



MARK BRENNAN/SIUSLAW NEWS

SVFR Operations Chief Jim Dickerson demonstrates the technology capability of the new duty chief vehicle.

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He continued, "These individuals are all senior volunteers, all captains and all of them have been around a long time. They will be using this vehicle while on duty."

The new duty chief vehicle has been outfitted with an array of different types of equipment, with an eye towards duty chiefs being able to deal with many types of situations, from the deadly and the tragic, to fender benders and basic traffic control.

According to Langborg, the ability to manage a number of different emergency scenarios is essential to successful incident command.

"Basically, what they do is respond to all type of multi-company incidents, traffic and fire, but they also handle smoke complaints and smoke detector calls and everything in between," Langborg said. "These folks are highly trained, and a lot of that training comes from experience. We also have a task book that we have put together. In that book, we have compiled what we call KSA, knowledge, skills and ability, that they are required to complete. When individuals have completed the task book, they have demonstrated a mastery of the skills so that they can be successful in the position of duty chief."

The need for duty chiefs to be available to manage all types of emergency situations led Langborg and SVFR Operations Chief Jim Dickerson to consider changing the procedure regarding the vehicle provided by the district.

Both men agreed the purchase of a properly equipped vehicle, specifically allocated for use by the acting duty chief, would provide more timely and better response to service requests from residents.



"In our situation, we had duty chiefs responding to the station to pick up the duty chief vehicle and then going to the scene of the incident," Langborg said. "Now, instead of having to come to the station to get the vehicle, they have it with them. There is a very good chance that you will see that duty chief vehicle arrive before the fire engine, which also provides an incident commander, on site, from the beginning of the call out."

Once Langborg and Dickerson established the potential benefits of having a vehicle specifically for the use of the duty chief, they had to obtain approval from the SVFR Board of Directors to purchase the vehicle.

Dickerson took the lead in this part of the process, determining the best vehicle for SVFR's specific needs. He researched the options and which of those were available on vehicles from different manufacturers, factoring in the unique requirements needed for the vehicle.

"This vehicle allows the duty chief to have a command cockpit to run the all-hazards mitigation that we at SVFR are responding to," Dickerson said. "The radio and iPad mount provide the ability for the duty chief to access communications and data virtually hands-free and without taking their eyes off the road."

The Ford F-250 was chosen due to the need for a tow vehicle and safety in size for the duty chiefs, according to Dickerson.

He described some of the other features: "The robust lighting was designed to provide the best safety and visibility for the responders on the scene. The heavy-duty bumpers have been very useful in moving vehicles that are blocking access to clear the traffic lanes when safe to do so. The slide

out trays in the rear make the best capability of the long bed to access much-needed response equipment."

Langborg said he is pleased that the tools available on the latest addition to the SVFR fleet cover both new technologies and old ones.

"The new vehicle has an iPad that has internet access and mapping capability. It also has a command module that helps us to track units on scene and units that are responding — and it can help us to track firefighters on scene throughout the incident," he said. "So, this vehicle comes equipped with everything from high-tech incident command software to more basic equipment like a stop sign and a shovel, which allows us to immediately respond to all types of different situations."

Once Langborg and Dickerson had determined which options should be included in the new truck, they took the plan to the board, which authorized the purchase in the 2017 budget cycle.

Langborg and Dickerson then took the specs for the vehicle to Johnson Motors to place an order for the vehicle.

The total cost for the production of the new vehicle was adjusted downwards by the dealership, since it was being purchased for a government entity, and the district was able to get the options requested, with upgraded lighting and graphics packages included.

The new vehicle has been in use for short time now and the response from the duty chiefs and from other members of the department has been extremely positive, according to Dickerson.

"The duty chiefs are very excited to have a new, custom vehicle that they were allowed to have direct input into building," he said.

Learn about kayaks at 'mini-expo' today

On Saturday, July 28, come to Jesse M. Honeyman State Park to learn about kayaking in the area from local experts and enthusiasts. "Yakking about KaYAKS" runs from 4:30 to 7 p.m. with Florence-area kayaker/photographer Mary Nulty and local kayaking enthusiast Dick Mason.

Coast Passport or \$5 day-use fee is required for each vehicle.

For more information about passes or parking, contact Oregon State Parks at 541-563-8500 x42.

"Yakking about KaYAKS" is part of Vision Quest — Live Learn Explore, an initiative of Siuslaw Vision.

Wander the ball field and enjoy an outdoor mini-expo to experience different kayaks and hauling options, gear and safety, including chances to sit inside different types of kayaks laid out on the field.

The expo includes local kayakers and businesses such as Oregon Paddle Sports and Siltcoos River Kayak Rentals.

Then, when you are ready, head inside Honeyman's historic lodge to enjoy an exciting presentation about kayaking. Seating is limited, but there will be two presentation times: one at 5 p.m. and another at 6 p.m.

Coastal Region Staff will be on hand providing no-charge hot dogs, chips and a drink to those attending the expo.

This event is free and open to the public, but an Oregon State Parks Pass, Oregon

The Vision brings together volunteers from the Siuslaw Public Library District; Lane Community College Florence Center; Oregon State Parks; the U.S. Forest Service; Siuslaw Watershed Council and community educators and volunteers to bring fun, high-quality outdoor educational programs to the Siuslaw region.

For more information, visit www.rivercal.org.

Driving directions from Florence: Head south on Highway 101. Approximately half a mile past milepost 193, turn right into Honeyman State Park. The entrance is directly across from Canary Road. As you enter the park, veer to the right and make your way to the large parking lot next to the ball field and lodge.

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EMERGENCY SUTURING CLASS

to be held at the **Florence Events Center** during the **Be Ready – Storm Ready Preparedness Expo August 25, 2018!**

Please call the Siuslaw News at 541-902-3526 to sign up. You may pay by credit or debit card.

There are two classes being offered. Positions in the class are on a first paid for, first reserved basis and classes are limited to the first 25 paying participants in each class.
So don't delay, sign up for a place now!

The class is at 11:00 AM AND 2:00 PM Saturday, August 25, 2018
Cost is only \$25.00 per participant!

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