

Fire Lines

Fall 1999

A Publication of Jackson County Fire District No. 5

The Chief's

By Fire Chief Dan Marshall



• *The City of Talent Annexation*

On November 3 1998, the City of Talent residents overwhelmingly voted in favor of the annexation to Jackson County Fire District 5. As a result of the election, effective July 1, 1999, fire and rescue services within the city are being provided by the fire district. Since October of 1997, our fire district had provided emergency services on a contract basis. Currently, the City has closed the fire station and all calls for service will be dispatched from the station at 716 South Pacific Highway in Talent. Talent's two paid Firefighters and approximately six volunteers are currently working with District 5.

"We are very pleased with the outcome of the election. The annexation has certainly improved service levels..."

We are very pleased with the outcome of the election. The annexation has certainly improved service levels (24-hour emergency services) and reduced the duplication of apparatus, equipment, stations and personnel. Also, we are looking forward to developing and improving fire prevention, public education and community relations through school outreach programs, commercial and residential inspections and participating in as many community activities as possible.

• *Summer Fire Season 1999*

We have experienced a very busy fire season and it isn't over yet. Even though we haven't had a major wildland fire in our district, we have experienced a dramatic increase in grass and brush fires. High temperatures, above average fuel loads, high winds and lightning storms have all contributed to the increase in alarms. For example, on August 23rd 1999, an evening thunder and lightning storm kept fire and medical crews very busy. Within 30 minutes we responded to over 15 fire and rescue calls. Fortunately, we were able to respond with sufficient resources to effectively handle each alarm.

Hot and dry conditions are forecast throughout September and into October. Please pay attention to fire restrictions and open burning regulations. Additionally, in cooperation with the Oregon Department of Forestry, we have implemented a residence assessment survey that is intended to give homeowners in the

Mark your calendars so you won't miss this year's Open House at Fire District 5! It will be held at Station 7 at 716 South Pacific Highway in Talent from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Tuesday October 5th.

There will be lots of fun and interesting events for both young and old, such as

- * Practicing Home Escape
- * Free Photos on Fire Truck
- * Free Balloons and Helmets for the kids
- * Free Address Signs
- * Stop, Drop & Roll Demonstrations
- * Free Blood Pressure Screenings
- * CPR Demonstrations and course sign-ups
- * Free Refreshments!

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JCFD#5

**STATION 7 - 716 S. PACIFIC HWY TALENT OR
STATION 8 - 40 NEIL CREEK RD. ASHLAND OR**

**535-4222
482-5991**

The Chief's Report

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wildfire hazard areas valuable information about improving the survivability of their property against wildfire. Surveys are conducted on a request basis, so please give us a call if you are interested.

• **Y2K Planning and Preparation**

We understand that any computer or computer-driven product may be affected by the Y2K problem. This is more than just computers; it includes anything with embedded computer chips. We are currently conducting an internal inventory and looking at any items that may contain chip technology and all of the services that depend on them. Additionally, we are identifying our critical systems and developing contingency plans in the areas listed below:

- √ Emergency Response Systems
- √ Office Equipment
- √ Public Works / Utilities
- √ Water Systems
- √ Administration / Finance

Fire District 5 is actively working with local emergency managers to provide emergency preparedness information including booklets, family disaster kits and a step-by-step action plan that families can use to prepare for disasters of all types. The "Jackson County Emergency Plan For Families" publication is available now at both fire stations. This guide is free to anyone who wants one, so please stop by to pick one up.



Smokey Bear and Sparky the Dog visit children during the 1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by Fire District 5 at Chuck Roberts Park.

Burning Regulations Reviewed

Keeping track of when, where and how county residents can burn outdoors can be confusing. Here are some handy guidelines to help you:

- 1) Make sure you are burning only "combustible" material.** (No rubber, plastic, wet garbage, petroleum products, industrial waste or material that will create dense smoke or noxious odors.)
- 2) If you are inside the Air Quality Maintenance Area** (if you are required to take your car to I & M for emission testing when renewing its registration), **you may not burn between November 1 and February 28. Period.** When the Oregon Department of Forestry eases burning restrictions after summer, there is usually a "window" of opportunity for some outdoor burning before November. Watch the newspapers or give us a call.
- 3) During burning season, the Ventilation Index must be above 400.** Translation: If the air over the valley is too stagnant, it can be unhealthy to allow people to burn outside. You are responsible for making sure it is a "burn day". You can call the recorded message at **776-7007** for up-to-date information.
- 4) You must have a current burn permit from Fire District 5.** These can be obtained by stopping by either of our stations. They are free of charge and it only takes a few minutes. Besides, we like meeting the folks we protect! The burn permit has further information on it regarding size of pile, condition of barrel, and other topics.



FD 5 Supports Youth

Jackson County Fire District 5 and Jackson County Farm Bureau have joined together to provide a \$250 college scholarship that was awarded to Kris Kizer, a Phoenix High School graduate. Kris has enrolled at Linn Benton College this fall, and plans to engage in a career as a Vocational Agriculture Specialist / Instructor.

Kris has received many awards as an FFA student in both showmanship and animal husbandry, and has competed at the state level.

Board members applauded the District 5 personnel for being so supportive of Jackson County youth with their donations. Plans are being made to provide a \$500 scholarship for next year.

Congratulations and good luck to

District Receives Life Safety Achievement Award

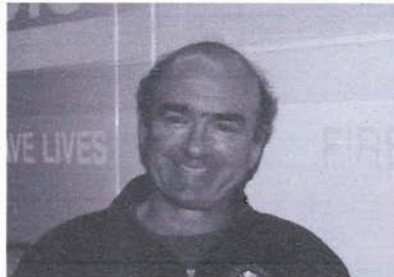
Each year since 1994 Operation Life Safety has recognized fire departments and their Chief Fire Officers for having had outstanding fire safety statistics during the previous calendar year and for their proactive measures in improving their community's fire life safety records in the future. The recognition is called the *Life Safety Achievement Award*.

Fire District 5 and Chief Marshall were awarded this recognition for calendar year

Did You Know? Fire District 5 offers these services:

- **Home inspections for fire safety**
- **Smoke detectors to homes on fixed incomes**
- **Loan of Flue Brush cleaning kit**
- **Station Tours**
- **Commercial Company Surveys**

Board Spotlight: Dan Gregory



Dan Gregory is new to Fire District 5's Board of Directors, but not new to the area. Dan has been in the Valley for 28 years, living in his current home in Talent for the past 19 years. He and his wife Joan have 3 children, 2 grandchildren, as well as other family members living in the Rogue Valley (plus 3 horses, a dog, a cat and 'whatever else wanders through...').

Dan is currently the operator of a 20-resident long-term care facility in Ashland that cares for brain injured adults, a field in which he has been involved for the past 17 years. About his work with these patients Dan says, "These victims of automobile, motorcycle and other accidents have made me very aware of the need for quick response to accidents."

The growth in population and the additional services required of Fire District 5 have led to Dan's interest and participation in district management. "I am fortunate to be working with a very experienced Board of Directors and a stable management team," Dan says. "It's a pleasure to be here."

District 5 is happy to have Dan Gregory here, too.

Fire District 5 Retirements & Promotions

Retirements:

Captain Jerry Aguiar
27 years of service 1971-1998

Captain Willie Brickner
21 years of service 1977-1998

Promotions:

Engineer Larry Decker promoted to Fire Captain, December 1998.

Engineer Jim Campbell promoted to Fire Captain, January 1999.

Firefighter Al Barnes promoted to Engineer, December 1998.

Firefighter Vince Lockett pro-