

SMOKE SIGNALS

Our Community Newsletter

Sublimity Fire District

Incident Response Changes

The next time you see the Sublimity Fire District responding to a call for service, it may not be with the traditional red lights and siren.

The national fire service is starting to take a hard look at the way departments have responded and is asking the question: Is it worth the risk to responders and the public?

The fire service loses approximately 100 firefighters a year to emergency response accidents; twenty-five to thirty percent of those deaths are attributed to driving incidents.

The fire service must change the culture within its organizations and public perception that every call requires the use of

lights and sirens. National research has shown that the use of lights and sirens cuts only about 60 seconds from a normal response.

To make sure that the Sublimity Fire District is doing all it can to prevent a response accident, the fire district's board of directors has instituted a strict policy for its members to follow. It states that if dispatch information indicates the need for emergency response (lights and sirens), then the first apparatus leaving either station may respond in that mode; all other units will respond "Code 1" (non-emergent) until upgraded by the incident commander or until additional information is provided that warrants an up-

grade of response. The policy also states that no vehicle with a gross vehicle weight over 40,000 lbs. is to respond in the emergency mode.

So remember that the next time you see a Sublimity Emergency Vehicle responding, those firefighters are looking out for everyone's safety—the members and the public we serve—by driving responsibly.



Chief Tim Frost
FROSTY

November 2007 Issue

3rd Edition

Inside this issue:

Student Soldier Presents Flag	2
70th Annual Turkey Shoot	3
Volunteering: We Need You!	3
History & Tradition: Station Dalmatian	4
Opportunities for Non-Responders	5
Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)	5
Board of Directors	5
Santiam Canyon 9-1-1 Center	6
Holiday Events	7
Becoming a Firefighter	7

Holiday Season Approaching: Enjoy It & Stay Safe

As the leaves turn to autumn colors and start to fall, they bring with them a sense of urgency to get the seasonal decorations out from their storage places.

The daunting tasks of crawling around the attic to find those special items and climbing that extension ladder to hang the lights cause us sometimes to become stressed and overlook special safety concerns.

As volunteer association president, I would like to remind everyone to be safe and think holiday tasks through before putting them into action, so you can all enjoy the happy memories of this holiday season.

I would also like to say thank you for all of the support in the last year. We look forward to seeing so many of you at our 70th Annual Turkey Shoot on Sunday, November 18,

2007, from 1-5 p.m., and at the Sublimity Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, December 1, 2007, at 7:30 p.m.

I would like to wish you all the very best. Enjoy the upcoming holiday season and, most importantly, stay safe.

Sincerely,

Geoff McFarland
Sublimity FF Assoc. President

Student/soldier presents flag to Chemeketa (and Sublimity Fire)

Article taken from Chemeketa Voices online (www.chemek.cc.or.us/aboutus/people/jonathancartney.html)

SPC Jonathan Cartney, Oregon National Guard, was a soldier serving in Afghanistan when he signed up for classes at Chemeketa Community College in the fall of 2006. Hoping to get help paying his tuition, he called the financial aid office to see if he qualified for assistance. He learned his combat pay pushed his income too high, and he was ineligible for aid, but, even so, that didn't stop the financial aid office from adopting him as their "guy in Afghanistan."

"He was such a nice young man," said Elaine Smith, federal work study coordinator, "and talking to him put an Oregon face on the nightly news. He'd call or send e-mail and bring us up-to-date on what was going on in his life."

Around Christmas that year, Jolene Jones, financial aid assistant, suggested they send Jonathan a Christmas present, an idea that grew into a series of care packages.

"Elaine really took the lead," said Jolene. "People from several departments contributed, but she collected everything and got it to the post office. She was also our main contact with Jonathan."

"They sent me a lot of stuff," Jonathan said. "It seemed like about 800 pounds of books, snacks, games, socks, hats, stamps, and writing material." Things, he said, that he always appreciated receiving. Of more importance to Jonathan, however, was the friendship those gifts represented.

When he first went to Afghanistan, Jonathan had already served 10 months in Kirkuk, in the northern part of Iraq. He had little time there to study, but in Afghanistan he signed up for online classes in reading, writing and math.

"It wasn't easy," he said, "I completed much of my reading while bouncing up and down in the back of a Humvee."

It may not have been easy, but it could help him achieve his goal. Jonathan grew up in the northeast corner of Oregon and graduated from Cove High School. He has wanted to be a paramedic since he was 8 years old. At the age of 17, he joined the Oregon National Guard, in part to help pay for a college education.

