



From the Chief's Desk

By Marty Nelson, LCFD#1 Fire Chief



This edition of Flash Point has several important articles on winter fire safety and how to recognize health emergencies. Please take the time to read them carefully. As a fire department whose primary purpose is to serve the patrons of our District, we would like nothing more than to see a reduction in calls brought about by safe and prudent decisions.

A significant number of our winter fire calls are related to flue fires. At the minimum, a yearly inspection of your wood stove or fireplace, coupled with a thorough cleaning of your flue, will go a long way to reducing the risk of fire. Holiday decorations, particularly lights and candles, and an increase in indoor cooking and use of various heating devices, are also significant causes of winter fires. Careful inspection, preventative maintenance, and proper precautions are all important considerations.

If you live in a rural area, you need to know that it could take us as long as fifteen to twenty minutes to reach your home with sufficient resources. In an emergency, this can be an eternity and make a significant difference in the outcome of your call. You can be proactive by not only heeding fire safety precautions, but also by taking CPR courses and recognizing the signs of a stroke and a heart attack. The quicker medical help arrives, the better the odds that the outcome will be positive.



I would also like to announce our newest apparatus, a Pierce Enforcer fire engine, has been delivered and placed into service at our main station in Veneta. This new engine, the first purchased in fourteen years, significantly improves our ability to respond to fires and motor vehicle accidents. Its advanced lighting system, shorter wheel base, and ability to carry additional equipment will enable us to enhance our response to emergency calls. Over the coming years, we will be faced with replacing additional aging equipment. As we develop our replacement plan, we will be hosting several town hall type meetings to talk with you about our equipment needs.

Fire Department Open House

By Heather Hill, Prevention Coordinator



LCFD #1 will be holding its annual Open House on Saturday, September 30, 2006, from 11 am to 3 pm at the Veneta, Walton, Butler, Fox Hollow and Spencer Creek Stations. In observance of Fire Prevention Week, this year's focus is on cooking fires.

The Open House at the main station in Veneta will feature tours of the apparatus as well as fun activities for children including a Junior Firefighter Challenge and an escape maze. Information on fire safety will be distributed and the Kiwanis Club of Fern Ridge will be on hand to serve barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs for a great price. Burn Permits will also be available. At the Spencer Creek station not only will burn permits and refreshments be available, there will also be several demonstrations on the techniques used for removing patients from damaged motor vehicles. The "extrication" demonstrations are scheduled for 10:00 and 11:00 AM. At the Walton Station, refreshments and burn permits will be available. The Fox Hollow Station will offer burn permits and training in the use of fire extinguishers. Stop by any one of these stations and meet your neighbors.

Special note: Our open houses are being held several weeks early this year. Burn permits will be issued, but it is important to note that burn season will not begin until October 15 (if weather and ground conditions permit). Always remember to call LRAPA before you attempt to burn (the phone number will be on your burn permit).



Fire Prevention Month

By Heather Hill, Prevention Coordinator

October is Fire Prevention Month, chosen as an observance of two of the most devastating fires in America's history, both of which occurred on October 8, 1871. The Great Chicago Fire burned over 17,000 structures, killing 250 people. The Peshtigo Fire in Wisconsin burned 1.2 million acres of land and killed over 1,200 people. To prevent such tragedies from happening again, Fire Prevention Week was created 85 years ago. Each year a theme is chosen, based on the latest fire data, and a campaign is designed to educate people on how to prevent some of the most common causes of fire.

This year’s theme is “Prevent Cooking Fires—Watch What You Heat”. The National Fire Protection Association says that cooking fires are the #1 cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Between 1999-2002, there were 114,000 reported home fires each of these years associated with cooking equipment, resulting in an annual 290 deaths and 4,380 injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home cooking fires. Three in ten reported home fires start in the kitchen—more than any other place in the home.

To prevent a cooking fire in your home, follow these safety tips:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room, even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you have young children, use the stove’s back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves.
- Keep potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper and plastic bags, towels, and anything else that can burn, away from your stovetop.
- Clean up food and grease from burners and stovetops.

- Inspect all appliance cords for cracks and frays.
- Make sure electrical outlets are not overloaded.
- Always be cautious when cooking. Stove caused fires and burns are more frequent in the winter months (for more details see this issue’s “Fire Prevention Month” article on the previous page).
- Never run extension cords under rugs or furniture. Do not use extension cords for appliances drawing heavy amounts of current.
- Never leave burning candles unattended. Use sturdy fire-proof candle holders.
- Use UL approved holiday lights, check them for damaged cords and broken bulbs, and be careful not to overload circuits.
- If you buy a tree for the holidays, make sure it is fresh (needles deep-green and flexible) and water it daily.
- Keep holiday decorations away from candles, holiday lights and other heat sources. If at all possible, holiday decorations should be non-combustible or flame resistant.
- If you have propane appliances, make sure they are properly vented. Know the location of the supply valve. If you smell propane, do not operate any switches. Evacuate your home and call 911 from a portable phone.
- Store flammable liquids in tightly sealed containers, placed in a well-vented area away from your home.
- Use all gas powered tools and equipment out-of-doors and make sure they have cooled down before refilling them.

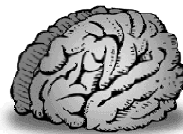


Winter Home Safety Check List

During the winter months we spend a lot more time indoors and the risk of home fires and accidents increase dramatically. Consequently, we remind our patrons annually to conduct a safety check of their home. Below is a check-list of key items to inspect.

