



Kurt Donaldson works the controls in a fire simulation facility at the MERTS campus near Astoria.

FIRE TRAINING

HEATS UP

Story and photos by
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The Daily Astorian

When fire science instructor Kurt Donaldson pushes certain buttons at Clatsop Community College's Marine and Environmental Research and Training Station near Astoria, flames shoot up from the floor or race across the ceiling of the room. But, if students respond correctly, the flames go out — it's all part of a realistic training experience. The highly controlled environment is computerized, with a series of sensors that can shut the entire facility off if something were to go awry. Several of the rooms are designed to closely resemble the interior of a ship.



Donaldson monitors a simulation.



Donaldson checks the hardware that controls many of the facility's features, some of which are due to be replaced.



Several of the rooms in the facility are designed to mimic conditions found on ships.



Donaldson opens up the doors of the third floor of the building to let smoke escape.

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