"I also wanted to serve my country," he said, "and I wanted the chance to work as part of a team."

Because of his interest in the medical field, he asked to serve as a medic while in the Middle East. It was hard being away from friends and family, but helping other people, no matter what nationality they were, helped make that separation easier.

"The best part of my tour," he said, "was being a part

of MedCAPS [Medical Civilian Assistance Program]. We'd go out to villages for three or four days and treat people for their health problems. It was good just being able to help someone in need."

Now back home after "364 days, 12 hours and 13 minutes in Afghanistan," Jonathan is enrolled in Introduction to Emergency Services and a psychology class, hoping to enter Chemeketa's Paramedic program in the fall. He also serves the Sublimity Fire District as a "sleeper" – a position that provides experience and a place to live for students attending school full time in the emergency service field.

He's happy to talk about his future, but, like many soldiers, there are other things he'd rather not talk about. For example, he's not interested in the politics of his situation, saying these are problems for the politicians.

"My job is to be a soldier on the ground and make sure my guys are okay," he said. "That's what we do."

Nor is he interested in watching the war unfold on television.

"A soldier dies and it's covered for a minute," he said, "but they spend days on Anna Nicole Smith. It's hard to watch."

When asked if he or any of his friends had been wounded, he is even more succinct. "A couple of my friends were injured; a couple are no longer here." Then he lets you know it's time to move on to another topic.

On Sept. 11, 2006, Jonathan requested that an American flag be flown for Chemeketa over his base in Kabul, and on June 26 this year, he gave that same flag to President Gretchen Schuette as a gift to the college out of his gratitude for the professionalism and caring of the college's staff and faculty. He took a second flag, flown that same day in Afghanistan, to Elaine Smith, for going out of her way to be a friend to him. He brought a third flag and presented it to the board of directors of the Sublimity Fire District.

"People at the college knew I had some issues," he said, in a classic case of understatement, "and that sometimes situations might keep me from meeting a deadline. The people at Chemeketa always treated me like a real person."



70th Annual Sublimity Volunteer Firefighters Turkey Shoot

The seasons are changing and fall is here, which means it is time for the Sublimity Volunteer Firefighters 70th Annual Turkey Shoot.

So, what is a turkey shoot exactly? For those who haven't been to one, it is a great afternoon of BINGO fun. Our Volunteer Association puts it on every year for the

members of our community to come down to the fire hall and play bingo to win turkeys.

We will have over 100 turkeys to be won, along with some other great features. The Thursday Painters club will be donating several original paintings that will be up for auction, as well as two handmade quilts donated by local quilters.

70th Annual Turkey Shoot

Sunday, November 18

**Sublimity Fire Station,
115 NW Parker St.**

1:00-5:00 p.m.

BINGO - 25¢/card

This year we will also have two blackout bingos, worth \$50 each. Every year our bingo tradition is growing and we're trying to add new things for our community members to enjoy.

As always, we will have three cash drawings. Raffle tickets will be mailed to everyone in the Sublimity Fire District. The cost is \$1/ticket or six tickets for \$5. If you need additional tickets, they will be available at the fire station during business hours, up to and including the day of the event. The prizes are \$25, \$50 and \$100. You do not need to be present to win.

We will also be accepting donations for the "Gift of Christmas Dinner" program, to help bring some cheer to local families during

the holidays. Those bringing donations of cash or non-perishable food items will be entered into a special drawing. *Suggested items: boxed stuffing mix; boxed mashed potatoes; canned yams/sweet potatoes, cranberries, green beans, corn, fruit cocktail and peaches; and bags of mini marshmallows.*

The Sublimity Firefighters Association would like to invite the community to come down and play bingo with us on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Come meet your local volunteer firefighters and let us entertain you for a few hours. The money we raise will go to help support the community tree lighting (an event sponsored by the Firefighters Association). We hope to see you down there, and your turkey is just a bingo call away.

**Angela Hargin
Chairperson**

70th Annual Turkey Shoot

Volunteering: We need YOU!

By Brandon Hamilton, Assistant Chief

The Sublimity Fire District is comprised of a paid fire chief, a paid office administrator and a contingent of **VOLUNTEER** firefighters, the most important part of the organization.

While the chief is a very important part of the organization, he cannot be effective without a group of dedicated volunteers to help carry out his vision and mission.

