Message From Fire Chief Brian Fish

Medford Fire-Rescue continues to move forward in a positive direction. We are happy to announce several personnel promotions in our department, mentioned later in this newsletter. Additionally, we are scheduled for Fire Engineer interviews which will lead to a promotion. In case you didn’t know, “Engineers” drive our fire engines.

We are making progress with the development of our new fire stations and anticipate breaking ground this summer. This includes our new Fire Station #2, located on Stewart Avenue. The new stations will serve us well into the future. One of the biggest benefits of these new stations will be the ability to place our limited resources in strategic locations based on the needs of our community, rather than where they fit. For example, we currently place a second fire engine, or a two person quick response unit, at Fire Station #3 (near Bear Creek Park) when we have full staffing. We do this because it is where the fire engines and personnel fit, not necessarily where they provide the best coverage for emergency response. It is a big change and a huge benefit to be able to place these extra units in different fire stations around our response district based on our current needs. These needs tend to change over the years as our community grows and changes. Once the building process begins, we invite you to drive by and join us in watching the fire stations go up.

We are anticipating the potential for another dry summer. I would like to ask for your help. Take a look around your property and see if there are improvements you can make to reduce your risk of exposure to fire. There are many things you can do, some of which are mentioned in this newsletter. If you have additional questions as to what you can do to reduce your potential loss from fire; I encourage you to give us a call. We will do our best to answer your questions or possibly send a wildland specialist to meet you at your property to discuss improvements.

Have a great spring and summer. Be safe and remember – we still make house calls.

Fire Chief Brian Fish

2015 Burn Permit Enclosed
Open Burning Season Begins March 1st

Burning is dependent upon Environmental Air Quality Conditions
Call 541-776-7007 to verify

A residential burn permit is required for all open burning.

If you misplace your permit, it is available at the Medford Fire-Rescue Administration Office or visit our website at: www.medfordfirerescue.org
Click on: Fire District 2
You may already know that Medford Fire-Rescue has developed a Wildland Urban Interface Program, championed by Kelly Jensen, but did you know that we’re working to expand the program this year?

Wildland Fire Officer (WFO) Jensen was able to map over 300 properties last year entering those he visited into Intterra, a website that homeowners can visit to view the risk assessment of their property. As a follow up to WFO Jensen’s Intterra Pre-Plan Project, Fire Inspector Samantha Metheny will re-visit those homes to work with property owners on becoming a Firewise Community and to help them develop long-term wildland fire mitigation strategies.

Firewise Communities encourage neighbors to work together to reduce the risk in their area by creating properties and homes that are more resistant to wildfire. They can help give homeowners peace of mind, improve community building and may give access to funding and other assistance. In the event of a major fire, our resources will be limited and we may not be able to place an engine at each and every home that is threatened. The goal is to have homes that can survive a wildfire with little or no assistance from firefighters and property owners who understand and prepare for the risk of living in the wildland urban interface.

If you would like more information, please visit: https://apps.intterragroup.com/keno/
Wildfire Risk Assessment— Wildland Fire Officer Kelly K. Jensen

It’s that time again, for Wildland spring cleaning! I am your Wildland Fire Officer, Kelly Jensen. This year I will continue the Intterra program for wildfire mapping assessments on wildland urban interface properties. I will begin visiting properties in the rural district early this spring and throughout the summer with the goal to visit as many sites as possible. Together with Fire Inspector Metheny, wildfire safety education will be provided to residents. The District’s mantra for this wildfire season is “Help Thy Neighbor”. Along with your usual brush and grass abatement, it is suggested that neighbors reduce brush and overhead branches along property lines. Clearing property lines may create fuel breaks between adjacent structures, shared driveways and an unobstructed response approach for emergency fire apparatus.

During our assessment last summer we encountered properties that were difficult to access due to gated driveways and bridge access to properties. Our desire is to offer all property owners the same assessment services. Please contact Medford Fire-Rescue at (541) 774-2300 to set up an appointment.

Thank you for your time and assistance, Wildland Fire Officer, Kelly K. Jensen

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Change your clocks and
CHANGE YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES
Daylight Savings Begins March 8, 2015

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Retirement

Fire Inspector Karl Giepel retired November 30, 2014, after 30 years of service. Karl worked as a volunteer with Rainier Rural Fire Protection District before graduating from the Chemeketa Community College Fire Science Program. Karl was hired with Medford Fire Department in 1984. He was promoted to Engineer in 1996 and to Fire Inspector in 2009. Karl served on several committees including the Training Committee, and the Safety Committee. Karl served as the department historian for many years, collecting historic information as well as fire memorabilia currently displayed at the Lausmann Annex. Thanks to Karl, the department will display additional items in the new Table Rock & Berrydale fire station. Congratulations, Inspector Giepel. Relax and enjoy your retirement!

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Promotions

Greg Kleinberg was promoted to Deputy Chief, Fire and Life Safety Division on December 1, 2014. Greg was hired with Medford Fire-Rescue in 2001. He worked as a Fire Inspector for seven years. He was promoted to Fire Marshal in 2008. Greg is responsible for Fire and Life Safety Division as well as his responsibilities as Deputy Chief in the Fire Administrative Office. Congratulations Chief Kleinberg!

Justin Keylock was promoted to Battalion Chief of Technology and Logistics on February 16, 2015. BC Keylock was hired by the Fire Department as a Firefighter in 2007. He was promoted to Engineer in 2011. Justin is involved in numerous technology projects and is responsible for the Department radio communications. Technology is ever changing and requires constant review. We look forward to Justin keeping MFR on the leading edge. Congratulations Chief Keylock!

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Follow Medford Fire-Rescue on Facebook
www.facebook.com/MedfordFireDepartment
• Fire Department activities and photos
• Resources during extreme weather
• Fire and Life Safety information
• Links to news release and reports
Exciting news from your fire district!

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

2015 Burn Permit Enclosed

Fire Dept Website: www.medfordfire.org