



Medford Rural *News* Fire Protection District #2

ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2007

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**WE CAN'T HELP YOU IF
WE CAN'T FIND YOU!**

We are happy to provide
an address sign for you;
call the business office at
774-2300 to request
your sign.

*See Page 2 for more
information*

Dave Bierwiler, Exec Editor
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774-2316

From the Fire Chief— Dave Bierwiler

Election Results

On May 15th, the following four directors were elected to the Medford Rural Fire Protection District #2 Board.

Warren Hanlin— 772-4331

Retired business man, re-elected to a four year term.

Dan Marcisz— 734-0531

Retired Medford Firefighter Engineer, elected to a four year term.

Jack Tait— 608-7785

Retired Ashland Firefighter Engineer, elected to a two year term.

Bill Riggert— 773-8398

Retired Timber Products Controller, elected to a four year term.

Fire District ISO Update

Most home owners in the fire district should be experiencing a substantial decrease in their fire insurance costs. This is due to a January 1, 2007 Insurance Services Office (ISO) evaluation of the Fire District and Medford Fire Department. Residents within five miles of any Fire Station will qualify for a class four insurance rating. This supersedes the earlier class eight ratings, and could save some residents up to 30% on their fire insurance premium. This data has been officially published by the ISO.

We encourage you to contact your fire insurance provider for details. The change applies to Fire District #2 residents within five road miles of any fire station, including non-hydranted areas. That is because the newer water tenders purchased by the fire district, combined with mutual aid from our neighboring fire departments, were able to demonstrate the ability to provide continuous water flow for a structure fire.



MRFPD#2 Summer Newsletter

Welcome to the second issue of the Medford Rural Fire Protection District #2 Newsletter. This news letter is published two times each year. We plan to provide you timely and valuable information on fire safety, fire prevention, general safety and news about the fire district. You are encouraged to visit the following Medford Fire Department web site for a variety of useful tips and links. www.ci.medford.or.us/fire

Rural Board of Directors

Warren Hanlin (President)

Dan Marcisz (Position #2)

Bill Riggert (Position #1)

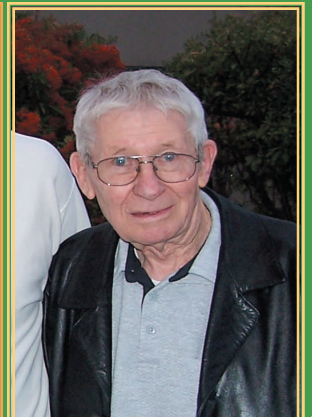
Jack Tait (Position #3)

Duane Venekamp (Sec/Treasurer)

In Memory of Blair Crosby

Rural Board President, Blair Crosby passed away at his home on May 1, 2007. Blair had faithfully served the citizens of the district from January 1, 1979 through March 7, 2007.

We appreciate Blair's 28 years of dedicated service and commitment to providing a high level of fire and medical services to the residents of the Rural Fire District.



Spot Light on Bob Kyle- Editor Pam Webber



Bob Kyle, 38 year member of the Medford Rural Fire Protection District #2 Board of Directors and past President, retired in June. Bob was the longest serving board member.

Born in Pasadena, CA he moved with his family to southern Oregon in 1933. Upon his graduation from Medford Schools in 1943, he was hired by the Oregon Dept of Forestry. Bob served in the Army, 100th Infantry Division receiving two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart.

Following WWII, Bob enrolled at Oregon State College where he received a business degree and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Air Force Ready Reserve.

He has been married to Erma since 1950. They have three grown children and three grandchildren.

Bob began work in 1950 at the First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Medford. He retired in 1984 as President of the Board and Manager of the firm.

A year later, he also retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel with the Air Force Ready Reserve.

Bob is most proud of the 38 years he was associated with the Rural Fire Protection District as a director and Chairman.

He enjoys jazz music, model trains, golf, gardening, television sports, the Trail Blazers and the Mariners.

Thank you Bob, for your dedication to the community.

Swimming Pool Safety Inspector Debi Bisbee



Supervision is the key word when it comes to pool safety, but supervision combined with a variety of barriers and safety devices, such as fences, latched gates, locked doors, pool covers and more will go even further toward drowning prevention.

