



From the Chief's Desk

By Marty Nelson



We are making good progress on meeting the long-term goals of Lane County Fire District #1. Among them are a number of important upgrades to our stations.

This summer the roof will come off of the Spencer Creek Station so that we can raise the walls to accommodate larger door openings. This station was initially built in 1974 and expanded to include a rescue truck in 1976. At that time, apparatus used for medical calls and motor vehicle accidents were smaller, and a 1965 Chevrolet panel truck filled the bill adequately. Today, such vehicles are considerably larger in order to accommodate the equipment needed to provide the best care possible for the sick and injured. The "rescue" currently assigned to the Spencer Creek Station has only four inches of mirror clearance when going through the door. We are now preparing to order a new rescue for the station, which by necessity will be even larger. Consequently, we have faced a critical decision. Do we order a smaller, less capable apparatus or do we remodel the station in order to accommodate the equipment we need? The decision we've made is to remodel. The current roof will be taken off, the height of the walls will be increased, and the bay doors will be widened. This will bring the Spencer Creek Station up to current and future needs. Though the station will be partially disassembled, crews in this area will continue to respond through some creative apparatus housing.

Another project will be to place a modular home at the Fox Hollow/McBeth Station. By doing this we will be able to expand our Resident Volunteer Program and increase the potential for adequate response to emergencies at the southern end of our district. We expect to give notice of an invitation to bid on this project sometime in early summer.

I am happy to report that each of these projects will be funded using existing monies that have been accumulated through our normal budget process and will not require additional taxes.

A Single Moment In Time

By Jon Jasper, LCFD#1 Firefighter



"A single moment in time can change your entire life." We tell our kids these words all of the time, and then most often ignore them when we tell ourselves "but it won't happen to me or my family."

For years we've heard about the importance of things that will make life safer for us: seatbelts, installing and regularly testing

smoke alarms, having and knowing how to use home fire extinguishers, or not giving in when we know something is not right. Yet, as human beings, we often let common sense slide and ignore even some of the simplest things that could protect us.

In December 2005, my daughter Brooke was in a terrible car accident. She was in a coma for three months, and unlike in the movies, it took her an additional three months to fully 'wake up'. A year and a half later, she is just at the beginning of a very long road to recovery. The portion of her brain that received the most damage was the part that controls motor functions, including movement, speech, and even her ability to eat and swallow. However, we are incredibly thankful because her recovery has been truly miraculous. In spite of her serious injuries, she is now going to school and participating to the best of her ability. Yet, she will never again have a normal life.

According to the other people in the car, Brooke objected to letting another kid who didn't have a license drive that night, but she gave in. To compound the problem, she decided not to wear her seatbelt—something she always did when traveling with her mother and me. Unfortunately, this time was THE time that 'IT' happened. The driver lost control, skidded off the road and the car rolled multiple times. The rest of the occupants emerged with just bumps and scrapes. They were wearing seatbelts. Brooke came very close to death.

I am not writing this article to make you feel depressed or to gain your sympathy for my daughter. Instead I want to stress the importance of not having, and not passing along to today's youth, the 'it won't happen to me' attitude. As a volunteer firefighter with Lane County Fire District #1, I can stress that it CAN happen, and sadly it does frequently. Last year we responded to over 1200 calls and nearly every one was an "I can't believe this is happening to me" situation. Among those calls were a goodly number that occurred because of poor decision-making and denial.

Please remember that the example we set for our kids, our neighbors, and co-workers is the true proof of who we are and how we feel. By showing them that we take seriously the possibility that "someday it could happen to me" could well help keep our kids be safe on prom night, or on the way home from a practice, or any other thousand simple events and routines that they do daily.

(Editor's note: The photo next to this article's heading is a picture of the automobile that contained Jon Jasper's daughter and four other passengers. Jon requested the photo be included as a reminder of the importance of wearing seat belts.)



Protect Your Home and Property from Wildland Fires

By Stan Turner, AIC Lieutenant



If you read our newsletter with regularity, you've noticed that this article is published annually in our spring edition of *Flash Point*. There is a good reason. The threat of devastating wildland fires is very real for much of our fire district. The precautionary steps listed below are by no means exhaustive. LCFD#1 offers more in-depth information at our main station in Veneta (935-2226), so too does the Oregon Department of Forestry (935-2283).

