

CLACKAMAS FIRE DISTRICT #1



March 30, 2009

Fire District Information Regarding Clackamas Fire District #1

Promotional Ceremony

On March 3, 2009, the Fire District held a promotional ceremony for Kyle Olson and Keith Smith. They were both promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Congratulations Lt. Olson and Lt. Smith!



Keith Smith, Kyle Olson, Chief Kirchofer



Lt. Kyle Olson



Lt. Keith Smith

Volunteer Academy Graduation

Congratulations go out to our newest Volunteer members who graduated March 17, 2009 from our first Support Volunteer Academy. The Academy started on September 30, 2008 and concluded on March 10, 2009. Of these 12 members, two will be attending the Water Tender Operator Academy starting in May and eight will attend our Firefighter Academy starting in September. Two will be serving as rehab and command bus operators. All new members to our Volunteer Services Section will serve as rehab and command bus operators as well as water tender operators and firefighters.

In addition to the twelve new members, current Support Volunteers Julie Tanz, Jack Tanz and Jerry Kearney also attended the Support Academy and graduated last night.

During the graduation ceremony, Chief Kirchofer took the opportunity to swear in our newest Chaplain, Mike Vermace. Chaplain Vermace serves on the staff at Abundant Life Church just north of Station 7 in Pleasant Valley.



Chaplain Mike Vermace and
Chief Kirchofer



New Volunteer members left to right: Melinda Wilson, Beth Dudley, Joe Kociemba, Brandon White, AJ Stuck, Rain Stein, Everett Easton, Joe Hall, Steve Stupey, Brian Hankins, Loren Slama and Evan Mitchell.

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Firefighter Stairclimb

On Sunday, March 8, 2009, 18 of our firefighters competed in the 18th Annual Scott Firefighter Stairclimb in Seattle, WA. Firefighters raced to the top of the Columbia Center in full combat gear and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). This is the largest individual firefighter competition in the world. Funds raised through sponsorships, individual and department fundraising and entry fees help support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Our team of 18 raised over \$6,400 and placed 28th out of 139 teams. The team included FF Matt Davis, Lt. Jason Ellison, FF Jamen Lahodny, Capt. Bill Conway, AO Josh Gehrke, Lt. Ryan Heitschmidt, AO Bryan MacKender, Lt. Steve Hoffeditz, FF Kevin Schurter, FF Kelsay Willard, AO Ted Willard, FF Michael Hall, BC Ken Horn, FF Trevor Brownlee and BC David Scheirman.

Financial Update

The current economic downturn has everyone concerned, including Clackamas Fire District #1. The District's Finance Division has been monitoring property tax collections closely since collections began for this fiscal year in November 2008. Property tax payments can be paid in one, two, or three payments. The due dates for payment of property taxes are in November, February, and May of each year. The second payment of property taxes has been received by the District, and analysis indicates the collection rate in comparison to prior years will fall short this fiscal year by approximately .95% or \$308,000. As the District anticipates that revenues will fall short of budgeted projections, staff is prepared to reduce expenditures to balance the budget for this fiscal year.

The District continues to develop the budget for Fiscal 2009 and is drafting a conservative budget that preserves staffing, maintains our current assets and service levels we provide to the communities we serve.

Updated District Presentations Scheduled for Cities of Milwaukie, Oregon City and Happy Valley

During March, Chief Kirchhofer gave updated District presentations at the City of Milwaukie's council meeting and the City of Oregon City's commission meeting. He shared the accomplishments, highlights and future plans of the Fire District. Meetings are open to the public. The remaining presentation will be given to the City of Happy Valley.

City of Happy Valley

Date: April 7, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: City Hall
16000 SE Misty Dr.

Fire District's Website

The Fire District's website at www.clackamasfire.com is continually being updated. From community events involving the Fire District to AED/CPR/First Aid Classes, fire prevention and safety information, meeting agendas and more, be sure to check the website to find the most current information.

