

Fire Lines

Fall 2001

A Publication of Jackson County Fire District No. 5

The Chief's Report

By Fire Chief Dan Marshall

AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

On September 11, 2001, at 6:45 a.m. I was traveling to a breakfast meeting and I couldn't believe what I was hearing on the radio. The World Trade Center in New York City was under attack as well as the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. As the terrorist attack unfolded at the World Trade Center, my immediate thought was about what desperate and crazy times we live in. Is this the end of peace and prosperity as we know it? Is this the beginning of World War III? What is really happening? Well, in short order, as you know, the Twin Towers had collapsed and the Pentagon was severely damaged. In a blink of an eye, our world had changed forever. In an instant, a malicious and cowardly act carried out by terrorists killed thousands of people and caused millions of dollars of damage to New York City and Washington, D.C.

How To Help

*The official fund for donations to the families of the fallen firefighters is:
IAFF General Secretary-Treasurer's Office
Attention: New York Fire 9-11 Relief Fund
1750 New York Ave NW
Washington, DC 20006-5395*

FIRE SERVICE IMPACT

The New York Fire Department along with other emergency responders suffered tremendous losses. Over 300 of New York's finest firefighters, including several chief officers, lost their lives in a courageous and valiant attempt to save the lives of others. There is no question that their acts of heroism saved thousands of lives.

The members of Jackson County Fire District 5 are deeply saddened by the tragic and shocking events that took place on September 11, 2001. Our prayers and thoughts are with the victims and their families. We grieve as the entire nation grieves.

*"Let us never forget these perished men and women,
Take one moment to honor their passing,
For ours is the greatest loss of all.
They lived to serve us, and in death they are the
Gentle heroes we have loved and lost."*

~Author Unknown

NEW HEADQUARTERS FIRE STATION

This past July, Fire District 5 purchased 6.75 acres at 5811 South Pacific Highway for the purpose of building a new headquarters fire station. The property is located just one mile north of the current fire station at 716 South Pacific Highway in Talent. During the past several years, the district had been looking for a site that was both affordable and suitable for the new fire station.

The new station will replace the present headquarters station that was built in 1968, and had been originally intended to house only a small volunteer fire department. More than 30 years later, Jackson County Fire District 5 has grown to protect approximately 17,000 residents in an area of over 115 square miles. The district now employs 21 full time paid staff, plus has an active volunteer roster of 35 men and women.

The 15,000 square-foot fire station is expected to cost \$2.5 million and will be funded through a long-term, low interest loan that will be repaid from existing revenue sources, meaning no bond levy or new taxes are needed.

The project is presently in the design stage and construction is scheduled to begin in Spring of 2002.

JCFD#5

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

**535-4222
482-5991**



**EMS
CORNER**

By Eng. Alan Barnes, EMT-Paramedic

Did you know?

Oregon residents have the right to direct their own medical treatment *in advance* of need, or in the event they are unable to do so at a future time. In Jackson County, physicians recognize the “*Physician Order for Life Sustaining Treatment*” (POLST) Form. This form and a convenient wallet card are available through your doctor. It must be discussed with him or her, and include their signature.

In the event that emergency crews are called for any medical aid, the POLST form is the only one they are allowed to recognize for taking actions on behalf of the patient, based on the patient’s wishes. It encompasses many levels of treatment, including but not limited to, full intervention, DNR (Do not resuscitate), medical interventions, use of fluids / antibiotics, and long-term care.

More details are available by calling one of our stations or your

Home Fire Safety Checklist

Smoke Alarms

- ✓ Install working smoke detectors near each sleeping area & in each bedroom
- ✓ Clean & test them monthly
- ✓ Replace if older than 10 years



Fire Escape Plan

- ✓ Plan 2 ways out of every room
- ✓ Plan a meeting place outside
- ✓ Practice your escape plan

Chimney & Woodstoves

- ✓ Clean & inspect at least once a year.
- ✓ Dispose of ashes in a metal container
- ✓ Use a fireplace screen
- ✓ Keep combustibles at least 3 feet away from the fireplace or woodstove

Electricity

- ✓ Inspect electrical cord and plugs for fraying and cracking; Replace damaged cords
- ✓ Keep electrical cords on top of rugs or carpet
- ✓ Avoid overloading circuits

Kitchens

- ✓ Keep an eye on what’s cooking, and stay in the kitchen
- ✓ Wear short or close-fitting sleeves that won’t brush against hot burners
- ✓ Keep cooking surfaces clean & free of food and grease build-up

2000 Oregon Residential Fire Statistics

- ⇒ In 2000, there were 3,554 residential structure fires in Oregon. There were 191 civilian injuries and 35 deaths caused by these fires.
- ⇒ The two most common areas of the home for fires to occur are the kitchen and the chimney.
- ⇒ Approximately 1/3 of residential fires involve cooking, heating or electrical causes.
- ⇒ There were 469 cooking-related fires, resulting in 36 injuries and 3 deaths.
- ⇒ There were 368 heating-related fires, resulting in 8 injuries and one death.
- ⇒ There were 436 electrical-related fires, resulting in 17 injuries.
- ⇒ Half of the residential fire fatalities in 2000 occurred in homes *without* a working smoke alarm.

Equipment & Apparatus Update

With the exception of personnel costs, no other area of the fire district annual budget requires more attention than our apparatus and equipment. Currently, Fire District 5 maintains 15 vehicles in front line service with an approximate replacement value of over \$1.5 million. If these assets are not well-maintained, or if they are allowed to become obsolete, operating efficiency will be sacrificed and the costs of maintenance and replacement will go up.

Equipment & Apparatus Replacement Plan

The basic proposal for the replacement program that has been implemented is simply that each year a contribution shall be made to the equipment replacement reserve fund for each vehicle in the fleet, taking into account the depreciation (expected



2000 Grass/Brush Vehicle

useful life) of each one, in equal yearly amounts so that by the time the vehicle become obsolete, the entire replacement cost will be already reserved for that vehicle.

For example, if the fire district obtained a new engine with an estimated life of 20 years at a replacement cost of \$250,000, we would need to contribute \$12,500 every year for 20 years in order to have the funds to replace the pumper when it has completed its life cycle. This spreads the burden of replacement over a 20-year period rather than having to fund the entire cost of the pumper in one

year, plus ensures that the money will indeed be available for such a purpose.

The program has been a huge success and because of the proper planning, coordination of effort and fiscal conservativeness, the fire district has made significant improvements in our vehicle fleet.

During the past two years, we have purchased one new grass & brush unit, one new rescue unit and two new staff vehicles by utilizing apparatus

"My Appointed Hour"

A Poem for Firefighters

**Embers spiral and scatter up,
Flames lick the sky
Poisoned air, billowing
smokes
Rise and tower
To fight this enemy is
My Appointed Hour.**

**Sirens, urgent screams
Cry out for help that's
on its way
Hurry! Hurry! Time is
fleeting,
Precious seconds,
Minutes seem like
hours
Whisk me to
My Appointed Hour**

**When at last the battle's
done,
Tragedy struck, but we
won!
We won!
No bitter price nor toll**



New 2000 International Pumper, responding out of Headquarters Station 7 in Talent