- ▶ Make sure your address is clearly visible from both sides of the road.
- ▶ The driveway/road to your home and other structures needs to be accessible to fire equipment—at least 12 feet of drivable width, with negotiable curves and adequate room for turning vehicles around. Also make sure you have 13 ½ feet of height clearance.
- ▶ 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 your 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 downhill 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). Use fine-mesh wire to cover exterior attic and foundation vents.
- ▶ If you are re-roofing your home, consider using fire-resistant roofing materials such as Class-A asphalt shingles, metal sheets, or cement tiles. If you are planning to build a new home, consider fire-resistant siding such as cement board, brick, or cement block.
- ▶ Develop a "fire plan" with your family in case of fire, including escape routes and a place to meet once outside your home.
- ▶ Protect/preserve your records, documents, and photographs by using a computer and scanner to copy them and burn the files onto several CDs. Keep a copy in a bank safe deposit box and/or send copies to family members, relatives, or friends living outside the area.
- ▶ It is possible that during a major wildland fire you will be asked to evacuate your property. The best time to prepare for a possible evacuation is when there is no immediate threat. The following is a partial list of documents and personal possessions you might want to consider taking with you (consider entering all information and photos on a computer data CD): Insurance policy numbers • Treasured family photos • Contact phone numbers including addresses of key people and agencies that may need to be contacted • Prescription medications and a list of medications taken by family members • Other important documents: Money, credit cards, checks, personal identification; Prescription glasses/contact lenses. If you have pets, don't

forget their food, medication and other key supplies; Keys; and a Survival Kit including: Several days supply of food, water, eating utensils and cooking gear; battery-powered radio or TV; first aid kit; and flashlight.

Make the Right Call: Tips for Using 911

By Tressa Miller, LCFD #1 Firefighter



9-1-1 is your connection to police, fire and ambulance service in times of emergency. The following tips may be helpful, should you need to call 9-1-1 to report an emergency.

- ▶ Use 9-1-1 in emergency situations that require police, fire, or ambulance.
- ▶ When you call 9-1-1, do your best to stay calm, speak clearly, and stay on the phone until you are told to hang up. When a call-taker answers your call, he/she will ask you to describe the nature of your emergency.
- ▶ Please do your best to be as well informed as possible about the nature of the emergency, the number of people involved and the nature of possible injuries. If you are a motorist who passes what you believe to be an emergency, please remain in the area if you can safely do so. All-too-often passing motorists call on their cell phones but do not confirm what they believe they have seen or remain in the area.
- ▶ It is critical that you know your location—the name of the city or town; the address of the residence; the mile post, cross-street, nearby address or major physical features if on a highway. Do your best to determine your compass direction.
- ▶ Stay on the line and follow the instructions given to you. Be prepared to answer questions.
- ▶ If you dial 9-1-1 accidentally, stay on the line and tell the call-taker you made a mistake. If you hang up, the 9-1-1 call-taker will call you back.
- ▶ Teach your children to use 9-1-1 properly and remind them it is not a toy. Post your address information near the phone and show your children and babysitters where it is.
- ▶ In times of major emergencies including earthquakes, floods, major fires, etc. you may be delayed in getting through to 9-1-1. Do your best to remain calm.
- ▶ Don't call 9-1-1 for non-emergencies including asking for directions, calling a tow truck or taxi, etc.

Help Us Keep an Eye On Our Rural Stations



Recent thefts of equipment and vandalism have occurred at several of our rural fire stations. At our Lorane Highway Station, the theft of valves has made our 5,000 gallon storage tank unusable. When such incidents occur, the biggest losers are our district patrons. Damage and theft can affect our ability to respond to emergency calls. In addition, the financial impact of repairs and replacement can be substantial. If you see suspicious activity at one of our stations, please call 9-1-1.

REACH – Medical Transport on the Fly

By Chris Benson, EMS Coordinator



There is a new resource for medical transport available to this area.

REACH is an air medical transport helicopter service that began operations in Corvallis in May of 2006. REACH chose to operate out of Corvallis because the weather generally tends to be better for flight than Eugene. Their helicopter can be in the air in 5-7 minutes. With a cruising speed of 160 mph, the aircraft has a flight time to the majority of our district of 15-20 minutes, weather permitting. Given the twisting roads and multiple hills in our district, having REACH available as an emergency transport service vastly improves the transport time for patients.

Since REACH began operations in Oregon, Lane County Fire District #1 has trained directly with REACH personnel—learning how to properly set up landing zones, establish GPS coordinates, prepare victims for transport, and when and how to safely approach the aircraft. During the last year, LCFD#1 has successfully used REACH on several calls. We have been very impressed with their professionalism and service. While we hope that none of you have a need for this new service, it is a great resource to have available.

Motor Vehicle Collisions What You Can Do To Help

By Tressa Miller, LCFD #1 Firefighter



If you are involved in or witness a motor vehicle collision, one of the most important things you can do is remain calm. By doing so, everything else that needs to be done will fall into place a little easier. Here are some key steps and suggestions should you find yourself involved in a collision:

► No matter whether you are a witness to or directly involved in a motor vehicle collision, do your best to look the scene over and assess how safe it will be to move about. Frequently, one accident generates additional collisions caused by inattentive drivers and hard-to-see locations of the vehicles involved.

