

Fire

By: Walt Klamath, Engineer Engine 802

This has been a good season as far as fires being reported. I believe we had two fires in November and December, at this writing. One was a car fire and the other was a van fire that was used as a storage area. I take this as an indication that our people are paying attention to safety. However do not get complacent, fire is very patient in some ways.

Fire is a spirit. Many years ago, when all things were being formulated, fire was put together as a helper to the two-legged. One day fire became irresponsible and became an uncontrollable spirit. Fire found out that none of the two-legged, four-legged or the winged ones could do anything about it. Fire just burned at will whatever it wanted to burn and was enjoying every bit of it. Fire was the master power. No one could do anything about.

All the creatures banded together trying to figure out what to do. They asked the Spirit of the North for help, the Snow could not stop Fire or even slow it down. They asked the Spirit of the East, the Wind Spirit, for help. This made the Fire Spirit feel great, became even hotter. They asked the Sun Spirit of the South, things became drier, burned better. Fire Spirit said that there is nothing that you can do about it, "I am Master".

Then the creatures asked the Spirit of the West for help. The West, Thunder Spirit, says "I can stop Fire". Of course Fire Spirit says, "no way, nothing can stop me". The Water Spirit of the West came in and it rained and rained. Fire Spirit began to weaken. The Spirit of the Waters kept on relentlessly, soon Fire Spirit became just a little flame and began begging for mercy. Grandmother Spirit, the keeper of fire, took the little flame and went deep inside mother Earth, then blocked the entrance so flame could not get out.

Fire Spirit begged to be free, made all kinds of promises. Promised not to do mean things, that it would behave itself do good things.

Now the two-legged began to get cold, they had no way now to cook their food, had no light at night. They went to Grandmother Spirit and asked for fire. She agreed but she did put some limitations on Fire Spirit, that Fire would have to be obedient and be considerate of all things on Mother Earth. Fire Spirit agreed.

To this day, Fire Spirit is a wayward spirit. If Fire is not watched closely, Fire will get away and do many naughty things. That is why we must always pay attention to fire and not leave it unattended. Even Grandmother Spirit occasionally forgets to watch the little flame and it gets out of hand. The deep hole that Grandmother Spirit had taken the little flame to, is known today as Mt. St Helens.



Housing Report

By: Connie Hoffman, SIHA Director

As we enter 1994, we are looking ahead to an exciting year for the Tribe's Housing Authority.

We are implementing our second allocation of Section 8 Vouchers, which raises to approximately 50, the number of Tribal member households who will benefit from this program. This is HUD's rent subsidy program, which we are administering throughout the Tribe's 11-county service area. When I say approximately 50 households, it means that we have the flexibility in this program to assist as many families as we are able to with the funds that HUD provides. The total HUD contract for the 50 vouchers is about \$275,000 per year, of which about 10 percent goes for administration. With careful management, we should be able to assist more than 50 families with the remaining funds. This program is intended for those with very low incomes. It provides a continuing rent subsidy in a rental unit of their choice on the private rental market. There has been tremendous demand for this program since we began it a year ago. The staff in the Area Offices have been superb in assisting us with this program, which provides very significant help to families and individuals who are struggling with high housing costs.

We are looking forward to the start of construction on our 26-unit apartment complex which will be built here in Siletz. We are waiting for water and sewer issues to be settled and for the land to get into trust status before we can break ground. Once we start construction, we will begin the process of selecting residents for the units from the nearly 40 applications that we currently have on file. If you want to be considered for these units, which will range in size from 1-3 bedrooms, contact the Housing Office for an application. We will be screening the applicants to determine if they will be responsible in paying their rent, taking good care of their unit, and not causing disturbances. Just like any landlord, we do this largely by checking references.

We will also be looking at ways to better manage the 54 Mutual Help homes on Rogue River, Shasta, Chetco, and Tootootney

Courts. By the time you read this, we hope that the speed bumps that we have ordered have been installed on Rogue River and Chetco Courts. We will also be installing them on Tootootney Court this coming spring or summer. Our baseball field on Judd Road should be ready for Little League play this spring. We are awaiting word on another grant that we applied for to get bleachers and other equipment for the field, and also to continue our drug education/recreation programs for the youngsters in the housing area. We want to work with the residents towards continuing to make this neighborhood one in which the residents and all Tribal members can take pride.

Enrollment Department Update

Submitted by Lisa Norton, Enrollment Clerk

The Enrollment office is looking for your input. We are making some revisions to the Enrollment Ordinance, and we are developing a written Death Benefit Policy. We would like to hear your suggestions about how we can improve the existing Ordinance, and what you would like to see included in the Death Benefit Policy. If you want to review the Enrollment Ordinance a copy should be available in every office or you can contact me, and I will send you one. If you want to see a rough draft of the Death Benefit policy, you may contact me and I will send you one. My phone number is (503) 444-4248 or 1-800-922-1399. All comments can be mailed directly to me at:

Confederated Tribes of Siletz

Attn: Lisa Norton

PO Box 549

Siletz, OR 97380

Please be sure to include your address and/or daytime phone number in case I have any questions. All responses must be in by January 20th in order for me to have time to review them. Thank you in advance for your input.

Tooth Talk

By: Linda Kreutzer, RDH
Siletz Community Health Clinic

Dental X-rays

X-rays are a very necessary and important part of the dental examination. Your dentist determines how many radiographs (X-rays) are needed. Modern dental X-ray equipment is designed for safety. Minimal amounts of radiation are emitted due to special filters and the use of ultra-fast film.

1. Tooth decay. It's best that decay be discovered early, before it begins to hurt, X-rays show decay not visible by the naked eye.
2. Toothache. X-rays help the dentist to understand why a tooth (or gum) is hurting. A dentist can recognize an infected (abscessed) tooth in an X-ray.
3. Gum Disease. It's amazing that gum disease doesn't hurt. Most people do not realize that they have periodontitis (pyorrhea). X-rays tell the dentist if you have it or not.
4. Eruption Process. This is a dental term that means the process of losing baby teeth, as they are replaced by permanent teeth. Your dentist needs to check your child's teeth to see if they are coming in correctly.
5. Cancer Detection. X-rays show the dentist if any cysts or bone abnormalities are present that may (or may not) be cancerous.
6. Wisdom Teeth. Where are you? X-rays show the dentist if the wisdom teeth are there, although hiding under the gums. Position of the wisdom teeth is shown in an X-ray. (Look for them about age 17-21)

X-rays were discovered in 1895 and revolutionized both medical and dental care forever. Physicians and dentists could finally "see" into the body with a wonderful new way of vision. The benefits resulting from the intelligent use of X-rays far outweigh any possible negative effects.

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