



From the Chief's Desk

By Marty Nelson



This Fall-Winter edition of *Flash Point* contains a variety of important information worthy of your attention—ranging from ways to winter fire-proof your home to backyard burning and winter health tips. In addition, I want to call your attention to our annual fall Open House, to be held on Saturday, October 9, 2004. The activities at our main station in Veneta offer something for the entire family. We will be distributing important safety information and will be issuing Burn Permits. On behalf of Lane County Fire District #1, I would like to wish you all our very best for a safe and healthy holiday season.



LCFD#1 Open House

By Heather Hill, Prevention Coordinator

LCFD#1 will be holding its annual **Open House** on Saturday, **October 9, 2004**, from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Veneta, Walton and Spencer Creek Stations. This year's theme is "Team Up For Fire Safety."

The Open House at the main station in **Veneta** will feature **tours** of the station and apparatus and fun **activities for children**—including a junior firefighter challenge and an escape maze. **Information** on fire safety will be distributed and there will be **raffle** for a host of prizes. In addition, refreshments will be offered and Burn Permits will be available. At the Spencer Creek and Walton stations, **refreshments** and **Burn Permits** will also be available. You are encouraged to drop by any of the three stations.

A **special Open House** will be held at the **Fox Hollow and Butler Stations** on Saturday, **October 23** from 10 AM to noon. Burn Permits will be available and refreshments will be served.



Winter Fire-Proof Your Home

By Stan Turner, Editor

The fall and winter months are frequently associated with activities related to home heating, holiday decorations and extended periods of home lighting. Here are some tips to help keep you safe and warm and make the season more enjoyable.

If you use a **fireplace** or **wood stove**, have the flu cleaned annually, more frequently if you have to burn "green" or wet

wood. One of our most frequent calls in the winter is for flu fires caused by creosote buildup in chimneys and stove pipes. Such fires can readily extend into walls, ceiling and attics.

Check your **smoke alarms** monthly. If possible, vacuum dust from the face and vents. Press the test buttons to make sure they are functioning. It is advisable to have a smoke alarm in every sleeping area as well as other strategic areas within the home. Alarms that are ten years or older should be replaced with new units (new smoke alarms are required by law to have batteries that last ten years).

Develop a **Home Escape Plan**. Every member of your family should know two ways out of every bedroom and a safe place to meet once outside the home. Practice the plan at least twice each year.

If you use a **portable electric heater** in your home, make sure you have at least 36 inches of empty space around it when in use. Before turning your heater on, vacuum it to remove dust and lint. Your heater should have a "tip over switch" which shuts the heater off if it falls over. When you start the heater, tilt it to one side to see if the switch is working. Check the heater's electric cord for frays or cracks and while the heater is on, feel the cord to see if it is getting hot. Overheated cords are a common cause of fire. Never use an extension cord with a portable heater. Never use kerosene heaters, barbecues, charcoal grills or camp stoves indoors as they can produce carbon monoxide, a deadly odorless and colorless gas.

Holiday decorations such as **candles** should be used with extreme caution. Use sturdy fire-proof candleholders and make sure all candles are away from **flammable material**. Lighted candles should never be left unattended. Use only **holiday lights** that are UL approved. Check them carefully for broken or cracked bulbs, frayed or bare wires and loose connections. If you have a **tree**, buy one that is fresh (the needles are deep-green and flexible), and water it daily. Use small "twinkle" lights. They not only use less electricity but burn much cooler. Decorative trimming should be noncombustible or flame-resistant. In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are small, sharp or breakable. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food as children might try to eat them.

If you have **propane appliances**, make sure they are properly vented. Know the location of the main supply valve from your propane tank. If you smell gas, do not operate any switches, appliances or thermostats. Get everyone outside and away from the building and call 911 from a portable phone (taken outside) or a neighbor's phone.

If you store flammable liquids, make sure they are in tightly sealed containers and placed in a well-vented area away from your home, preferably in a shed or detached garage. When using gasoline powered tools, including generators, log splitters and chain saws, make sure to use them out-of-doors and that have cooled down before refueling them.

have to call us, you can be pretty sure that you are going to be late!



Getting From Our Place to Yours



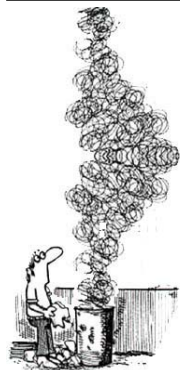
By Heather Hill, Prevention Coordinator

When you call 9-1-1 for help, have you ever wondered how we find you? Dispatch tells us what the address of the caller is and what the nearest cross street is. When we respond, we turn to our map books to find the address given to us.