Drowning Prevention Tips for Pool Owners

- Never leave a child unattended in the water or pool area for any reason. Don't be distracted by doorbells, phone calls, chores or conversations. If you must leave the pool area, take the child with you, making sure the pool gate latches securely when it closes.
- Always keep your eyes on the child or children. Designate a child watcher, whether it is you or someone else, when you attend a party or have friends or family over.
- Talk with baby-sitters about pool safety, supervision and drowning prevention.
- Post rules such as "No running, "No pushing, "No dunking" and "Never swim alone." Enforce the rules.
- Don't rely on swimming lessons or "floaties" to protect your children in the water.
- Don't assume that drowning or a drowning incident couldn't happen to you or your family.
- Don't have a false sense of security just because you think your pool area and home are secure. Always watch your children, whether in the house or outside.
- Attend a CPR class. Make sure your baby-sitter knows CPR.
- For the nearest cardiopulmonary resuscitation class, contact your fire department, local Red Cross or hospital.
- Encourage your neighbors to follow pool safety guidelines, including keeping their back gates and doors locked, and their pool gates securely closed and latched.

Rural Address Signs

- Rural address signs may only be picked up at Medford Fire Administrative offices, 200 South Ivy, #257
- Personnel will check the address to confirm your district
- Rural address signs are not available via mail, and not available at Fire Stations
- Residents are expected to install the signs

Poplar Square Six Alarm Fire

On June 12, 2007 Medford Fire was dispatched to a fire reported at Deli Yogurt Delite in the Poplar Square shopping center, adjacent to Fred Meyer. The fire quickly progressed to six alarms which added fire engines from FD#3, Phoenix, Applegate, FD#5, Mercy Flights, Grants Pass, and Josephine County. Many other fire departments in the county, re-deployed their units to assure fire protection for the rest of the city and county. Ninety firefighters and twenty-five engines were involved in the efforts to contained the fire to six businesses. Medford FD appreciated the added support that allowed us to save the vast majority of the shopping center safely with only one minor injury.



Wildland Fire Safety- Fire Marshal Dan Patterson

The common denominator in the fundamentals of fire and the fundamentals of fire behavior is fuel. Fuel is the only part of the wildfire equation you can control that will reduce the likelihood of a fire starting and spreading on your property.

Most wildfires start on the ground in the smallest fuels-needles, leaves and dry grass. Fire will continue to spread upward -up a hill or up a tree unless pathways to new fuel are interrupted. Removing ladder fuels helps to keep fire on the ground, where it is manageable, rather than in the tree crowns, where fire is difficult to control. Trees and brush growing tightly together can create a fire friendly environment. Thinning trees and shrubs and pruning potential ladder fuels limits a fire's ability to jump from plant to plant, and from the ground to the trees' crowns.

Fuel breaks around structures

Research has shown that fuel reduction around a structure can *significantly* increase the structure's chance of surviving a wildfire. Fuel, to a wildfire, is anything that can burn — needles, leaves, dry grass, firewood, cedar shake roofing, wood siding, wooden decking.

Fuel reduction means to lessen the amount of fuel available to a fire, to increase the distance between fuels, and to insulate fuels so fire can't get to them. In another way, fuel reduction **does not** mean cutting down all trees and shrubs around a structure, or creating a bare-earth ring around a home. It **does** mean to arrange trees, shrubs and other fuel sources in a way that makes it difficult for fire to transfer from fuel source to fuel source. Fuel reduction in regard to trees and other plants means to favor plants that are fire-resistant, and to reduce and isolate plants that are more vulnerable to fire.

Access

Firefighters can't defend a home against a wildfire if they can't get to the home. The driveway is an important factor in helping firefighters in their endeavor to fight a fire around your house.

Is your driveway able to accommodate a fire truck? The minimum width necessary is 12 feet for short driveways and 20 feet for longer driveways where trucks may need to pass one another or be able to turn around. The minimum overhead clearance is 13 ½ feet. Clearing away excess brush and tree branches also helps firefighters see up the driveway. If they can see where they're going, firefighters can be more certain that they have a safe environment to protect your home and property against the dangers of wild fires.

Well-established and maintained fuel breaks around structures and driveways are strong steps toward protecting your home and property against severe wildfire damage.

Up on the roof

A home's rooftop is a large landing zone for airborne embers and glowing ash — even surprisingly large chunks of pine cones and slabs of burning bark — propelled aloft by a nearby wildfire. Accumulations of dry needles, leaves and twigs on a roof can be easily ignited on a summer day. Finding and eliminating rooftop fuels is another big step toward protecting a home against wildfire damage.

Follow up

For more information visit the Fire Prevention page at our website @ www.ci.medford.or.us

Or call our Fire Prevention Bureau at 541-774-2300.



News

Medford Rural Fire Protection District #2

Fire Dept Web Site: www.ci.medford.or.us/fire

Medford Rural Fire Protection District #2
200 South Ivy, #257
Medford, OR 97501

Exciting news from your fire district