Fire District Blood Drive

The Fire District will be hosting a blood drive on Friday, April 3, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Admin Office. Registration may be completed online at www.givelife.org. The sponsor code is CCFD1. You may also register to give blood by calling the Red Cross at 503-528-5892. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Strejc at 503-742-2646 or karenstr@ccfd1.com.

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Foundation Trustee Term Renewals

The Clackamas Emergency Services Foundation is made up of 19 Trustees from the community. Each year some of the Trustees' three-year terms end and they have the option of being renewed by the District's Board of Directors. At the March board meeting, the Board approved the three-year term renewals for the following Trustees:

John Blanton – Clackamas Community College
Tina Mataya - ServiceMaster
John Osburn – Mersereau & Shannon, LLP
Harvey Platt – Platt Electric Supply Inc.
Angie Secolo – ING Financial Advisors, LLC
Don Trotter – Retired - Architect
Norm Whiteley – Retired – Clackamas Fire District #1

The Foundation's mission is "To provide humanitarian assistance to those who have been adversely affected by disaster, tragedy, injury or other misfortune, and to work towards preventing such misfortunes in our community."

Further information regarding the Foundation may be found on our website at www.clackamasfire.com.

Program Highlight – Clackamas Firefighters Make a Difference Around the Globe

For the last few years, some of the firefighters of Clackamas Fire District #1 have been making a difference around the globe. Personnel from Clackamas Fire have volunteered their time with Medical Teams International and Hope Teams International to deliver medical, fire and rescue training, set up medical clinics and work on humanitarian projects in third world countries. So far, we have worked in the countries of Cambodia, Vietnam, Peru, Kenya and Uzbekistan.

As firefighters, our training and experience falls into an area that so many of these countries desperately need. Our main areas of focus have been first aid training and train-the-trainer programs. With the train-the-trainer programs, we are able to teach medical staff first aid skills that they can then pass along to others. Many of the hospitals and organizations have used our team members' training as their core class for first aid training and have made it a requirement for all of their new doctors and nurses. The first aid training is very valuable because in most of the areas where we teach there is no EMS system and the hospitals are very far away, poorly equipped and understaffed. Other training that our teams have provided have been structural and wildland firefighting skills and rope rescue.

Firefighters use their own vacation time and try to raise money for the trips. We have fundraisers that help to offset the cost of travel and to help buy equipment and fund projects other than teaching. One of the exciting projects Team Cambodia has done is sponsor a village school outside of Phnom Penh. We raised extra funds to buy the textbooks for each grade level at the school and also provide for the building of a water well. The school has no water supply and no electricity. We were able to hire a local contractor and for \$400.00 and six days of hand digging the contractors placed a well that now serves the school of over 400 children and the local community with clean water. This is a low cost project that has a huge impact since most of the illnesses come from water borne diseases. In Cambodia, 55,000 children die each year from preventable diseases, many caused by unsanitary water.

Awareness and the Take Away - These experiences create an incredible amount of awareness about the conditions and issues facing people around the world. Many of the areas and people are recovering from years of civil war, genocide, AIDS epidemics, or the impact of dysfunctional governments. As we talk about our travels and show images of where we have been and what we have done, people become aware of the need to get involved at home and around the world. It takes very little time, money and effort to make an incredible impact. When going

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Program Highlight – Clackamas Firefighters Make a Difference Around the Globe (continued)

to places outside of the United States, we are stretched outside of our comfort zones and forced to see how a majority of the world lives. The realization that at home we live in abundance, can drink the water without getting sick, and have help minutes away by dialing three numbers takes on special meaning. In America, we are truly gifted. The greatest take-away for me and many of the team members are the memories of all of the smiling faces, the incredible generosity and knowing that the skills that we leave will have a tremendous impact on many lives.

If you would like to help sponsor future trips you can contact a team leader by writing to the following email brian-roo@ccfd1.com.

Article by
Brian Rooney
Captain, South End Fire Station



Clinic in Cambodia



Clinic in Cambodia



Orphanage in Cambodia

LOCAL STATION ACTIVITIES

See station summary.