



Hoodland firefighter practices lifesaving skills

Staff photo

In Hoodland

Fire equipment upped

by Carol Thurlkill
Post Correspondent

The Hoodland Fire Department, in the face of increased demand for its services, has beefed up its equipment during the past year. Approximately \$160,000 in funds from community organizations and a tax levy increase have been used for the improvements.

Backing from the community was reflected in a \$9,000 donation from the Lion's Club for coronary equipment, a \$1,000 donation from the Women's Club to purchase recreational equipment; and the \$150,000 levy increase from the voters for equipment and building improvements.

With the \$150,000, the department has brought their equipment up to the top Insurance Rating Bureau standards. Major expenditures include: a \$15,000 Rescue Unit, a \$3,000 used tanker purchased from the Sandy Fire Department, \$3,000 in new maintenance tools, \$2,000 in hose replacements, \$1,200 for two generators, \$1,000 in turnout gear, and \$650 for Scott Paks (a self-contained breathing apparatus).

Approximately \$11,000 went for miscellaneous equipment — safety belts, booster nozzle, smoke ejectors, cable reels, engineering appliances, and salvage covers.

A portion of the money will be added to funds the department has been collecting for the last three years to build a \$36,000 equipment base scheduled for completion in January. It will be a metal building designed to house three pieces of equipment which now sit outside.

The existing building will be transformed into a day room, an office, reception area, and sleeper's quarters for three volunteers to spend the night.

All of these improvements

are necessary for the department, according to Fire Chief Don Armintrout and the department's Board of Directors.

There are approximately twice as many fire alarms this year than last year, and 46 more walk-ins. As the only public agency in the area, the three paid men and 36 volunteers are making themselves more available to the community for the entire gambit of help services — from helping cats out of trees to taking elderly people to the polls.

Presently, the combined departments of Sandy, Boring, and Hoodland are capable of containing a fire with 3,000 gallons a minute, about 1,000 gallons short of what is now required to put out a major fire in the Hoodland shopping center.

"We can't keep up with the increased growth. We don't have a choice," Armintrout declared, "We have to stay with the fact that says that the area is growing."

"We've come a long way in the last two years, but you

can only do what you have money for," says Gary Cleland, board member, "We've looked ahead at a new station in Rhododendron, and new engines with larger pump capacities."

New housing developments may be required to install their own fire prevention devices (fire hydrants, smoke detectors, and sprinkler systems). In the future, however, the chief feels that "cost-effective management" of the money and human resources available is essential. He emphasizes continued use of preplanning, mutual aid agreements, use of volunteers' talents, and public education.

According to Armintrout, the Fire Department has not reached the point where its volunteers cannot cover the alarms, and it may be another 10 years before a part paid and volunteer system will be inadequate.

This year, the combined male and female force successfully stopped all major fires in the area.



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Levy funds to be spent

BORING — The Boring Fire District will go ahead with plans to spend funds OK'd in July for a five-year, \$25,000 per year serial levy to improve and replace fire equipment in the district.

According to Matt Shields, Boring fire chief, fire districts all across the state put their spending plans in a holding pattern when the possible effects of Ballot Measure 6 and 11 on fire districts became known.

Shields said before the election that the district would wait until after voting results were final because if the district spent the serial levy money, that money could end up coming out of its regular operating budget if

Measure 6 passed.

Now that the election is over, fire districts, including Boring are breathing a little easier, but are taking a cautious stand on budget matters, Shields said.

The board expects to receive a final approval from First State Bank in Milwaukie by early December. It has already put out a call for bids for a mini-pumper and has set the bid opening for Dec. 19.

Also in line for action will be a new chassis and tank for the district's old tanker.

Farmers to convene

More than 20 proposed resolutions await members of the Oregon Farm Bureau when they attend the group's annual convention Tuesday in Bend.

The 100 voting delegates to the four-day session will consider resolutions subjecting urban renewal projects to voter approval, limiting foreign ownership of Oregon land, permitting 10-

and 11-year-olds to hand-harvest crops, requiring Congress to hold to a balanced budget and placing acreage limitations on Bureau of Reclamation projects.

Keynote speaker of the convention will be Allan Grant, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

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