

KeizerCommunity

KEIZERTIMES.COM

'It's a totally different way of thinking'

KFD linemen battle wildfires

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

Tim Coburn had been asleep at the Keizer Fire Department for about an hour when he heard a knock on the door just after midnight on Saturday, Aug. 18.

More than 200 miles away, a 9,000-acre wildfire was burning outside of Condon.

Governor Kate Brown had declared the fire a conflagration, allowing the fire marshal to mobilize resources from around the state.

Coburn, one of 10 firemen on a Marion County Task Force, was one of those resources.

He and fellow Keizer fireman Sean Cummings had to be in Woodburn by 2:30 a.m. to meet with firemen from Marion County, Jefferson, Stayton and Sublimity. They were to be in Coburn by 6.

"We were one of the first to get there and the last task force to leave," Coburn said. "When we first got there it was so fresh that, they had the fairgrounds in Condon situated but they didn't really have a lot of resources yet."

By Monday, the Stubblefield Fire had burned more than 30,000 acres and continued



Submitted
Firefighter Tim Coburn douses a small portion of the Stubblefield Fire near Condon, Ore. The fire scorched more than 56,000 acres before it was extinguished.

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to grow to more than 56,000 acres.

Between Aug. 18 and 24, the Marion County Task Force worked 12-hour day shifts, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"The whole time we were there we were busy," Coburn said. "We were doing something."

Working alongside the

Bureau of Land Management and state fire marshal, Coburn and Cummings in their Keizer brush truck put out fires, trimmed Juniper trees and helped local farmers with

bulldozing.

"Those guys are incredibly talented, the farmers," Coburn said. "A lot of the times that's (bulldozing) how they stopped the fire. They got it pretty well

contained."

Coburn and Cummings also went to Lonerock, protecting a rancher's home in case the fire spread.

"We did a lot of work around his farm and around his house, getting debris away, sprinklers out," Coburn said. "We surveyed his property so if it did happen then we would know where to go."

The Stubblefield Fire was the third conflagration Keizer firefighters reported to this summer.

Danny South and Aaron Rowland spent July 18-21 at the Substation Fire near The Dalles. Aaron Pittis, Ryan Russell, Jacob Brinlee and

Tyler Bullock then reported to Northern California Aug. 1-3 for the Mendocino Complex Fire.

"It's a totally different way of thinking from being a structural firefighter to being a wild land firefighter," Coburn said. "You adjust pretty quickly. Structural, you think of as going in and putting it out real quick, wildland, they use different techniques, including burning out different areas as a tactic."

Keizer has 18 firemen on its conflagration list. The Stubblefield Fire was Coburn's second wildfire after reporting to the Eagle Creek Fire last summer.

10K ornaments needed for Capitol-bound tree

Every year since 1970, the U.S. Forest Service has provided a Christmas tree to appear on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol for the holiday season. This year, the tree will be provided by the Willamette National Forest from the Sweet Home Ranger District. The theme for the 2018 initiative is "Find Your Trail" and commemorates the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail, and the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System. In addition, 70 smaller companion trees will be sent and appear in offices throughout the nation's capitol.

Oregonians are invited to help create 10,000 ornaments to adorn the trees. The Oregon State Capitol will host three events this fall that will have ornament making stations for the public. They are:

Multicultural Day at the Capitol, Saturday, September 8,

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oregon Pioneer's 80th Birthday Party, Tuesday, September 18, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Oregon's Bounty, Saturday, October 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Capitol will offer volunteers, ornament ideas, and supplies (furnished by the U.S. Forest Service and the Oregon State Capitol Foundation.) There is no charge to make ornaments, and families are encouraged to join the fun. If you wish to make an ornament for the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree and drop it off at the Oregon State Capitol, please download a specification sheet at www.capitolchristmastree.com under the Participate heading. All ornaments will be boxed up and sent off after the October 6 event, so the deadline to turn them in is 2 p.m. that day.

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Bring up to three boxes of outdated documents to our Shred Day for hassle-free, no-cost shredding. Just drive up and drop off your documents at the Volcanoes Stadium Parking Lot on September 15 until 1 p.m. or until the shred truck is full. Open to the community.

What to bring

Old checks, charge receipts, credit applications, insurance forms, physician statements, monthly statements (financial and utility) and more.

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