



Spring/Summer 2018

# Medford Rural Fire Protection District #2

## Message from the Fire Chief ~ Brian Fish



I am pleased to present you with our Medford Rural Fire Protection District 2 (MRF-PD2) Spring/Summer Newsletter. This issue carries several interesting and useful articles, which can help protect your property and keep you alerted to emergencies in your local area. This issue also includes a burn permit, for the burning of yard debris after cleaning up around your property. If you choose to conduct debris burning, follow the guidelines in your Burn Permit closely, as this will help protect you and your property. We would like to thank our District Board Members (photographed below) for making this newsletter possible.

If you've recently driven by our newest fire station, currently under construction at Highland Dr.

and Siskiyou Blvd.; you may have noticed that it is nearly ready for operation. It should open a couple of months after this newsletter shows up in your mailbox. I am excited for this fire station to open as it will be a safer environment for our firefighters, both to live in and respond from. By moving it just a little further away from the roundabout, it will allow motorists greater visibility of a fire engine leaving the fire station. This will allow the fire engine to safely get on its way to the emergency. The fire station will also help protect



your firefighters from the toxins they are exposed to during a fire. It will be equipped with a commercial-grade washing machine for the firefighters to clean their protective clothing before they have to wear it again. Also, the station's ventilation system will efficiently remove exhaust toxins out of the living areas.

When we open the doors to the new station, you are welcome to stop by. We are honored to show it to you. Enjoy your spring and have a safe summer.



**MRFPD2 Board of Directors**  
Jack Tait, Dan Marcisz, Bill Riggert,  
Joe Brooks, and Bob Sheets

Brian Fish, Fire Chief~Pam Webber, Editor  
Layout & Design by Christa Bennett  
541-774-2300

## 2018 Burn Permit Enclosed

### Open Burning Season Begins March 1st

**Burning is dependent upon  
environmental air quality conditions.  
Call 541-776-7007  
to verify it is a burn day.**

A residential burn permit is required for all open burning.

If you misplace your permit, they are available at the Medford Fire-Rescue Administration Office or on our website at: [www.medfordfirerescue.org](http://www.medfordfirerescue.org)  
Click on: Fire District 2, Burn Information and Permits

## New Deputy Fire Marshal Position ~Fire Marshal Greg Kleinberg

We are excited that Medford Rural Fire Protection District 2 partnered with the City of Medford to hire a fifth Deputy Fire Marshal (DFM). The new position is responsible for all DFM duties, while specializing in wildfire mitigation. DFM Mark Shay started with Medford Fire-Rescue in January 2018. Among other things, his duties will include offering advice on mitigation efforts to property owners in hazardous wildfire areas. Prior to fire season, he will help homeowners prepare for wildfires and will be mapping properties through our Intterra Program. He will also help promote numerous fire safety and wildfire mitigation programs as well as explore grant opportunities. If you see a Medford Fire-Rescue white Ford pickup driving through your neighborhood, it is likely Mark helping to make your community safer.

Change your clocks and change your smoke detector batteries



Daylight savings begins  
March 11, 2018



[www.facebook.com/MedfordFireDepartment](http://www.facebook.com/MedfordFireDepartment)

## Citizen Alert System

During the California wildfires, authorities were able to notify residents to evacuate ahead of the fire using a Citizen Alert System, similar to the one we have in Jackson County. You can help us notify you in the case of an emergency in your area by signing up with the Jackson County Citizens Alert System. Medford Fire-Rescue and Jackson County will utilize this system to notify residents of updates during an emergency and if there is a need to evacuate. You can sign up by going to our website: [www.medfordfirerescue.org](http://www.medfordfirerescue.org) and clicking on the "Citizen Alert" button.

**ALERT**  
Jackson · Josephine  
Citizen Notification System

If we can't reach you, we can't alert you



## California Wildfires ~ Deputy Chief Justin Bates



Through Oregon and California mutual aid agreements, Medford Fire-Rescue sent an engine company and a Strike Team Leader as part of a team of firefighters from the Rogue

Valley during two separate fires in California this past fall. Crews traveled to the area of Napa, CA during October to assist with fighting the Atlas Fire, which destroyed hundreds of homes and burned over 51,000 acres. Firefighting crews from MFR again responded to California in December to assist with the Thomas Fire that destroyed over 1,000 structures and burned approximately 281,893 acres. During its peak, the Thomas Fire had over 8,500 firefighters mo-

bilized to fight it. This was the largest mobilization of firefighters to combat any wildfire in California's history. Through agreements between the Office of Emergency Management agencies of Oregon and California, firefighting resources can be requested to assist during large fires that overwhelm the local resources. The expenses incurred by our fire department are reimbursed by the California Office of Emergency Services.