- Have your woodstove or fireplace and flue checked annually—more frequently if you burn wood or pellets on a regular basis.
- Check your smoke alarms monthly. Make sure they are free of dust and they operate properly.
- Develop a home escape plan—every family member should know two ways out of every bedroom and a safe place to meet outside.
- Electric portable heaters need to have 36 inches of empty space around them and be attached directly to an outlet. Never use extension cords with portable heaters.

ALERT
for Signs of
STROKE



Know The Signs of Stroke and Heart Attack

Stroke and heart attacks are events that require immediate attention. New treatments for stroke patients, if they are delivered to the hospital in a timely manner, have made a significant difference in the outcome. Rapid intervention for a

“Neighbors Volunteering to Help Neighbors”

www.lcfd1.org

person showing the signs of an impending heart attack or experiencing an attack itself, can make a big difference. At the first signs of either, call 911 to start the EMS (Emergency Medical System) process. The American Heart Association offers the following information:

Warning signs of a stroke:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause

Warning signs of a heart attack:

- Chest discomfort that lasts more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- Discomfort in other areas of the upper body including pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- Shortness of breath which may occur with or without chest discomfort.
- Other signs may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness

Cardiac arrest strikes immediately and without warning.

The signs include:

- Sudden loss of responsiveness (no response to tapping on the shoulders)
- No normal breathing (the victim does not take a normal breath when you tilt their head up and check for at least five seconds)

Your ability to perform CPR is critical to the survival of a patient in cardiac arrest.

The Driver’s Responsibility When Encountering Emergency Vehicles



By Rod Smith, LCFD#1 Assistant Chief

In an emergency, minutes can mean the difference between life and death, and critical seconds can be lost if drivers don’t make way for emergency vehicles. Take warning lights and sirens seriously – make way for an ambulance, fire truck or police vehicle. Someday you may be the one calling for help, or the life on the line might be a friend, neighbor or someone you love.

How you can help: – The **Oregon Driver Manual** states: *You must yield right of way to emergency vehicles, such as fire trucks, police vehicles, and ambulances, when these vehicles approach you from any direction using a light or siren.*

*When you see or hear an emergency vehicle warning, you **must immediately drive as close as is safely practical to the right-hand edge or curb of the road, clear of any intersection, and STOP.** Stay stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed or until a police officer tells you to move.*

If you are on a road with two or more lanes of traffic and you approach an emergency vehicle that is stopped and the warning lights are on, you must change lanes so you do not drive next to the stopped emergency vehicle. If making a lane change is unsafe or you are on a road with one lane in each direction, you must reduce your speed.

What to do when an emergency vehicle is approaching:

1. STAY CALM! Do not slam on the brakes or pull over suddenly.
2. Listen for the direction in which the vehicle is coming.
3. Put on the right-turn signal, and begin to move to the right if possible.
4. Pull off to the right-hand side of the roadway and stop. Do not stop on corners or crests of the road where emergency vehicles cannot safely pass.
5. Remain stopped. Watch for additional emergency vehicles.

What to do if it is not possible to move off of the road:

1. If at all possible, move to the far right of the road.
2. If your vehicle is stopped at a red light and cannot move, stay there. It is better to let the driver of the emergency vehicle move around your vehicle than to pull to the left or into the left turn lane.
3. Do not stop when there is not enough room to pull over safely.

Do not follow within 500 feet of an emergency vehicle when the flashing red lights are on.

Fire District Boundary Signs Coming Soon

Have you ever wondered where our fire district’s boundaries are located? Thanks to the diligent work of LCFD#1 volunteers Mike and Ann Speiser, that mystery will soon be over. After carefully studying area maps and traveling on many roads, they were able to establish the location of the District’s boundaries. In July, LCFD#1 purchased 18 signs stating “Entering Lane County Fire District #1.” They will be installed at strategic boundary locations and will mark the entry to the over 200 square miles of the fire district.



Our Slogan “Neighbors Volunteering to Help Neighbors” now appears on all of our apparatus. It is a reminder to everyone that this fire department is made up of volunteer members who are willing to spend countless hours training and are ready to respond to calls at all hours of the day and night.

Training News

By Mark Boren, Training Coordinator

Your neighbors who are volunteering with Lane County Fire District #1 have attended training sessions totaling 4,601 hrs since the first of the year. Those who have attend drill regularly are prepared to make a positive impact on emergency scenes throughout our fire district. The time spent away from their families is time given to make themselves the best they can be at their craft. If your are interested in becoming a volunteer, contact us at 935-2226 or come by our main station in Veneta during regular business hours.

be held Tuesday, September 19 & Wednesday, September 20 from 6-9:30 PM on both nights. The next Adult First Aid/CPR class will be held Wednesday, October 4 from 6-9:30 PM.

The **Lane Memorial Blood Bank Bloodmobile** makes a regular stop at the Lane County Fire District #1 main station in Veneta. If you are interested in attending the blood drives on the following dates, call 935-2226 for an appointment.

- Wednesday, October 25 3-7 PM
- Wednesday, December 20 3-7 PM



Upcoming Events



Car Seat Clinic: Wednesday Sept. 27, 5:30-7:30 PM
Veneta Station

LCFD#1 Open House: Saturday, September 30

- Veneta Station - 10 AM to 2 PM
- Butler Road, Fox Hollow, Spencer Creek, & Walton stations - 10 AM to Noon

Basic First Aid/CPR classes are offered every month, except for December, and are free of charge to District patrons. The next Pediatric First Aid/CPR class, a two evening course, will

Alarms for August 1, 2005 to July 31, 2006



LCFD#1 responded to a total of 1132 calls over the past year.

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.

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



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