Our map books are created and updated by some of our Volunteer Firefighters who are hired part-time for the summer. They drive throughout the entire Fire District, approximately 200 square miles, and check that each house is appropriately located on the map. You may have seen them at your house over the past few months.

Map crews also place an address post at each driveway in less residential areas, marking the post with reflective numbers and colored tape. It is important that each address post be visible from the road and easy to read. When checking posts from past years, the crews clean the numbers and replace them as needed, and cut down vegetation around the post so that it is easy to read. The colored tape placed on the post indicates different hazards that our apparatus drivers need to be aware of, so it is important that nothing extra be placed on the post, such as mailboxes or other reflectors.

One other item that the crews look for when addressing is what kind of condition the driveway to each home is in. If a driveway is too steep, narrow, or grown in, we may not be able to provide service to a home. The following guidelines will help you to decide whether your driveway is adequate for our apparatus to travel on:



Backyard Burn Permits

By Stan Turner, Editor

A reminder that if you plan to do any burning of yard debris, you are required by LCFD#1 to get a burn permit. They are available at the main station in Veneta – 88050 Territorial Road – from 8 to 12 or 1 to 5 PM Monday through Friday, beginning October 11, 2004. The usually begins on October 15 of each year, subject to weather conditions. Before you burn,

remember to call the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority (LRAPA) at 726-3976 to find out if it is a “burn day.”

You are permitted to burn yard debris consisting of branch cuttings, tree or shrub clippings and fallen leaves. You may not burn tires, oil or tarpaper, household garbage or paper trash, insulation, industrial waste, construction materials, demolition materials or logging and land clearing debris. The recommended burn pile size is no more than 3 cubic yards, with 20 feet of clearance to combustibles. You should have a shovel and water supply nearby, and always have an adult in attendance. Generally, backyard burning is permitted in LCFD#1 from October 15 through May 31 of each year. However, based upon yearly rainfall and associated fire danger, the season may occasionally be lengthened or shortened.



Winter Health Tips

By Chris Benson, EMS Coordinator

Hello and welcome to the fall. I hope that your summer was safe and enjoyable. As we enter the rainy season (you know the other 10 months of the year) please be very careful out on the roads. With the rain comes less visibility and less traction, making driving much more dangerous. While we strive to provide our district with the highest level of care possible and we enjoy getting to know our patrons, cutting you out of a car is certainly not the best way to start a relationship.

Along with more hazardous driving conditions the change in the weather brings more hazardous footing and increases the likelihood of a fall. This becomes even more of a problem for those with less than perfect vision or balance. There are a few easy ways to prevent the majority of the falls that we respond to. Make sure that handrails are numerous, sturdy, and easy to use. Keep decks and stairs clean and preferably covered with some type of non-slip surface. Most importantly, please slow down just a little with everything that you do, because if you

- Be sure that your driveway has at least 12-14 feet of clear driving width and at least 13 feet of vertical clearance.
- If your driveway is longer than 200 feet, be sure that there is adequate space available for emergency vehicles to turn around.
- If your driveway crosses a culvert or bridge, be sure that the structure is rated to withstand at least 65,000 pounds.
- If you have a gate on your driveway, be sure that it is accessible for fire apparatus. If the gate is electric, contact us regarding the purchase of a lock box. A lock box is a secure box where we can place the gate code and lock it with a special key that is carried on all of our apparatus.

If you have any questions regarding driveway maintenance, please feel free to call us at 935-2226.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

By Shannon Benson, CERT Coordinator



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.

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. 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.

CERT training will be held later this year. If you have any questions regarding this program, would like to schedule a presentation, or would like to register for the course, please contact Shannon Benson, CERT Program Coordinator, at 935-2226. **The CERT goal: To do the most good, for the most people, in the least amount of time.**

New Speed Restriction Laws

By Stan Turner, Editor

Two revisions to statewide speed restriction laws are now in effect related to **School Zones** and **Passing Emergency Vehicles**. These laws may seem to be initially confusing but in reality are quite clear.



Within **School Zones**, schools located on roads with posted speed limits of 35 MPH or higher will either have posted times or a flashing yellow light when vehicle speed is restricted to 20 miles per hour. This currently applies to all schools in the Veneta and Elmira area.



