



FIREBUSTER

MOVE OVER LAW

Every day, emergency workers put their lives on the line to save others. Even a routine emergency on a road or highway has become risky business.

In the last 10 years, hundreds of emergency workers have been killed in incidents on our nations roadways. In many of these cases, the emergency workers were pulled over to the side of the road when inattentive drivers crashed into them at high speeds.

The Move Over Law (ORS 811.147) states that if you are driving up behind any type of police car or emergency vehicle pulled over on the roadside with emergency lights flashing, you must:

MOVE OVER into another lane. If you can't safely change lanes, **SLOW DOWN.**

In all cases, the driver must try to provide as **much room as possible for the emergency vehicle.**

The Move Over Law is in place to help protect law enforcement officers and emergency workers from a deadly threat they face on a daily basis: speeding and inattentive drivers. But the law also exists to protect you. Save yourself and those in your car from the physical and emotional dangers of a crash. The flashing lights are your cue to move over and slow down. Failure to obey this law can cost drivers up to \$355. Please help protect the lives of our emergency workers!

2008 Volunteer Officers

President - Marty Theurer

Vice President - Ben Waite

Secretary - Marta McGovern
-Philpott

Treasurer - Paula Anderson

BURN SEASON OPENED MARCH 1ST

The backyard burning seasons are March 1st to June 15th and October 15th to December 15th. It is important to call the Fire Department's Burn Advisory number at 929-5903 after 8:30am on the day you want to burn to find out what time burning is allowed that day. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulates which days are open for burning and updates the advisory daily. Materials that can be burned include clean, untreated woody debris such as small branches, and yard debris. You may also wish to receive the daily advisory by email. For the daily email advisory, please visit http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/open_burn_announce. Simply follow the directions on the website. If you have any questions, please call Philomath Fire & Rescue at 929-3002 or Oregon Department of Environmental Quality at 1-800-349-7677 or Oregon Department of Forestry at 929-3266.

Benton County Wildfire Protection Plan

The draft CWPP recommends various actions be taken by fire districts, property owners, local government and others, but does not impose regulations on private properties. The Community Development Department and CWPP Planning Committee – comprising representatives from rural and wildland fire districts, Oregon Department of Forestry, United States Forest Service, private land managers, various Benton County departments and others – are coordinating the effort.

The draft plan is available for viewing at the Benton County Community Development Department; public libraries in Alsea, Corvallis, Philomath and Monroe; Bookmobile; Corvallis Fire Station No. 1 and Station No. 6; Monroe Fire Station; the Benton County Board of Commissioners Office; or online at <http://www.co.benton.or.us>. The Benton County draft CWPP is designed to:

- Reduce wildfire risk for Benton County residents, landowners, businesses, communities, local governments and state and federal agencies;
- Identify high fire risk areas and develop strategies to reduce risk;
- Improve awareness of wildland fire issues locally;
- Improve access to funding to achieve these goals;
- Maintain appropriate wildfire response capabilities; and
- Continue sustainable natural resource management policies.

Comments can be submitted to the attention of Chris Bentley, Benton County Community Development Department, 360 SW Avery Ave. Corvallis, OR 97330 or by e-mail to chris.bentley@co.benton.or.us. For more information, those interested can contact Bentley, the project coordinator, at (541) 766-6819. Public comments may be submitted until 5 p.m. on March 16.

2008 Volunteer Awards

Fire Fighter of the year—Dave Wiger

Most Inspirational—Karl Corbin

Resident of the Year—Andy Goodenough

EMS Responder of the year—Mike Berger

EMS Responders

For many years, the volunteer responders of Philomath Fire and Rescue have been required to train as a firefighter and, if they had the interest, they could then become trained in EMS. Philomath Fire and Rescue has looked at its activity level and realized that 70% of our calls for assistance are medical. At the same time, potential volunteers were approaching the Fire Department asking if there was any way to serve as a volunteer EMS responder but not have to do fire training.

This last spring, Philomath Fire and Rescue began its EMS Responder program and the response has been more than anticipated. People living in the community that were trained as EMS responders but did not want to do fire training have come forward and people trained but living outside of the community and wanting to utilize their skills and stay current with their training stepped forward with the agreement of being at the station 16 hours a month. Since its inception, Philomath Fire and Rescue has had ten people come forward and sign up for the EMS volunteer or responder position.