While he has nearly 25 years of fire service experience, Chief Frost recently celebrated his second anniversary with the district and has made some significant changes to our de-

partment in its operations and philosophy. During this period, we have attempted to strengthen our volunteer numbers. We started by contacting some former volunteers and attempting to get them to re-join the department. We have had two former volunteers return and one of them has brought his son to join as well. We are still waiting for a third person to re-join who has committed, but the timing has not been right.

Our next step is to ask **YOU**, the citizens of Sublimity Fire District, to consider joining our dedicated group of volunteers. There is an amazing sense of satisfaction in helping your

community in a time of need, whether it be a neighbor or a long-time community icon.

There is also a good group of people you can work alongside and make amazing close personal friendships.

The fire district is headed in a good direction and **NOW** is the time to get on board and help us take it to the next level!

If you have any questions, please call or stop by. We have weekly drills on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and all of you are welcome to drop in and see what we are all about!

History & Tradition: The Station Dalmatian

Excerpt from above-titled article by Danielle Taylor, National Fire & Rescue Magazine, Sept/Oct 2007 issue

A class of grade-school children was playing on the playground when a fire truck roared by, lights flashing and sirens blaring. Every child turned to stare in awe, and they saw the stately Dalmatian sitting next to the officer in the front seat. The kids began musing what the dog might be for and why he was in the truck.

"He's to keep the crowds back," said one child.

"No, he's good luck," said another.

But the discussion stopped when a third child concluded, "They use the dog to find the fire hydrant."

In truth, the three playground kids have it mostly figured out. Dalmatians have found homes in many fire stations around the world and have come to represent the fire service as a friendly mascot that helps endear the rough-and-tumble firefighters to the community. But why a Dalmatian instead of any other kind of dog?

As Dalmatians became more and more common in Britain, English firefighters began to recognize the breed's many useful attributes that had been previously discovered. During the 18th and 19th centuries, London firehouses and stables left without constant use had a major

problem with pests, and Dalmatians were used to exterminate the vermin. Once introduced to firehouses as useful rat catchers, the dogs got a chance to prove their worth as a horse companion, a guard dog and a friend to firemen on duty.

Before Dalmatians were common in many firehouses, their natural attraction to horses made them followers of many fire bri-



gades as horse-drawn rescuers rushed to a blaze, and firefighters would often return to their wagons to find the spotted canine keeping the horses in check and fending off attackers and thieves. Time and again, they proved their usefulness, and thus the dogs were easily adopted into many firehouses.

The tradition spread to stations outside of London and into the

more rural firehouses dotting the English countryside. Many members of these rural departments immigrated to American and brought the tradition of a Dalmatian in the firehouse with them to the New World.

In the early days of American firefighting, all departments were volunteer and the insurance companies would only pay out to the company that extinguished the blaze. Often, many different companies would arrive at the same incident, and the only way to establish who put out the fire was seeing who had hooked into the hydrant. To expedite response time (and make the most profit for a department), some companies began sending their Dalmatians out ahead of the horse-drawn apparatus to clear the traffic and make way for the wagons.

Today, the horses are gone and there's no practical need for a firehouse dog to help make it to the scene, but the tradition of a Dalmatian in the firehouse lives on. It serves as a friend to the firefighters and an emblem to the community, making the station more of a home on those long lulls between calls and bringing to mind the days of a bygone era when horses, carriages, buckets and Dalmatians meant help was on the way.

Volunteer Opportunities for Non-Firefighters

Do you have skills that don't relate to firefighting but still want to help out the fire department? You don't have to be a firefighter to be a member of the Sublimity Fire District.

We have a need for community members who want to help but may not have the physical strength or desire to combat fires or move patients. You can become a member of the Fire Corps, established to help fire organizations in non-combat positions.

- Promote fire safety and community education
- Help write grant applications
- Develop Web sites and computer programs

- Provide backup support during major events
- Assist with incident reporting and data entry
- Assist with public relations
- Organize fundraising initiatives
- Assist with canteen services at major incidents
- Assist with informational newsletters
- Serve as a member of the support team
- Assist with community food drives, Christmas baskets, toy collections, pancake breakfasts, etc.

If you have a skill or interest, we have a position for you. Return the enclosed form to the fire district, indicating your area(s) of interest and we'll contact you.

Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD)

Source: State of Connecticut Office of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications

When you call 9-1-1, haven't you ever wondered, "What's with all the questions?! All I want is to get this patient to the hospital for treatment as quickly as possible. I don't have time for all these questions."

The Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) System is a series of questions which the 9-1-1 Telecommunicator asks the caller in order to determine:

- ◆ What the medical situation is
- ◆ If intervention is needed immediately
- ◆ What resources need to be dispatched (Fire, Police, EMS)
- ◆ How the resources should respond (lights/sirens or with the flow of traffic)
- ◆ If pre-arrival instructions need to be given to the caller (CPR,

controlling bleeding, child-birth)

The EMD System is based upon a patient's "signs and symptoms," not up to specific diagnosis. The Telecommunicator will ask questions like:

- ◆ Address
- ◆ Call-back number
- ◆ What's the problem—tell me exactly what happened
- ◆ Age/Sex of the patient
- ◆ Is the patient conscious?
- ◆ Is the patient breathing?

Depending on the answer to the above questions, more specific questions may be asked. When the caller is not with the patient or does not know the answer to the questions, it can generate a higher level of re-

Board of Directors

- **President:**
Jeff Kropf
serving since 2003
- **Vice-President:**
Ralph Fisher
serving since 1989
- **Secretary/
Treasurer:**
Rick Kauffman
serving since 2003
- **Director:**
Jim Heater
serving since 2007
- **Director:**
Gary Rychard
serving since 1994

sponse and tie up resources unnecessarily. It's helpful to have as much information about the patient you can when you call.

While you are talking with the 9-1-1 Telecommunicator, the Telecommunicator is entering your information into the 9-1-1 system. Based on the nature of the call, the Telecommunicator sends, or dispatches, the appropriate help. In some instances, a second Telecommunicator dispatches help, based on the information entered into the system, while you are still talking.

Answering the 9-1-1 Telecommunicator's questions allows for a quicker dispatch, provides patient information to the responding personnel and gets the services you need in the least amount of time.

Local 911 Center an Asset to the Community

By Rob Poirer, Director, Santiam Canyon Communications Center

Since the opening of Oregon's first official 911 center at Milton-Freewater Police Department in 1981, there has been a great deal of change in the 911 community. One of the most controversial issues has been that of Primary Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) consolidation. Since the mid-1990s, it seems that every legislative session has possessed some sort of Bill to force PSAPs into consolidating. Even after an extensive study was commissioned that ultimately discouraged forced consolidation, certain members of the legislature have continued to push the concept.

The Santiam Canyon Communications Center is one of three primary PSAPs left in Marion County. It serves as a 911 answering point from a portion of I-5 at its southwest boundary and includes 9 rural fire protection districts from Jefferson and Turner to the west, through the Hwy 22 Corridor to Detroit/Idanha to the east. Besides receiving all 911 calls from within its service area, Santiam Canyon 911 also provides emergency dispatch service to each of these fire districts, three police agencies and the Santiam Memorial Hospital ambulance service, which includes service to many citizens in Linn County as well. Other agencies served by the Center include the Marion County Public Works Department and the Bureau of Land Management. We also provide after hours and weekend call outs for other local public works departments.

The agency operates from two primary funding sources. About twenty percent of our funding comes from local 911 telephone taxes. The bulk of the remaining funding comes from our user agencies. Each fire district, police agency and other entity that uses our services pays an annual user fee that has been derived from a combination of base fees and calls for service.

Operating and maintaining a 911 center is not an inexpensive undertaking. While a significant portion of the equipment is purchased and maintained through the State 911 program, there remains a great deal of equipment that has to be provided for by the center itself. This includes sophisticated phone equipment; computer-aided dispatch (CAD) and various computer networks, as well as high-tech voice

recording equipment required for quality assurance and liability purposes.

Our center itself was newly constructed a little more than a year ago and provides ample room to conduct operational and administrative aspects of the center. A training room also doubles as an emergency operations center (EOC), where local emergencies are managed in a facility designed to operate without external power and withstand most weather related or seismic events.

Perhaps the most valuable resource that the center possesses is the men and women who work here. With over 100 years of experience in public safety emergency communications, these highly skilled professionals are not only trained in processing emergency police, fire and medical calls, they are members of the community. All of these employees live within a close proximity to the service area and are very familiar with the area they serve. This calming voice at the other end of a 911 call may be your neighbor or someone you may see at a local sporting event or in a local business. They might have helped save the life of a family member or perhaps helped to deliver a baby. When someone from outside the area calls with no idea where they are, these folks know what questions to ask to find the location of an emergency.

For many years, the Santiam Canyon Community has fought hard to keep this local center operating. Despite attempts to force consolidation or even the temptation to explore less expensive alternatives, this community has recognized what an asset this center is to their community.