On roads where the speed limit is 30 miles per hour or less, the speed limit in School Zones is 20 miles per hour at all times. The key is to pay close attention whenever approaching a school zone.



The second speed restriction revision is related to maintaining a **safe distance from emergency vehicles** when their lights are flashing. On roads with two or more lanes in a single direction, your must change to a lane not occupied by an emergency vehicle or slow down. On roads with one lane in each direction, you must reduce your speed.

Be vigilant in both School Zones and passing emergency vehicles. Not only is the safety of children and emergency personnel a paramount concern, the traffic tickets for speeding are hefty—from \$123 to \$349, depending on your speed!



LCFD's Volunteer Firefighters Association Hosts Picnic and Softball Challenge

By Stan Turner, VFA President

Saturday, July 17 LCFD#1's Volunteer Firefighters Association hosted a picnic and softball challenge. We were joined by our brother and sister firefighters from Oregon Department of Forestry-Western Lane. For three hundred and sixty-four days and twenty-two hours a year we work closely together answering the call to fight wildland, forest and brush fires. However, for two hours we battled as rivals in a fiercely contested softball game. LCFD#1 fought valiantly with a team that included our two chief officers—one who had heart surgery six months ago and the other who significantly injured his knee in a mad dash to catch a fly ball! In the end, ODF was victorious. LCFD congratulates the young ODF team, however it was the consensus of the LCFD players that in the future a handicap should be awarded to all players over age thirty!

Training News

By Mark Boren, Training Coordinator



The Training Division at Lane County Fire District # 1 is very excited about 8 new recruits that have just finished the recruit academy. The majority of Lane County is protected by Volunteer Firefighters, and the South Willamette Fire Training Association (SWFTA) provides the training for these firefighters. SWFTA is an organization made up of the Fire Districts/Departments in Lane County and is associated with the Oregon Fire Instructor Association (OFIA). The county organization has, during the last year and a half, begun to provide Entry Level Firefighter (ELF) Academies on a county wide training schedule. The ELF academy consists of three weekends of training that cover: search and rescue, ladders, extinguishers, salvage and overhaul, hose and fire streams, Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), personal protective equipment, fire behavior, and safety. A requirement to respond on any emergency scene is the HazMat Awareness/Operations class. This class is offered on a separate weekend but in conjunction with the ELF Academy.



Upcoming Events



- October 2 – 9 AM to 4 PM **Fill the Boot** for the Muscular Dystrophy Association
- October 3 - 1 to 4 PM **Car Seat Clinic** at Veneta Station
- October 9 **Open House**
10 to 3 in Veneta
11 to 1 in Walton and at Spencer Creek
- October 20 - 3 to 7 PM **Bloodmobile** at Veneta Station
- October 23 - 9 AM to 3 PM **Pediatric CPR** class at Veneta Station (please call)
- October 23 – 10 to 12 PM **Open House** at Fox Hollow and Butler Stations
- November 9 - 6 to 9:30 PM **Adult CPR** at Veneta Station (please call)
- December 4- **Holiday Safety** display at Gateway Mall, presented by the Lane Fire Prevention Co-Op
- December 15 - 3 to 7 PM **Bloodmobile** at Veneta Station

Please visit our website at www.lcfd1.org for more information.

Flash Point is published semi-annually by Lane County Fire District #1. 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.

Depending on the time of year, a Wildland firefighting class is also held in conjunction with the ELF Academy. The next ELF Academy is starting the second weekend in October and will run through the second weekend in November. The weekend academy classes are held at different organizations within Lane County, including Coburg, Harrisburg, South Lane County, Lowell, Lane Rural, Santa Clara, Mohawk, McKenzie, Goshen, Lorane or your very own Lane County Fire District #1. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter, please come to our main station in Veneta during business hours and pick up an application and Academy schedule. Just a reminder: Lane County Fire District #1 needs Volunteers from throughout our entire District, which includes Veneta, Elmira, Noti, Walton, Crow, and unincorporated South Eugene areas. All applicants must be at least 16 years of age. If you have any questions please contact Assistant Chief Rod Smith or Training Coordinator Mark Boren by calling 935-2226.

Alarms – January to August:

Total Calls: 559

Medical – 357

Motor Vehicle Accidents – 68

Fire (structure, brush/grass & vehicle) – 45

Other (electrical problems, fuel spills, lifting assistance, public assist, false alarms, etc.) – 89



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