

# Fire Lines

Fall 2002

A Publication of Jackson County Fire District No. 5

## The Chief's Report

By Fire Chief Dan Marshall



### NEW HEADQUARTERS FIRE STATION

**D**uring the past year we have been working diligently on the plans, design and the construction of a new headquarters fire station located at 5811 South Pacific Highway, Phoenix, Oregon. The 6.75-acre property is located one mile north of our current headquarters fire station at 716 South Pacific Highway in Talent. The new station will replace the present station that was built in 1968. The 15,000 square-foot station is expected to cost \$2.5 million dollars, and is being funded through a long-term, low interest loan that will be repaid with existing revenue sources, meaning no bond levy or new taxes are needed.

*"The construction of the new fire station was scheduled to begin in the spring or fall of 2002. Our new goal is to be in the new fire station by the spring of 2004."*

The construction of the new fire station was scheduled to begin in the spring or fall of 2002. Unfortunately, the soils are unsuitable for a septic system, and since the property is located outside the Urban Growth Boundary of the City of Talent, the fire district must obtain an exception to Oregon Administrative Rule 660-011-0060 (sewer service to rural lands) in order to hook up to sewer service. A joint public hearing is scheduled with the Jackson County Planning Commission and the Jackson County Commissioners on Thursday, December 12th 2002, for the purpose of considering the fire district's exception application.

We are confident the exception to allow the sewer service extension will be approved. Accordingly, we will be prepared to move forward with the bid process and begin construction as early as February 2003. Our new goal is to be in the new fire station by the spring of 2004.

## *FFF- Firehouse Five Foundation*

### Mission Statement

*"To Provide Humanitarian Assistance to Public Fire and Emergency Medical Services Personnel in Jackson County, Oregon, Who Have Been Affected by Crisis, and to Provide Opportunities for the Community to Become Involved in the Growth and Support of the Public Fire and Emergency medical Service Agencies' Programs"*

The Foundation supports programs not funded by Fire District 5's budget. Identified goals are crisis support, community projects, education grants and support of Fire District 5.

For any other information you would like, or suggestions you have for the Foundation, call Barbara Decker at 482-3020, or write to:

Firehouse Five Foundation  
3303 N Valley View RD  
Ashland OR 97520

**JCFD#5**

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

**535-4222  
482-5991**

## Do You Have A Security Gate?

In recent years, our Fire District has experienced an increasing number of residents installing driveway security gates. These gates can pose a challenge for fire personnel responding to an emergency at your home.

In past years it was not uncommon for fire agencies throughout the country to carry keys and, more recently, gate codes for accessing private residences in their response areas. However, with the growing popularity of security gates, it has become necessary to look at new ways for managing fire department access.

Therefore, Fire District #5 would like to introduce you to the ***Knox Box Rapid Entry System***. The Knox Box is a small security vault that can be placed at your driveway entrance and will contain either your gate key or gate code. The fire district has one key that opens all Knox Boxes. The box is virtually indestructible, reasonably priced, and can only be purchased from the Knox Company. Our goal in promoting the Knox Box security access system is to gain access to properties during an emergency while minimizing damage during the process.

Information is available online at [www.knoxbox.com](http://www.knoxbox.com), however, signed authorization from District #5 is required before purchase. Please contact Division Chief Darin Welburn at 535-4222 to ob-

## JCFD #5 Technical Rescue Team

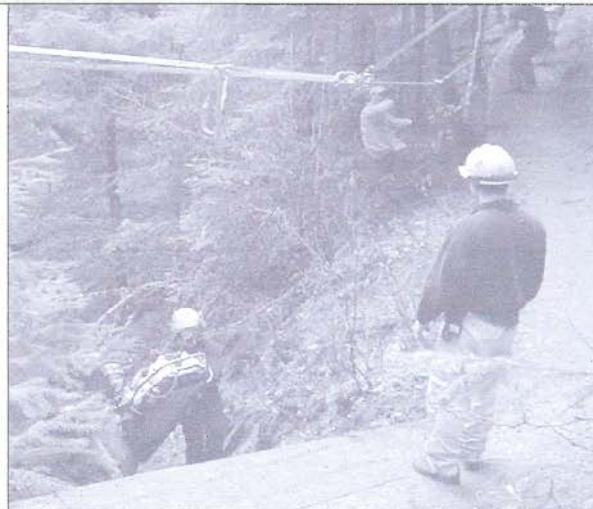
Members of Fire District #5 have been hard at work learning new skills in technical rescue. As the world we live in becomes more complicated, there is a need for people with special skills to solve complicated problems. When there is a void in the public safety arena, it is usually the local fire department that fills the vacuum. Fire agencies and their personnel have tackled such problems in the areas of emergency medicine, trench and confined space rescue, and hazardous materials incidents.

