

CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1



October 30, 2008

Information Regarding Clackamas Fire District #1

Entry Level Firefighter/Paramedic Opportunity

Do you know anyone who would like to be a firefighter with Clackamas Fire? An Entry Level Firefighter/Paramedic testing packet was presented for approval at the last Civil Service Commission. Definite dates have not been determined, but we are anticipating the process to begin with the announcement for applications late in 2008 (November-December) with testing potentially being held in January 2009. At that time, an application will be available on the Fire District's website, www.clackamasfire.com.

Lateral Entry Career Fire Academy

The Lateral Career Fire Academy kicked off on the evening of October 20 at the Training Center with a reception dinner for the new firefighters and their families. The District is happy to welcome 12 seasoned firefighters from various agencies. They will be spending the next four weeks learning the ways of the District before being placed for their Field Training and Evaluation Program (FTEP). Following FTEP, they will be assigned to a regular shift/station assignment.

In April, the District was awarded the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) Grant in the amount of \$1.26 million, which will be allocated over four years. The purpose of the grant is to enhance local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operation standards established by NFPA 1710. Due to only having six months from the time the SAFER Grant was awarded to the time the firefighters need to be placed in the stations, applicants needed to currently be trained firefighters with other agencies. Out of 70 candidates, the 12 firefighters currently in the Academy were hired. You will be able to meet them in next month's newsletter.

Support Volunteer Academy

On September 30, the Support Volunteer Academy began with 16 new members and four current support members in

attendance. Support Volunteers play a critical role in providing service to the community. While they do not engage in emergency response activities such as firefighting or rescue, they provide the necessary support to meet the District's mission. Upon completion of the Academy, volunteers will be able to respond as support volunteers with rehab units and the command bus, public education and fire prevention activities. The Academy will run from September 20, 2008 through January 13, 2009.

Annual Audit for Fiscal 2007

The annual audit of the District's financial statements for fiscal year 2007-2008 was completed on October 20 with a presentation from the District's auditors to the Fire District's Board of Directors. At the meeting, Kenny Allen, the senior auditor for Pauly, Rogers & Co., presented an unqualified opinion on the District's financial statements. This means the auditors have given a "clean" opinion on the District's financial statements. Mr. Allen reported that they found the books and records of the District were maintained in a very professional manner throughout the 2007-2008 fiscal year and were in good condition for audit. Mr. Allen commended staff for their assistance and support during the audit.

The report is an improvement over the Fiscal 2006-2007 report, when the audit presented two recommendations that the District implemented during the Fiscal 2007-08 year. The first recommendation was that the District increase the capitalization limit for capital assets from \$500 to \$5,000. This change made the record keeping and asset tracking more in line with standard government practices and simplified the process. The assets will also be converted from a spreadsheet form to a data management form during Fiscal 2008-2009. The second recommendation was for the District to implement an Accounting Policy and Procedures Manual to document the internal control processes the District has in place.

The implementation for the Manual took place during Fiscal 2007-2008.

The Audited Financial Report for year ending June 30, 2008 is available on the District's website, www.clackamasfire.com, or you may call Finance Director Susan McSperitt at 503-742-2649 for a copy.

Revenue Projections for Fiscal 2008

During October, the District received the Tax Certification for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 from the Clackamas County Tax Assessor's Office. The overall increase to the District's assessed value was 23.78 percent; however, that increase includes the annexation of the City of Oregon City into the District effective July 1, 2008. Further analysis indicates that assessed value in the District, not including the annexation, increased by 5.48 percent over last fiscal year. The District estimated 5 percent. The assessed value increase in the City of Oregon City was 6.44 percent; the District estimated 6.25 percent. While the assessed value increased above projection, it is possible due to the current economic situation that the collection rate for the property taxes may decrease resulting in slower revenue recognition for the District. Slower revenue recognition could result in decreased cash flow for the District.

After Action Review for the International Wood Products' Fire

At the Training Center on October 20, the District hosted the After Action Review (AAR) for the International Wood Products 4-alarm fire on September 17. An AAR is usually held after a large event has happened in order to discuss what went well and what lessons were learned that could be incorporated and used when the next large event occurs. This AAR was well-attended by representatives from Boring Fire District, Portland Fire Department, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue and C-COM. I was pleased to hear from three chief officers from outside agencies who

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shared how refreshing it was to have an open discussion regarding the fire. They appreciated the openness of the meeting for people to feel comfortable to freely admit mistakes and to discuss what could be done better for the next time a major event occurs. So often at other AARs, people are so careful to not embarrass themselves or others by sharing what did not go well and what could be done better. This is a great testimony to CCFD #1 and the excellent employees who work here.

Refurbishing Rescue 3

Instead of purchasing a new rescue unit, the District has chosen to refurbish our Rescue 3 unit, which operates out of our Oak Grove Station. This unit is licensed as a transport capable ambulance in the state and is used in the capacity of a first-out rescue unit. After reviewing the cost of a new unit compared to a refurbished unit, our Apparatus Committee felt it was more cost efficient to have the unit refurbished. The refurbishing will include a new cab and chassis, current upgrades for all NFPA recommended systems, a new transmission and suspension. The current cab would be retained and would be fitted with a utility flat bed configuration and be assigned to the Training Division. The Training Division has identified a need for a vehicle that could be used to transport training equipment to and from remote training sites and for the large amount of items needed for "Burn to Learns" (expendables such as hay, fuel, compressed air cylinders, etc.) and other related training functions.

Program Highlight – Update of Strategic Plan

The following is an update of the Strategic Plan from Battalion Chief Tim Dahl.

Via these newsletters, we have been reporting on the District's strategic planning process throughout the summer. A milestone was reached this month when approximately 30 staff members representing a cross-section of the District

returned mentally weary, but spiritually renewed from two days at Menucha Conference and Retreat Center in Corbett. Some of our accomplishments include:

- Confirmed (new) vision/values/goals statements
- Received ESCI's final draft of their work on our strategic plan
- Asked, "Did we forget anything in this process?" Discussion revealed that we do not believe so.
- Reviewed our 'successes' AND 'failures' for the past year
- Presentation of BC Horn's cultural survey results
- Small group sessions that:
 - reviewed the 'gap analysis' (a comparison of what we have SAID we were going to do versus what we actually DID), plus determined which of those actions deserved more or less priority in the future.
 - prepared divisional presentations of the "Big 3" challenges they are each facing today and anticipate for tomorrow.
 - utilized a new project management approach, development of supporting objectives and action plans for our new goal set.

Plus, presentations of the products from these small group sessions were made and discussed with the large group.

County Commissioner Lynn Peterson gave a 'keynote address' regarding the future challenges in Clackamas County that was 'right on' for our purpose at this retreat - a 'bigger picture' view of challenges facing Clackamas County that was an eye-opener for most of us.

All-in-all, feedback has been that the retreat was a big success. Information gathered from the retreat will be incorporated into the Strategic Plan document, which continues to be a work in progress.

LOCAL STATION ACTIVITIES

See station summary.

District-wide

Total number of calls during September = 1,305

Total number of calls January – September 2008 = 11,873