# Wildfire Preparedness

## ~Fire Marshal Greg Kleinberg

In 2017, we all witnessed how wildfires can devastate communities when we watched thousands of homes and businesses destroyed in multiple California wildfires. We certainly do not want this to occur in our community. Wildfire is inevitable, but homeowners can take preventative measures to increase the chances of saving their home. Reducing the amount of fuels on our properties, mitigating ignition hazards to our homes, and creating defensible space are all important pieces in the equation that give our homes a better chance of survival. Studies have shown that over 90% of homes that burn in wildfires across our nation burn because of small spot-fires or flying embers that ignite the homes. Embers can travel great distances, posing a threat. Protecting against ember ignition should be an important strategy. Here are 15 key measures you can take to prepare for wildfire season:

1. Make sure your address is clearly marked
2. Clear hazardous combustible vegetation from around the driveway
3. Clean leaves and needles off of the roof

4. Clean out rain gutters and install metal screening
5. Make sure underfloor and attic vents have corrosion resistant metal mesh with 1/8" or smaller holes
6. Fill any holes or defects in siding where embers can lodge
7. Clean combustible accumulation out from under decks
8. Remove any combustible ground-cover or plants at least 5' from the home
9. Move firewood piles away from the home
10. Maintain green landscaping at least 30' around the home
11. Provide at least a 100' defensible space around the home
12. Maintain adequate space between trees to prevent tree-to-tree ignition
13. Trim trees to provide at least 15' clearance to power lines
14. Relocate propane tanks at least 30' away from the home and provide at least 10' of defensible space around the tanks
15. Locate combustible containers and other items away from the home



## Retirement



**Wayne Painter**  
Captain

Wayne Painter retired November 30, 2017, after 30 years of service. Wayne was hired with Medford Fire-Rescue in 1987. He was promoted to Engineer in 1996, then to Truck Officer in 2000, and to Captain in 2003. We wish Wayne the very best in this new season of life. He looks forward to traveling, fishing, and outdoor family activities. Congratulations, Wayne!

## Promotion



**Seth McEwen**  
Firefighter to Captain  
December 2017



## New Employees



**Steve Parks**  
Deputy  
Fire Marshal  
December 2017



**Mark Shay**  
Deputy  
Fire Marshal  
January 2018



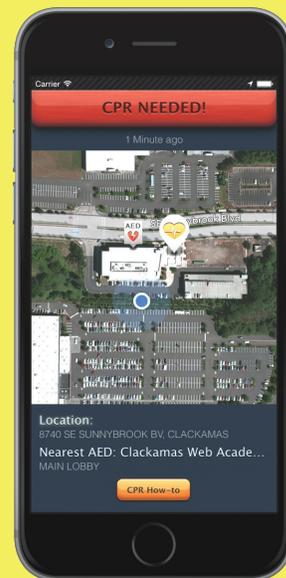
**Christa Bennett**  
Administrative  
Assistant  
March 2017



**Kristen Agotta**  
Administrative  
Assistant  
January 2018

## PulsePoint

You can help us save lives with PulsePoint Respond! PulsePoint Respond is an application for your smartphone that will notify you if there is a cardiac arrest patient in a public area near your location. Citizen responders can begin CPR until emergency medical personnel can arrive on scene and take over. The app will also let you see which calls Medford Fire-Rescue is responding to and allows you to listen to Medford Fire-Rescue's radio traffic. You can find the PulsePoint Respond app in both Apple and Android app stores.



# District News ~ Spring 2018

Medford Rural Fire Protection District #2  
200 South Ivy Street, Room 180  
Medford, OR 97501

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MEDFORD OR

## 2018 Burn Permit Enclosed

Website: [www.medfordfirerescue.org](http://www.medfordfirerescue.org)

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*2018 Burn Permit  
Enclosed inside this newsletter*

