

Cottage Grove Sentinel  
Presents:

# Fire Prevention Week

SOUTH LANE FIRE & RESCUE



## FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE - JOHN WOOTEN



Hello,  
It has been a year since our last message to you, and almost a year and a half since I started at South Lane County Fire and Rescue. We have made some great new friends, and re-connected with old ones. My family and I love the area and all it has to offer. The past year has been very busy for SLCFR, as our call volume has increased. We accomplished a lot this past year, and want all of you to know it was your support making it possible.

### CRESWELL FIRE STATION

We are continuing to staff the Creswell Fire Station 24/7, and actually increased our staffing September 1, 2015 due to the voter approved operational levy. Station 3 in Creswell is now home to two career and one to two resident volunteers 24/7. The addition of a second career position allows for a fire response even when the medic unit is on a call. The continued staffing of the Creswell station is due, in large part, to the levy our voters approved. The station houses an ambulance, 2 fire engines, brush engine and water tender. Response times have been significantly reduced since 24/7 staffing began. While SLCF&R has made several improvements and upgrades to the Creswell station, totaling thousands of dollars, we have simply outgrown it and need to begin planning for expansion. As stated last year, one of my goals is to begin planning for a new Creswell station. This will require partnerships with the City and community members. I am happy to report the SLCFR Budget Committee and SLCFR Board of Directors established a budget line for a new fire station in Creswell going forward. This will be a long term capital budget item and a committee will be established in the future to evaluate design concepts and to discuss potential locations.

### TECHNOLOGY

The fiber optic project and other related technology upgrades were completed last spring under budget. This assisted in increasing our point score with ISO. The District is making strides toward becoming paperless. We have projects in the works to reduce our carbon footprint as well. This year the District did away with paper schedules and now uses software any District member may access from any smart device or computer 24/7. In the future we will be evaluating doing away with paper time sheets and other records.

### FIRE MARSHAL

April of 2015 saw the retirement of Division Chief Paul Eckstine who served as the Fire Marshall for many years. I appointed Division Chief Danny Solesbee as Fire Marshall and he has been working toward required certifications for the position. Fire Marshall Solesbee will continue the development of standard driveway specifications mostly consistent with other fire districts in the county. Don't forget to contact FM Solesbee or Captain Smith if you need smoke detectors installed in your home. The Oregon State Fire Marshall (OSFM) recommends one in every room. We are part of the OSFM smoke detector program and are happy to help keep you fire safe.

While we already work closely with our local governments, we are always seeking improvement. We are happy to have the cities of Cottage Grove and Creswell participating with us in a joint venture to upgrade all fire hydrants to accommodate modernized large diameter hose fittings. The District, in cooperation with the water departments from each city, have dedicated funding each year to work toward this goal. Our inspection programs are moving forward with good result, having the goal of making our District fire safe. We work closely with the Oregon State Fire Marshal and the planning departments from Cottage Grove and Creswell on inspection and plan review. Losing a life to fire in a building is not something to take lightly, which is the reason the prevention effort is supported and

encouraged. I would trust all business owners will participate in, and understand the intent of our pre-planning and inspection processes.

### VOLUNTEERS

The District actively uses volunteers to supplement and enhance our career workforce. We are always seeking new recruits, and encourage those with a desire to be part of something rewarding to help serve your community by volunteering as a firefighter with the District. Recruit classes begin on a rotating basis with the District providing all costs, uniforms, PPE and equipment. If you are interested please go to our web site [www.southlanefire.org](http://www.southlanefire.org) or come into the Cottage Grove station and pickup an application.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

SLCF&R recently hosted movie night at the fire house in Creswell and Cottage Grove. Both events went very well and we believe it is a way to get the fire prevention message front and center. This is one way we educate and say "thank you" for allowing us to serve you and give a little back. I wish to thank the following people and organizations who donated time and/or materials to the event; Michael and Janet Abshere for the popcorn, and cotton candy, Oregon Department of Forestry and Smokey Bear, Lane County Sheriffs, Oregon State Fire Marshal, Cottage and Life Flight Network. I also want to send a big thank you to all of our sponsors who made this possible including; Bi-Mart for the bags, Jim's Tire Factory for the water, and Creswell Tire Factory for the water. Our career staff, resident and volunteer firefighters put in many hours to make the event run smoothly. A big thank you goes to them and to our Community Outreach Coordinator Captain Aaron Smith.

In closing, I look forward to an exciting and productive second year at SLCF&R. Thank you for the introductions and warm welcome. We are blessed to be called to serve our community and wish to thank you for all of your support.

*Stay safe, John Wooten, Fire Chief*