Camas Fire Department Newsletter

CFD Command Staff:

Nick Swinhart

Fire Chief

Cliff Free

Division Chief of EMS

Allen Wolk

Battalion Chief

Larry Larimer

Battalion Chief

Mark Ervin

Battalion Chief

Randy Miller

Deputy Fire Marshal

Larry Saari

Training Captain

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Our Mission:
To provide the highest quality service to our community through the protection and preservation of life and property

December Fire Takes Three Lives in Washougal

A December 7th fire in Washougal took the lives of three people and required the coordination of firefighters from Washougal, Camas, ECFR, and dozens of police and S.W.A.T. officers. The occupant began shooting at initial fire and police responders, who thought they were enroute to a "standard" house fire. All personnel were pulled back to a safe distance while the scene was turned over to law enforcement for several hours. Thankfully no responders or bystanders were seriously injured. Unfortunately further investigation found that three occupants perished in the ensuing fire.

C.A.R.O.L. Program Delivers Christmas to Needy Families

Dozens of firefighters and community members helped package and deliver over 66,000 pounds of food and donated gifts to 176 needy families throughout Washougal, Camas, and the area served by East County Fire and Rescue. The program has existed for over 50 years, with assistance of the firefighters from all three organizations. This year's effort was orchestrated by longtime Camas Captain Brooks Cooper. Thank you to the dedicated firefighters and members of the community that made C.A.R.O.L. a huge success once again!

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Captain Larry Saari

Camas/Washougal Training Captain Larry Saari was recently featured in an article by the Columbian newspaper about the progress of the ongoing merger between departments. The merger is still going strong and the departments have recently approved combined vacation picks between the groups to allow more integration of the groups. Chiefs Schumacher and Swinhart recently presented an update on the merger to the Washougal City Council and another one will follow with the Camas City Council at the end of January. Both chiefs are recommending an extension of the merger as the current agreement ends February 20.

Years of Service

Congratulations and thanks are extended to CFD firefighters Paul Bennett, Kevin Wilson, and Steve Pozsgai on their recent service anniversaries. Kevin Wilson celebrates 10 years with CFD, while Paul Bennett and Steve Pozsgai have hit their 15 year marks. Thanks again for your years of valuable service!

Firefighter Deaths Trend Downward

The United States Fire Administration has released preliminary firefighter line of duty death statistics for 2011. The 81 LODDs in 2011 represented a 7% decrease over 2010. Heart attacks remains the number one cause of loss of life at 59% of all fatalities. Only three firefighters died from vehicle collisions, which may be representative of the added emphasis on safe driving practices over the past several years. The breakdown of the 2011 LODDs:

49 Volunteer
28 Career
3 Wildland Part-Time
1 Paid-on-Call

Type of Duty:

28 On-Scene Fire
20 After
11 Other On-Duty
8 Responding
7 Training
5 On-Scene Non-Fire
2 Returning

Employee Spotlight

Captain/Paramedic Kevin West has worked for the Camas Fire Department since April of 2001. Born and raised in Eugene, Oregon, Kevin had a wide variety of jobs before he came to CFD, including stints at Eugene Fire Department's EMS Division, Lane Rural Fire, Willamette Pass Ski Patrol, and working as an ER Tech at McKenzie-Willamette Hospital. He received his paramedic certification from Lane Community College. Kevin and his wife Marcy have a 6 year old daughter and an 8 year old son. In his off time, Kevin enjoys coaching youth basketball, hunting, archery, and spending time with his family. Thanks, Kevin, for nearly 11 years of dedicated service to CFD!