

Chief's Corner

By CHIEF HARRY RICH
Illinois Valley Fire District

It's time for Fire Prevention Week, and from Sunday, Oct. 7 through Saturday, Oct. 13 Illinois Valley Fire District (IVFD) is joining forces with the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to remind residents to "Practice Your Escape Plan."

During this year's fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will spread the word about the dangers of home fires and teaching residents how to plan and practice escapes from a home in case of fire.

According to the latest NFPA research, 3,030 people died during 2005 in home fires -- that's roughly eight people every day. Being alerted to a fire and knowing what to do to escape from one are extremely important, yet only 23 percent of households have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan.

"Many times when we speak to residents who have experienced a fire in their home, they recall becoming confused and disoriented by the conditions and severity of the situation -- but they realized they needed to get out fast," said Kamron Ismaili, prevention coordinator.

"Sometimes there are only seconds to escape, but there's no question that having a plan in place that has been practiced saves precious time and makes survival more likely," he said. "We hope that Fire Prevention Week will prompt folks in our community to plan and practice their escape."

Are you prepared for a fire? Although it's difficult to prepare for the unexpected, reviewing the information below and taking action based on it is strongly recommended. And don't forget to practice your escape plan during Fire Prevention Week.

*Install working smoke alarms on every level; and inside and outside of each sleeping area.

*Develop a fire escape plan that identifies two ways out of each room and a family meeting place outside.

*Make sure your plan allows for any specific needs in your household. If everyone knows what to do, everyone can get out quickly.

*Practice using the plan, at least twice a year.

*Some studies have shown that some children and adults may not awaken to the sound of a smoke alarm; they may need help waking up.

*If the smoke alarm sounds: Go to your closest exit. If you run into smoke, turn and use another way out. If you must exit through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit. Don't take time to pick up belongings; just get out and help others get out. Move fast but stay calm.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire agencies across the country. For 85 years fire departments and districts have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest-running public health and safety observance on record.

Group aiming at reopening county's library branches

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lishing the organization's official board of directors.

"We are looking for community leaders who

have a passion to open and operate the library on a long-term basis," Mason said. She added that board members should represent a range of experience in the areas of administration, finance, law, fund-raising, and nonprofit governance. Candidates can send an e-mail message to josephinelibrary@hotmail.com or phone board nomination coordinator Doug Walker at 660-2178.

Oregon State Librarian Jim Schepke met with members of the steering committee, as well as volunteers working on fund-raising, publicity, budgetary, and legal matters Tuesday, Oct. 4.

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m., the JCL steering committee continues to hold its business meetings to which the public is always invited.

Mason said that the JCL mission is to facilitate the opening and to ensure long-term operations of a public library system serving Josephine County, while adhering to its core values of integrity, credibility, and accountability. People interested in getting involved with the library reopening effort can e-mail josephinelibrary@hotmail.com.



Deputy Keith Hubbard makes clean sweep

Preparations continuing for substation relocation

Although there's not yet an official date for relocating the Josephine County Sheriff's Office Illinois Valley Substation to Cave Junction City Hall, preparations are continuing.



Roger Brandt checks part of the facility.
(Photos by I.V. News)

The newly formed Illinois Valley Law Enforcement Action Group has been working to spruce up the

former jail in the city hall basement. And at least one officer, Deputy Keith Hubbard, has volunteered his time to clean and paint what will become a temporary detention facility.

The move is supported by Sheriff Gil Gilbertson and county Commissioners Dave Toler and Dwight Ellis. The relocation is seen by the sheriff as a way to strengthen law enforcement in the valley.

The most recent project at the holding facility involves the addition of security window coverings. They were provided at a special rate by Vic Cusumano, of Vic's Welding in Kerby.

Others who contributed to obtain the coverings are Shelly Berry, Dave & Billie Patton, Leslie Johnson, Shop Smart Food Warehouse, Coffee Heaven, Jeff Stiles/Oregon Caves Chevron, Dr. Joe's Pet Hospital, *Illinois Valley News*, Roger Brandt, and Mary Orton.

Energy, business tax credit programs OK'd by Oregon

New Oregon legislation expands the Residential Energy Tax Credit and the Business Energy Tax Credit and provides greater incentives for renewable energy.

*Business Energy Tax Credit: This increases the tax credit for renewable energy systems installed in businesses from 35 percent to 50 and increases the project cost limit for businesses.

Legislation also includes other expansions, such as an incentive to builders of high-performance homes to reduce energy use to near zero, making combined heat and power projects (CHP) eligible for the increased tax credit, and repealing the offset of federal tax credits for projects which receive a federal and state credit.

The bill applies to any project constructed or installed after Jan. 1, 2007.

*Residential Energy Tax Credit (RETC): This expansion of RETC

allows for Oregonians to qualify for the residential energy tax credit for more than one item in the same year, such as a solar water heater and for a solar electric system, or for multiple energy-efficient appliances.

Additionally, this bill increases the maximum tax credit for fuel cells and for wind generation from \$1,500 to \$6,000 during a four-year period. The bill applies to any project constructed or installed after Jan. 1, 2007.

Walden fights drug abuse

Congressman Greg Walden (R-Ore.) has invited two of the country's top drug officials to the Second District for a summit next spring with community organizations devoted to fighting drug abuse.

And the House of Representatives has passed legislation, co-sponsored by Walden to renew an important grant program that "aids innocent children affected by drug abuse at home."

Walden personally extended the invitation to John Walters, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (also known as the "drug czar"), and Karen Tandy, administrator at the Drug Enforcement Agency, during a meeting in the U.S. Capitol.

"Through many exten-

sive town halls I have held throughout the district on the issue of drug abuse, I have seen the alarming effects that drugs like meth can have on individuals, families, and communities," said Walden. "A forum where anti-meth and anti-drug coalitions can discuss what is working, what is not working, and what is on the horizon with some of the federal government's leading authorities on the issue would be highly beneficial."

"I want Walters and Tandy to personally witness the tremendous work and innovative models being developed at the grass-roots level," said Walden, "and to share their valuable expertise with the passionate folks working on the ground to keep our communities clean every day."

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