► Determine whether there are injuries involved, and if at all possible the nature of the injuries.

► Do your best to determine the location of the accident including the name of the highway you are on and a mile marker, cross road or major geographic feature (i.e., a bridge, tunnel, lake, or building) that will help the 911 call-taker determine your location.

► If no one is injured and both cars are safely drivable, exchange information with the other driver before leaving the scene. Handy traffic collision forms are available from several insurance companies. If the damage to any vehicle or property exceeds \$1,000.00 then you must notify the DMV within 72 hours. Your insurance company can assist you with this process.

► If you drive past what you believe to be a motor vehicle collision, please do your best to stop and determine if the people

involved actually need assistance. Park your car a safe distance from the actual scene and turn on your flashers, then make your emergency call, if appropriate.

► If you are able to stay at the scene beyond the initial call, remain calm, especially if rendering first aid. Help is on the way. Dispatch will guide you through first aid efforts if you are willing (you are not required to render first aid). Unless extreme situations exist, do not move anyone. Protect yourself and others from danger. Stay out of traffic and try to keep others from wandering into traffic. Look around for hazards, electrical lines, water, fuel spills, etc. Do only what you can safely and comfortably do. Do not risk injuring yourself. Reassure all injured persons that help is on the way. If the situation changes—to the good or bad—call 911 back. Additional information could change how emergency personnel respond to the scene.

► In all cases, again, remember to stay calm and think carefully about safety . . . for you and everyone else that is at the scene of a motor vehicle collision.



2006 LCFD #1 Awards Recipients



Lane County Fire District #1 and *Flash Point* are pleased to announce the recipients of the District's 2006 recognition awards, given at our annual banquet held on February 24, 2007:

EMT of the Year: Omar Hernandez

Firefighter of the Year: Ryan Burks

Instructor of the Year: Omar Hernandez

Most Alarms, A Division: Dennis Maricle

Most Alarms, B Division: Fred Scalise

Most Alarms, C Division: Brian Seymour

Most Alarms-Resident: Ryan Burks

Public Educator of the Year: Stan Turner

Officer of the Year: Stan Turner

Recruit of the Year: Jon Jasper, Ryan Walker

Volunteer of the Year: Ann Speiser, Mike Speiser

Lane County Fire District #1 also recognized Hans Larsen, a district resident, who on September 4, 2005 heroically removed an accident victim from a burning vehicle on Bailey Hill Road. Without Mr. Larsen's quick thinking and willingness to take action, the individual in the vehicle could well have lost his life.



Lock Box Program

By Heather Hill, Prevention Coordinator



If you have an automated gate, a fire or medical alarm system you may want to consider participating in our lock box program. A lock box is a small metal box that can be mounted on a fence post or the house and is locked with a key that is securely kept on our fire apparatus. A key, gate code or garage door opener can safely fit inside. The fire department is the only agency that has access to the box, and we will periodically check to make sure that the access tool in the box is current. If you would like more information about our lock box program, please call Heather Hill, Prevention Coordinator at 935-2226.

Training News

By Mark Boren, Fire Training Coordinator

Some weekend this spring you may see a large cloud of black smoke rising above a stand of trees somewhere in our district. However, instead of being a tragic fire, what you may be witnessing is a “live fire training” exercise, giving LCFD #1 personnel opportunities to better their skills when fighting structure fires. The “acquired structures” that we use in these live fire exercises are generously donated by members of our greater community and range from single-wide mobile homes to “stick built” homes, barns, and out-buildings. Do you have a structure that you would like to donate? The building must be structurally sound enough to have training value and be safe for our firefighters to enter. The requirements to burn a structure are the same as if you had the structure demolished, including a clear title of ownership along with an asbestos abatement certificate. All incoming power lines must be de-energized and dropped. There must not be anything in the immediate area that you don’t want scorched or burned, including trees. The structure can only be burned during the regular “burn season”—between October 15th and June 15th. If you have a structure that you would like to donate to Lane County Fire District #1, please call 935-2226 and talk to Assistant Chief Rod Smith or Fire Training Coordinator Mark Boren.



Upcoming Events



Bloodmobile – June 13, August 8, October 3, December 5
All from 3 to 6 pm
Safety on Wheels – June 8
CPR – offered monthly
Adult – May 23 – 6 to 9 pm
Pediatric – June 19 & 20 6 to 9 pm
Smoke Alarm Installations – Friday, May 18 &
Saturday, May 19 by appointment.
Car Seat Clinic - May 31 - 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Total Alarms for 2006:

Medical: 725
Motor Vehicle Accidents: 202
Fire: 151
Other: 138



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.



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