



DAMIEN SHERWOOD/COTTAGE GROVE SENTINEL

During last weekend's aerial training, firefighters from multiple local agencies participated in ladder truck training as part of a certification process required by the state DPSST.

SLCFR from A1 ladders.

The state agency, Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST), runs the training as needed throughout the state.

Fire Training Coordinator Robert Farino designed and teaches the class, which gives students a range of experience with their department's ladder truck.

"It's a range of exercises practicing what this truck will do and its typical uses," said Farino. "So, water flow in an elevated master stream, roof access for

crews, rescue from windows and other technical rescues. It's really a multi-function tool. It's more than just for putting a nozzle up in the air."

SLCFR crew practiced deploying the truck's ladder on Saturday to access the roof of the King Estate Winery building in Cottage Grove's Industrial Park.

"They actually let us use their facility, which is great," said Smith.

Saturday's exercise at the site saw crew members extend the ladder from different vantage points to access key parts of the roof.

"If we're going to send

a crew up with chainsaws for ventilation — to cut out sections in the roof — we would put them up there," explained Farino.

Other sites such as

SLCFR's headquarter station, the Warren H. Daugherty Aquatic Center parking lot and the old Harrison Elementary School, provided space for agencies to simulate

other operations such as "below-grade" rescues down into a ravine.

"By the time we're done, they're well-rounded in all the different ways this truck is used," said Farino. "It kind of takes them to that next level of application."

The Fourth Alarm FOOLS (Fraternal Order of Leatherheads), a group of local firefighters also came down to help with instruction, said Farino, "To share some knowledge and experience from Eugene/Springfield."

Last weekend's training rounded out the last

third of SLCFR's crew to be trained on the ladder truck, which was purchased in 2017 with funds from a 2015 general obligation bond.

"Not everybody's trained on it at the fire department. It's definitely more difficult to get that training," said Smith. "So, it was good to come together."

Farino attested that it's training that many need but is not available with high frequency.

"That's why it's good for us to do a regional class where we can invite everybody in. It's more efficient," he said.

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