As the new director of the Santiam Canyon Communications Center, I am proud of this community for realizing the importance of maintaining local control of this most important asset. I am astonished at the skills, knowledge and dedication to this organization from the center's staff. I truly appreciate the support we receive from our user agencies and will strive to continue to help them better serve the community. I personally look forward to becoming an active member of this community and am honored to be a part of this organization.

Upcoming Holiday Events

◆ 70th Annual Turkey Shoot

Play Bingo at the fire station for a chance to win a turkey. Over 100 turkeys to be won. Auction of local paintings and quilts. Play two black-out games for cash prizes. Sunday, November 18, 2007, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

◆ Sublimity X-Mas Tree Lighting

Come to the fire station for the tree lighting this year. The tree will be located in the parking lot next to the station. Cookies, cocoa, cider and coffee will be provided in the fire station. Santa will also make an appearance to light the tree. Saturday, December 1, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

◆ Stayton/Sublimity Chamber of Commerce Forum Lunch

The Sublimity Fire District will be hosting the December Chamber Forum Lunch again this year. There will be local entertainment, as well as fresh, homemade food, brought to you by the Sublimity and Stayton Firefighters. The event will take place in the Training Room at the Sublimity Fire District main station. If you'd like to attend, you must contact the Chamber of Commerce at (503) 769-3464 to make a reservation. Monday, December 3, 2007, noon.

◆ Gift of Christmas Dinner Baskets

Last year, the firefighters sponsored 15 families through the Gift of Christmas Dinner program. This year, our goal is to sponsor at least 20. We welcome donations of cash, boxed stuffing mix, boxed potatoes, canned fruits/vegetables, canned yams and mini marshmallows.

◆ Toys for Joy

Sublimity Fire District is a drop-off site for brand-new, unwrapped toys for the local Toys for Joy Program. Drop off toys through December 14th at the main fire station.

Becoming a Firefighter

By Mike Patrick, Sublimity Fire District Assistant Chief/Training Officer

"How do I become a firefighter?" That seems to be the most prevalent question that I get asked as the Training Officer. Well, the first step is to decide to do it. Once that is decided, you will be sent to the Santiam Canyon Fire Academy. You will meet other new firefighters from all over the canyon and you will learn all the skills needed to be an effective and, more importantly, a safe firefighter. This academy will last approx. 3 months and usually consists of Wednesday night classes with weekend drills every other weekend. During this period, you will learn fire behavior, hose line manipulation, building construction, search and rescue, vehicle extrication and Hazardous Materials mitigation to name a few. The culmination of the academy is a live fire exercise, where you and your classmates will go into a burning building with your instructors.

Once you have successfully completed the academy, you will have all the necessary certifications to be a firefighter. This is by far the hardest part to becoming a volunteer firefighter. After that, it is a matter of completing 60 hours of training a year. This is done in the form of weekly drills. Sublimity Fire District drills every Thursday night from 7-9 p.m. During these drills, you will re-enforce what you learned in the academy and learn more advanced skills.

From this point on, the amount of training that you do is essentially up to you. You may decide that being a firefighter is pretty much where you want to be and that is 100% okay. Some people decide that they want to learn to be an Apparatus Operator and attend classes on fire pump construction and hydraulics. Some may even

decide to take Fire Officer classes to learn to manage personnel and resources at a scene. The bottom line is this: it is your choice. Oh, and did I mention that this training is paid for by the fire department? That's right. You spend no money at all.

At the Sublimity Fire District, the majority of our responses are medical in nature. Because of this, all members will be trained in CPR. If you decide that you are interested in more advanced medical training, the department will send you to EMT school.

I would encourage everyone to come down to the fire hall any Thursday night to watch what it is all about. You don't need to call or make an appointment, just come on down, introduce yourself and see what you think.

SUBLIMITY FIRE DISTRICT

Volunteer Interest Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Telephone: () - _____ Alternate/message phone: () - _____

E-mail address: _____

Are you over the age of 18? ___ yes ___ no



Best time to contact: _____

Please indicate your interest: ___ Volunteer Firefighter ___ Fire Corps (area of interest: _____)

* If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or would like more information, please fill out this form and return it to the Sublimity Fire District, 115 NW Parker St., or mail it to P.O. Box 911, Sublimity, OR 97385.

Sublimity Fire District

115 NW Parker St.
P.O. Box 911
Sublimity, OR 97385-0911



Phone: 503-769-3282
Fax: 503-769-4579
sublimityfire@sublimityfire.com

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SUBLIMITY, OR
PERMIT NO. 14

POSTAL CUSTOMER
SUBLIMITY, OR 97385