and soda will actually contribute to your dehydration instead of improving it. Staying hydrated will help you feel better, play longer, and hopefully keep you from needing our services. We share a goal . . . for everyone to have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Protecting Your Home from Wildland Fires



With the onset of summer, it is time once again for home- owners to review the precautions that need to be taken to help protect families and homes from wildland fires. Lane County Fire District #1 has published a list of steps that can be taken to reduce the risk of a devastating brush, field or forest fire. It is available at our main fire station, located in Veneta at 88050 Territorial Highway. We also offer limited on-site consultation with homeowners. This can be arranged by calling 935-2226.

A brief overview of some of the major steps that can be taken to reduce the risk to life and property from wildland fires includes:

- Develop a fire plan with your family in case of fire, including escape routes and a place to meet once outside.
- Your address should be clearly visible from the road.
- The driveway/road to your home and other structures needs to be accessible to fire equipment—at least 12 feet wide, with negotiable curves and adequate room for turning vehicles around.

- Trim trees so that their branches don’t hang over any portion of your home and other structures (barns, outbuildings etc.). Evergreen trees burn easily. Prune their lower limbs to 15 feet above the ground and thin the trees or remove them from around your home.
- Remove all debris from the roof and rain gutters.
- Remove things that burn easily from at least 30 feet around the house and at least 200 feet away on the down hill side.
- Firewood should be stored 30 to 100 feet upslope from your house.
- Block off the open space under your deck with solid sheeting or fine-mesh wire (openings no larger than 1/8th inch). Also use fine-mesh wire to cover exterior attic and under floor vents.
- If you are re-roofing your home, consider using fire-resistant roofing materials such as Class-A asphalt shingles, metal or cement tiles. If you are planning to build a new home, also consider fire-resistant siding such as cement board, brick, or cement block.



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program
Provided by Lane County Fire District #1
By Shannon Benson

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies occur, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of their communities.

(continued on page 3)

“Neighbors Volunteering to Help Neighbors”

CERT Program (continued)

The CERT concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1985 following the earthquakes in Mexico. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) made this training available nationally in 1993. Since this time, CERT programs have been established in more than 340 communities in 45 states.

The CERT training program is a 24-hour course, typically delivered over an eight-week period. Training sessions cover disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, and team operations. The training also includes a disaster simulation in which participants practice skills that they learned throughout the course. The CERT course is taught by trained emergency responders.

The first CERT training will be held later this year. If you have any questions regarding this program, would like to schedule a presentation, or register for the course, please contact Shannon Benson, CERT Program Coordinator, at 935-2226.

CERT goal: To do the most good, for the most people, in the least amount of time.

LCFD#1 Has A Parade Fire Truck

By Mike Ware, LCFD#1 VFA Vice President



When the Crow Valley Fire District merged eight years ago with the Fire Departments of Veneta, Elmira, Noti and Walton, the newly formed Lane County Fire District #1 inherited a 1952 Mack Fire Engine. At one time, this was Crow Valley’s “front line” engine. It had originally been purchased by

Los Angeles County and saw active service in the LA area until the early 1970s. In 1973, Crow Valley purchased the Mack for \$5,000, a considerable sum for a small, struggling rural fire department. Two Crow volunteers went to Los Angeles to retrieve the truck. One of them was Marty Nelson, the current chief of LCFD#1. The trip back to the Crow Valley Fire District took two days, as the Mack’s top speed was only 45 miles per hour!

After Crow Valley merged to become part of LCFD#1, the Mack languished at one of the neighborhood stations, no longer in active service. About two and a half years ago, Jerry Sayles, President of LCFD#1’s Volunteer Firefighters Association, took on the major project of refurbishing the Mack. The purpose was to display a beautiful piece of firefighting apparatus and to spread the word about the quality and dedication of the men and women of Lane County Fire District #1. The refurbishing was paid for out of VFA funds.

Brasher’s Northwest Auto of Eugene did the work on the Mack and donated a significant amount of time and care beyond the refurbishing fee they charged. The fire engine was completely sanded down to bare metal. Dents were pulled and filled and the truck was sealed and primed. Three coats of fire-engine red were applied, along with three “clear” coats. Most of the Mack’s accents were re-chromed and new chrome wheels were added.

Deepest appreciation is extended to Jerry Sayles for his tireless efforts on the Mack restoration project. A hearty thanks is also extended to volunteer firefighter Don Gleason, who has donated countless hours doing mechanical work on the Mack and helping reattach many of the engine’s accessories.

We encourage you to drop by the Veneta Station and see the refurbished Mack. You will also be able to see it in “action” at a number of events this summer and in the Eugene Veterans Parade in November.

Your Fire Department Needs More Volunteers!

We have a critical need for additional volunteers in Lane County Fire District #1, particularly in all areas outside the city of Veneta. Currently many of our neighborhood stations have only two or three volunteers and a few have none!

LCFD#1's slogan and mission is “Neighbors Volunteering to Help Neighbors” and we are dependent upon individuals willing to give up some of their valuable time to be trained as emergency responders. We offer extensive training in fire fighting and rescue and provide opportunities for individuals who wish to be trained in EMS (Emergency Medical Services). To volunteer, you must be at least 16 years of age. The payoff is significant . . . both in providing a vital service to our community and in enormous personal satisfaction. To request an application to become a volunteer, please call our main station, located in Veneta, at 935-2226.

LCFD #1 Responded to 450 Calls from January to June, 2003

- Fires: 36
- Medical: 283
- Motor Vehicle Accidents: 41
- Other: 90

Summer & Fall Calendar of Events

- CPR Classes – Taught monthly. Please call 935-2226 to sign up for “CPR for Adults.” Classes are also offered on “CPR for Children and Infants” on a less frequent basis.
- August – Bicycle Rodeo (watch for our ad or call for information)
- October 5-11 – Fire Prevention Week

Flash Point is published by Lane County Fire District #1 several times each year. Please direct comments and questions to the Editor, Stan Turner, by calling 935-2226 or sending written comments to LCFD#1, P.O. Box 275, Veneta, OR 97487.

Lane County Fire District #1
P.O. Box 275
Veneta, OR 97487

<p>PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID VENETA, OR PERMIT NO. 22</p>
--

POSTAL PATRON - E.C.R.W.S.S.