

FIRE PREVENTION & PROTECTION



MESSAGE FROM FIRE MARSHAL SEAN BARRETT

Happy fire prevention week! Another great year working with our community has passed and we at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue are still continuing our mission: "To preserve and improve the quality of life for all who live, work, visit and invest in the community of Florence, Oregon and the rural district that surrounds the city through the efficient delivery of emergency services supported by aggressive fire prevention and public education." As last year we continue focusing on three main goals. These goals are universal:

Number one: "if we can't find you we can't help you." Can we see your address from the road or street? Our goal is

to have an address sign for all driveways where the house numbers are not visible from the street or road.

Number two: "if we can't get to you we can't help you" Over fifty percent of the south coasts fire districts are rural in nature. Many have long driveways. In most cases the occupants or owners drive very small vehicles and do not realize that emergency vehicles cannot traverse the drive way due to inadequate width and height. Due to the sheer size of the emergency vehicles to include ambulances we need a very minimum of a 9 foot clear wide driveway with an unobstructed height of 13 feet 6 inches. In most cases just clearing the brush will allow us access. If you need an inspection to determine what needs to be done, do not hesitate to contact your local fire department for more information.

Number three: "working smoke alarms save lives" Our highest priority is life safety, period. Houses can be replaced; personal possessions can be replaced; however a life is not replaceable. From the time a fire starts to the time the fire

department may arrive can be up to 10 minutes. Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescues average response time is 8 minutes unless you live more than 5 miles from a fire station and that response time can be as much as 20 minutes. When fire can double in size every 30 seconds, there needs to be an early warning device. Smoke alarms save lives. It is a proven fact that your chances of survival with a smoke alarm during a fire are 50% better than without one. It is and has been our goal to have at least one working smoke alarm in every home no matter what that home is. Contact Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue for information on our programs.

Should have any questions, comments or concerns about this article, please do not hesitate to contact Fire Marshal, Sean Barrett at:

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SIUSLAW NEWS

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2016 Scholarship Recipients



Michael Mason



Alexis Scheer

Siuslaw Valley Firefighters Assoc \$1,000: Michael Mason

Vern E. Passenger \$1,000: Alexis Scheer

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