Message From The Fire Chief, Brian Fish

Medford Fire-Rescue has exciting information on two major projects that I would like to share with you. The Fire Station building plan is moving forward once again. We encountered some challenges due to the overall construction costs. As a result, it was necessary to scale back the number of fire stations we will construct this year. Instead of building three new fire stations as reported in a previous District Newsletter, we will build two stations. The new structure for Fire Station #2, will be built at Columbus and Stewart Avenue, just east of Columbus Avenue, next to the Pet Mart. This will replace Fire Station #2 at the old location on West 8th Street and Lincoln. The second project is Fire Station #4 located at 2208 Table Rock Road next door to the Railroad Park. The City of Medford has a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract with Adroit Construction Company for the construction of both fire stations. We still have a goal to rebuild Fire Station #3 at Siskiyou and Highland in the future. We are seeking additional options to complete the third station. As construction begins, consider driving by and watching their progress.

Our other exciting news is the purchase of two new Fire Pumps. Both the Medford Rural Fire Protection District 2 (MRFPD2) and the City of Medford each purchased a fire engine as a part of our vehicle replacement plan. We can expect to utilize a fire engine for approximately eight years as a primary response vehicle, and an additional 12 years as a backup response vehicle. We have developed a replacement plan to address our aging fleet. We removed a 22 year old fire engine and will replace it with one of the new fire engines. The second newly purchased fire engine will be added to our fleet as a primary response vehicle, bringing our primary and backup fire engines to a total of ten. By doing this we will have one primary and one backup fire engine at each of our five fire stations. This gives the department the ability to immediately respond in a backup fire engine in the event the primary unit fails. The disbursement of our response vehicles provides us with the ability to supplement our response capabilities when extra support is needed. This need could be due to weather related responses, a large multiple alarm fire or multiple fires in our area. The new engines will be identical and are expected to arrive in the Fall of 2016. It is truly an honor to serve as your Fire Chief. I am proud of the quality of personnel that work for Medford Fire-Rescue. You can be assured, if you have an emergent need and dial “911”, you receive a highly trained work force to help you in your time of need.

2016 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, Burn Information and Permits
Medford Fire-Rescue has been working to establish the first Firewise Community in our jurisdiction. The Eagle Trace subdivision includes approximately 250 homes located on the South side of Roxy Ann Peak in East Medford. The subdivision is bordered by other subdivisions and diagonal to Medford Rural Fire Protection District 2 boundaries. The subdivision has an active homeowners association who voted to pursue Firewise Community status after Fire Marshal Greg Kleinberg delivered wildfire preparation presentations to them. The residents in this neighborhood have seen several times how close wildfires can get, how fast they can spread, and know their community is vulnerable.

Members of the Fire & Life Safety Division along with Oregon Department of Forestry personnel began home/property evaluations last month in preparation to apply for Firewise Community status. A cleanup day will be planned this spring to encourage homeowners to reduce combustible vegetation around their homes.

A Firewise program is a recognized community that is engaged in wildfire risk education efforts. The designation encourages neighbors to work together to reduce the risk with the goal of making the neighborhood safer and homes more resistant to wildfire. Benefits include creating more defensible space by reducing flammable fuels in the neighborhood, improving property value while reducing the risk of loss, improving community relationships with local Fire agencies, encouraging good neighbors, promoting peace of mind (you have done everything you can to prepare your home and property for a wildfire), and opening up possible grant opportunities.

It is our hope that more neighborhoods will embrace this to make the overall community greater prepared to survive a wildfire threat. To obtain more information about becoming a Firewise Community, contact: Fire Marshal Greg Kleinberg at 541-774-2317.

The FLSD produced a public education video from the Fire Prevention Week Home Fire Sprinkler/Flashover Demonstration that was conducted at our October, 2015 Fire Station Open House. The purpose of the video is to show how fast fires can grow inside of your home and how valuable residential fire sprinklers are to preserving your home.

You can view the video by visiting YouTube, and search for Fire Sprinkler Flashover Demo.
Summer Wildland Accomplishments

The 2015 Summer Wildland Program proved to be very successful, and logged the following accomplishments:

- The Wildland Officer visited 260 Properties and established a pre-plan using the Intterra Wildland Preplan program (a web-based program with critical property information to help first responders be better informed and more effective.
- All Medford Fire personnel are trained using the Intterra Wildland Preplan program.
- Educated homeowners in fire safety, defensible space and fuel reduction.
- Continued Fall, Winter, and Spring district pre-plans
- Coordinated fire department access to a 6,000 gallon water supply on the end of Jasmine Ave near Rogue Valley Adventist Academy.
- Coordinated fire department access to a 30,000 gallon water supply at the Roxy Ann rock pit.
- Established a Roxy Ann Peak public safety zone and coordinated the plan with Medford Parks Department.
- Responded to Oregon State Incident Management Team Deployments and assisted with Wildfires in Glide, Tiller, and Halfway, Oregon.

The department plans to continue this program in beginning in March of 2016. Our goal is to visit at-risk properties in the MRFPD2 jurisdiction and continue to educate homeowners.

Medical Information

Medical emergencies can be very stressful for patients as well as family members. This stress can make it difficult to communicate pertinent medical information to emergency responders. That is why Medford Fire-Rescue developed the "Medical Information Card".

When filled out properly and placed on the refrigerator, emergency responders can have an immediate, accurate, and complete medical history of our clients. This will not only give us clues to help determine what the problem is, but also reduce the stress of trying to recall critical information during a time of crisis. You may obtain a medical card by calling (541) 774-2300, or you may print the card from our website at: medfordfirerescue. Select the tab located on the right side of our home-page, titled, “Medical Information Cards”.

Retirement

Battalion Chief Ken Goodson retired on December 1, 2015 after 32 years of service to Medford Fire Rescue. Ken began his journey with the City of Medford on September 1, 1983 as a Firefighter. On March 1, 1988 he promoted to a Fire Engineer, and promoted to a Company Officer (Captain) on July 1, 1993. Ken was promoted to Battalion Chief (BC) on August 1, 1995, working as BC for over 20 years. Ken has a passion for the excitement that the Fire Department brings. He enjoyed the challenge of managing resources, working with his Fire family and serving the public.

Outside of work, Ken enjoyed photography and attending collegiate softball games; especially Oregon Duck games. He has raised two daughters with his wife Laurie and he also has a grand-daughter. Ken plans to travel and spend time with family. Congratulations and enjoy your well deserved retirement Ken!

Change your clocks and
CHANGE YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES
Daylight Savings Begins March 13, 2016

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
News from your fire district!

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

2016 Burn Permit Enclosed

Medford Rural Fire Protection District #2
Fire Dept Website: www.medfordfirerescue.org

Enclosed inside this Newsletter

2016 Burn Permit