Many areas in the fire district are either steep or inaccessible. A motor vehicle wreck can leave patients over the side of a steep embankment. While people are enjoying recreational opportunities within the district, they may end up needing emergency medical aid in places difficult to access and extricate.

District 5 Firefighter Chad Pisors realized a better way was needed to help sick or injured patients in this kind of situation. Firefighter Pisors, Firefighter Josh Henderson and Engineer Bob Holt attended training classes in technical rescue, then Chad in turn trained several other members of our department to one of the three available levels of expertise. A fundraiser was held to buy specialized equipment for the team, such as ropes, harnesses, pulleys and other hardware. They continue to train on steep angle and high angle rescue areas, and in the future their training will include rescues in confined spaces.

The Technical Rescue Team has already been called upon to rescue accident victims from difficult places. In Spring of 2002, the team was assembled for a scheduled training exercise near Emigrant Lake, when they received a call from Ashland Fire & Rescue that a man had fallen down a steep ravine on a hiking trail off Tolman Creek Road. While paramedics climbed down and treated the patient for a spinal injury, members of Fire District 5 set up a precisely calculated rope rescue system and hauled the victim up the embankment, ready for transport to a hospital.

***FIREFIGHTER /  
ROPE RESCUE  
INSTRUCTOR  
CHAD PISORS  
OVERSEES WHILE  
DISTRICT #5  
FIREFIGHTERS  
STEVE MAZIARSKI  
AND NICK BAALMAN  
HAUL AN INJURED  
HIKER TO SAFETY***



# LIVE FIRE TRAINING

During this past year, crews of Fire District #5 and neighboring agencies have been busy with several live fire training exercises. Live fire training is an invaluable tool in preparing both career and volunteer firefighters for response to community emergencies.

How do we go about obtaining a building for live fire training, and completing the exercise? Most buildings are donated to the Fire District as a result of property development. When we are contacted by an owner, the first thing we do is set up an appointment to view the structure and determine if it has training value. If we determine that it does, then we provide the owner with a list of items that must be completed prior to the training. Some of the items may include an asbestos survey & removal, pressure vessel removal, disconnection of the utilities and a liability waiver. Due to materials used in construction, mobile and pre-manufactured homes are not usable for training burns.

When all these items are done, we begin to plan, usually by scheduling related drills such as hose evolutions, search & rescue (using a smoke machine), ventilation, strategy and tactics. In preparation for the live fire, we must follow strict guidelines developed by the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards & Training, the National Fire Protection Association, and the Department of Environmental Quality. We notify neighbors in the area, monitor weather conditions and develop a command structure to ensure a safe instructional environment for our students. Some of the staff positions that are needed include and Incident Commander, Safety Officer, Prop Officer (for lighting fires and monitoring structural integrity), Water Officer, Medical Standby and appropriate instructor-to-student ratios.

With all of the planning complete, we are ready for the burn day. We begin by having a morning briefing and walk-through of the structure, focusing on structure familiarity and safety issues. We assume our assigned positions and direct all students to the staging area where they



**Firefighters take a break to pose together during a live fire training held recently in Phoenix.**

*(continued from previous column)*

will remain until called to either a fire attack or standby team. All of the live fire training is very controlled with experienced firefighters continually assessing the burn activity, structural integrity and crew condition. The live fire evolutions usually lasts 4 to 6 hours before the structure is allowed to burn to the ground. After that, the crews clean up and critique the day's training.

The Fire District would like to thank those who have donated structures in the past. These training opportunities have helped to better prepare your career and volunteer firefighters for emergencies when they happen in our community.

## ONE OF THE ACTIVITIES AT 2002 OPEN HOUSE



**Firefighter Derek Matchett gives young visitors a chance to see the inside of the ambulance at this year's Open House**