

OSHA: City fined for alleged safety violations

Continued from Page 1
 ployees wear the appropriate protective ensemble, such as turnout pants, boots and respiratory protection for the known hazards of that partic-

ular emergency operation. Three other smaller fines were levied. They were for failing to have a separate safety committee with safety meetings that follow state reg-

ulations, \$420; lack of a written policy on basic organizational structure and amount and frequency of training for all firefighting ranks before they perform assigned duties, \$420; and failure to inspect and maintain fire service equipment at least annually, \$180.

On Wednesday, Engbretson and Fire Chief Brian Alsbury, who has been in his position less than one month, talked about the ways the city is dealing with the complaint.

The city and its fire department have been working to address the complaints since August, they said, and nearly all issues have been resolved.

Many of the complaints targeted former Fire Chief Tim Demers, who resigned Oct. 15.

"I think the department is running smoother," Alsbury said. "Everything has been addressed that was a safety concern."

The wording and number of initial complaints could lead residents to conclude the agency had major problems, Engbretson said.

"We take the safety issues very seriously," Engbretson said. "She (the inspector) was actually quite impressed that a department of our size has the equipment it has."

Volunteers are paid \$6 per call if they've been with the department less than three years. Others receive \$12 per call.

Firefighters now will follow the generally accepted hat classification that has those in training who aren't qualified to enter buildings wearing black, full firefighters and en-

gineers wearing yellow, lieutenants and captains in red, and the chief and assistant chief in white.

"People volunteer because they want to give back to their community," Alsbury said.

"It would be an exciting time to join the department," Engbretson added.

The department is taking applications for its spring recruit fire academy. For more information, call 503-861-2494 or stop by the department at City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

The city has 30 days to appeal the decision. If the city doesn't appeal, it becomes a final order 30 calendar days after receiving it.

OSHA had other concerns for which the city wasn't fined. They include:

- A lack of written policies and procedures governing expectations of employees.
- Substandard testing and maintenance of equipment, particularly respirators.
- Referring to firefighters still in training as having "combat firefighter" status. Also, there were no control measures in place to prohibit them from participating in fire suppressions or entering structures.

Crew rescued from capsized USCG vessel

A small Coast Guard boat capsized in the Columbia River after being hit by a large wake Saturday morning.

The four crew members were rescued by the Columbia Bar Pilot vessel Connor Foss just off Pier 39 and no one was injured, according to the Coast Guard.

The 25-foot vessel was an Aids to Navigation boat, in the river to maintain buoys and assist other boaters in finding the navigation channel.

The Clatsop County Sheriff's Marine Patrol towed the capsized boat to the pier.

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