The new interest in volunteering as an EMS responder is helping the Department staff the medical units as they respond to calls. With all the required initial and on-going training, it is sometimes difficult to find individuals that are able to spend the time training to become a volunteer. There are not any rules that say that once the person becomes associated with the medical side of the department that they can't decide they want to train to become a firefighter.

If volunteering for Philomath Fire and Rescue sounds like something you might be interested in doing, and you are at least 18 years old, please contact the Department to have your questions answered.

Spring Clean Up

Winter is nearing its' end and many of us are beginning to assess the damage. As you plan your property clean-up, remember the all important task of making sure your driveway is clear of limbs or brush which may slow our response. We ask that you clear the brush along your driveway to a height *and* width of 14 feet. This ensures that we will have room to open compartments and work around our engines in case of an emergency. Also, take time to look at the parking area around your home. Ask yourself if there is room to park two to three extra vehicles and turn an ambulance around near your home. Our volunteers and staff work hard to make sure we are ready to arrive with the appropriate equipment for your emergency. Are you doing what you can?

A FEW NEW FACES AT THE STATION



Andy Gallagher has joined PF&R as an EMS responder. Andy was born in Massachusetts and raised in Oregon. He attends OSU pursuing a B.S. in Biology with plans to attend medical school. Andy is currently an EMT Basic. He plays intramural football and is a member of club racquetball

Steven Phan is a junior at OSU majoring in biology with plans to attend medical school and become a surgeon. Steven is an EMT Basic. He is part of the EMS responders for PF&R. Steven enjoys participating in and watching all types of sporting events

Ken Corbin, a previous 20yr PF&R volunteer, has re-joined with us and is currently training to be a First Responder. He resides in Wren and is currently a software engineer at Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis. He enjoys contra dancing and board games in his free time

Ralph Garono lives in Philomath. He is a research ecologist and owns a small business in Corvallis. He teaches Ecology at OSU and is a member of the Benton County Search & Rescue Team. Ralph is also a member of the Oregon Disaster Medical Team and currently is an EMT Basic

Tiffany Oster grew up in Christmas Valley and now attends OSU. She joined PF&R as an EMS responder to keep current on her skills and be active in the area. Tiffany is working towards a degree in nutrition/dietitian with a minor in sports injury care. Her goal after college is to become a sports dietitian

Courtney Bethune originally hails from Scappoose, OR. She currently attends LBCC to obtain skills to become a Paramedic. Courtney also has decided to go through the next fire academy to become a firefighter with PF&R. Courtney likes to read, exercise, fish and dirt bike riding



Gwynn is our new Administrative Assistant. She comes to us from the City of Manzanita where she was the Administrative Assistant for the City for 3 1/2 years. Gwynn moved from the coast after 24 years to be closer to her daughter and granddaughter in Corvallis.

Karl Corbin Memorial Scholarship



Patrick Frare is our newest resident volunteer. He came to us from Waterville, WA where he was a volunteer for two years. Patrick spent two summers on a wildland firefighting crew. Patrick wants to become a paid firefighter in the future. He enjoys reading and paintball.

Philomath's Volunteer Association currently has a scholarship program for a graduating senior from the Fire District. The student is picked from those that apply with an essay. In January, the Association formally named the scholarship the "Karl Corbin Memorial Scholarship" in memory of Captain Karl Corbin who passed away last year. Karl was active in the Department and an avid supporter of local athletics. His name will live on as an advocate for higher learning.

PF&R Responded to 573 calls for service in 2008

Philomath Fire & Rescue Board of Directors

President - Tom Ries **Vice President** - Larry Sleeman **Secretary** - J. Reed Glasmann **Members** - Maggie Sweetin & Angie Baca

The Board of Directors meet monthly to discuss the business of the District on the first Monday of the month. The public is welcome to attend these meetings. Contact the fire station @ 929-3002 to find out the time and location of the next meeting.

The Firebuster is an official newsletter published by Philomath Fire & Rescue. Inquiries should be made to the newsletter staff.

Firebuster, Philomath Fire & Rescue, P.O. Box 247, Philomath, OR 97370.

FireBuster Contact: Ray Hubbell - Phone 929-3002 Email: ray.hubbell@philomathfire.com