

Wildfire awareness week starting

Oregon Wildfire Awareness Week 2008 kicks off May 4!

Many Oregonians enjoy the convenience of burning their backyard debris in piles or in burn barrels. But sometimes these clean-up efforts become costly wildfires. Over the past five years, some 1,100 debris burns escaped, burning more than 6,000 acres and costing \$4.6 million to put out.

But if burning is your only option for backyard debris disposal, follow these safety tips:

Make sure burning is allowed – Call your local fire department or Oregon Department of Forestry office to learn whether a permit is required. On the day you plan to burn, call to ensure burning is allowed that particular day. Fire agencies may suspend burning on short notice due to a change in weather conditions.

Check the weather – Even on an allowed burning day, local weather fluctuations could

make it too dangerous to burn. Gusty winds, for example, could carry sparks from your burn barrel or pile to flammable brush or grass a considerable distance away.

Follow the rules – Comply with the burning regulations of your local fire department or district.

Before burning backyard debris in a pile or burn barrel, prepare the site to reduce the risk of the fire escaping. Otherwise, direct flame or sparks may ignite nearby vegetation and cause a wildfire. Follow these simple steps:

- Select an area where there are no overhanging limbs. Make sure the site is well away from buildings and autos.

- Clear the ground around the burn site down to mineral soil or gravel at least 10 feet in all directions. No vegetation or other flammable material should remain within that 10-

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Did You Know...

By Chief Mathew Workman
Vernonia Police Department



The week of May 12th to 17th marks National Police Week in Washington, D.C., where there will be events at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The memorial was created to honor the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice by giving their lives in the line-of-duty. Our small community has a name etched in the memorial wall in Chief Raymond Garcia who was shot and killed during a routine traffic stop on October 1, 1971. The flag pole outside City Hall is a memorial to Chief Garcia.

Many of you may or may not

know, but I have a personal connection to the Memorial in D.C. Officer Joel Conklin was a fellow officer on my shift when I was a patrol officer in Hastings, Nebraska. Just after 10 p.m. on October 9, 1993, I was dispatched to an "unwanted subject" call involving an estranged husband who had been bothering his wife throughout the day. I started to respond but heard Joel advise he would take it as he had dealt with the subject on previous calls. I continued to respond only to hear our dispatch center start to radio Joel several times but there was no answer. The dispatch then advised me they were receiving calls of possible "shots fired" in the area. I activated my lights and sirens and sped to the call as the dispatch center continued to call Joel, receiving no reply.

As to drove to the area I knew something was wrong. My wife was on a ride-a-long and was also concerned as to why Joel would not answer. Needless to say, I arrived and found Joel had been shot by a shotgun and had died behind the residence. I went through a long period wondering if that could or should have been me who died. Would I have approached differently, used cover, or waited for back-up? I

came to realize that I will never know what would have happened if I had arrived first. The bottom line is that police officers across this country and world go to work prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice to protect those we serve.

The tragic death of Officer Conklin is also a sobering reminder of how dangerous Domestic Violence issues can be. The emotions in a domestic relationship are often very deep and can cause people to do things they would not normally do. When a relationship deteriorates, or one person becomes involved with another person, emotions can run very high. It is at this time that everyone needs to stop, calm down, and make rational decisions. All too often, one or all parties turn to violence, emotional abuse, or mental abuse and the situation is compounded. Add children into the mix and many people end up getting hurt, especially the children.

If you need advice on dealing with domestic relationship issues you can check out the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence website at <<http://www.ncadv.org/>>. If you are a victim of Domestic Violence don't hesitate to call the police department for assistance and advice.

Want to attempt human-powered flight?

It's take(off) number two for Portland, this August 2, as Red Bull Flugtag touches down at Tom McCall Waterfront Park for the first time in over four years. Flugtag may mean "flying day" in German, but it's English for the competition that lets aviation amateurs and everyday citizens attempt the ultimate dream of human-powered flight. This summer, 30 teams of up to five members each will push their homemade contraptions off a 22-foot ramp and into the wild blue...Willamette River? It's a sight over 50,000 spectators witnessed in 2004, and it's sure to make an even bigger splash this year. All those ready to let their ideas soar should apply online at www.redbullflugtagusa.com by May 10.

With a competition as crazy as Red Bull Flugtag, it's a good thing it's not our first time off the flight deck. The first Red Bull Flugtag was held in Vienna, Austria, in 1991 and, since then, more than 40 Flugtags have been held around the world, attracting up to 300,000 spectators for a single event.

This year's Portland participants have a lot to live up to – and we do mean up. The entries for Oregon's Red Bull Flugtag 2004 included Santa's

Sleigh, a mullet-inspired Hair Force One and Luke Skywalker in his X-Glider. The cabin pressure's on to get creative, as teams will be judged on just that, along with distance and showmanship shown in a 30-second skit before takeoff. This means the craft better be inventive, the performance ought to be imaginative and the distance needs to be impressive!

If Oregonians can pull it off, 2008 could be the year for a new flight record. Current bragging rights go to Red Bull Flugtag Austria for a flight record of 195 feet set in 2000. A new U.S. record was set last year at Red Bull Flugtag Nashville with a flight of 155 feet.

The Rose City may have been a Red Bull Flugtag host before, but a rules refresher course never hurts. All flying

machines must be entirely human-powered (no stored power or external energy sources of any kind – catapults included!). Crafts must also be under 30 feet wide and weigh less than 450 lbs (including the pilot).

Teams will compete for a cabin full of prizes. First place finishers will fly to Salzburg, Austria, where they'll have a tour of Hangar-7 (www.Hangar-7.com). Second place winners will receive a VIP trip to a US Red Bull Air Race Series stop, and third prize is skydiving with the Red Bull Air Force at the Oregon International Air Show.

Red Bull Flugtag Portland is free and open to the public. For more information, including applications, photos, and video footage from past Red Bull Flugtag events, visit www.redbullflugtagusa.com.



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Welcome Oregon Trail Rally Cars!

Sunday May 18, 2008 6:00a.m.~9:30a.m

**Join us for Biscuits & Gravy, Pancakes,
Eggs, Ham, Fruit & more!**

\$5⁰⁰ Plate

**Fundraiser for new equipment at
Vernonia Rural Fire Department**