

**MB:** I would prefer to continue to have a fire-based ambulance service. Having had the opportunity to work in both systems, I feel the citizen gets the best service from a fire-based ambulance system. Private ambulance companies are a for-profit organization and in order to survive, have to be concerned about the bottom-line. This usually means only one paramedic per ambulance, fewer ambulances in the system, and longer response times. KFD has been providing transporting ambulance service for more than 20 years. They have put a priority on providing quality emergency medical service and have always adapted their

**JM:** I would prefer to have Keizer Fire continue to provide ambulance service to the citizens of Keizer. Keizer Fire provides excellent service and it is what the community has grown to expect. The difficulty with private ambulance service is the pressure to provide shareholders a profit. If a company has a goal of providing \$200,000 profit to the shareholders, that is \$200,000 not being used to provide you with EMS. To ensure an ambulance company stays profitable with the limited amount of reimbursement from Medicare and insurance, a private company has no choice but to cut equipment, reduce the number of ambulances to cover an area and pay employees less. The results are longer response times and overworked, under-appreciated paramedics being required to make life and death decisions while keeping their eyes on the profit mar-

**MB:** I think it is imperative for KFD to have a good working relationship with its mutual aid partners. MCFD1 and KFD1 are going through a time of change. This change is affecting all levels of each organization. While at times change is challenging, I think it will ultimately improve the two agencies' relationship with one another. It is important to learn from the past, and is equally important to have an open mind for the future. I know at some point both agencies will have to rely

**JM:** I would look for opportunities that are mutually beneficial to both agencies. Some very simple cost saving ideas that could be easily implemented are sharing payroll, medical supply purchasing, vehicle maintenance services, records keeping and other basic administrative services. The MCFD1 volunteers of Clear Lake are unavailable to respond to about 30 percent of their calls and the north end of KFD has a long response time from the very busy E355 on Chemawa Road. Both MCFD1 and KFD are in need of an additional staffed fire engine but currently neither can afford to add a fully staffed 24/7 engine company. Together, each could partially fund staffing a fire engine on the border of MCFD1 and KFD in the Clear Lake Station that responds into Keizer and the North end of

**CP:** I believe the relationship between the two districts has been further eroded by a staff member of MCFD1 running for a KFD board seat and the ideas that he is putting forth. The ballot box is not the place to start this kind of conversation. A work group consisting of the two chiefs, key staff and select board members should be created. This group would meet regularly to discuss issues facing the two districts and finding ways for the two districts to work more collaboratively. If a facilitator is needed to kick-start this process one should be hired and kept involved until he/she is no longer needed.

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