

Camas-Washougal Fire Department Newsletter

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Our Mission:

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



PulsePoint App Likely Coming to Clark County

An innovative new app available on the iPhone may be coming to Clark County and CWFD in the near future as nearly all county fire officials have expressed interest in using the program for their departments. According to the app developer, PulsePoint Foundation, the program “...empowers individuals, within covered communities, the ability to provide life-saving assistance to victims of Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). Application users who have indicated they are trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) are notified if someone nearby is having a cardiac emergency and may require CPR. If the cardiac emergency is in a public place, the application uses sophisticated location-based services to alert citizens in the vicinity of the need for CPR. The application also directs citizen rescuers to the exact location of the closest public access Automated External Defibrillator (AED).” The app is already used by departments like the Los Angeles County Fire Department and Sioux Falls Fire and Rescue in South Dakota. Locally, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue utilizes the app and speaks highly of its usefulness. The app works by sending dispatch information on certain emergency calls (determined by the department itself) to the phones of users who have downloaded the app. If and when the program comes on line for CWFD calls, the community will be notified as soon as possible. In the meantime, the PulsePoint app is a free download for iPhone users and can be used immediately to see how other participating departments across the country share their information.

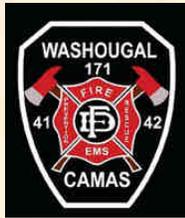
Combined Testing Concept Approved by Civil Service Commissions

In an attempt to harness further efficiencies from the longstanding merger that created your CWFD, department officials recently approached the Civil Service Commissions in both cities to request permission to hold a combined promotional exam. Prior to the merger, both departments would have been required to hold separate promotional testing processes to establish eligibility lists. That can be a large duplication of effort and can also cost a lot of personnel hours and overtime. The proposal put before both commissions was to have all eligible personnel in both departments take the same test on the same day. A separate promotional eligibility list for each city would be generated from that testing process. If the departments become permanently merged at some point in the future, discussions could be held on how to best combine the two lists in to one. Both commissions approved the concept of holding a combined test. Department officials will begin creating such a test for further vetting by both commissions.



New Firefighter/Paramedic Hired

Josh Proctor has recently been hired as the newest member of CWFD and started his duties on June 27. Josh comes to CWFD from Utah, where he worked for several years as a career firefighter and paramedic. Josh has been busy trying to find housing in the area and is hoping to have his family join him soon as he settles in to learning the department and community. Welcome, Josh!



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Outdoor Burning

During the summer months, CWFD frequently receives questions about whether outdoor burning is legal. Outdoor burning is illegal under state law within city limits of all cities in Clark County or urban growth boundaries and has been for many years. Burn barrels are also prohibited anywhere in Washington. To find out if you live in an area where outdoor burning is illegal, please visit <http://www.swcleanair.org/Clark.asp>. For further questions on outdoor burning, Clark County residents should contact the Clark County Fire Marshal at (360) 397-2186. For residents who live within the city limits of Camas or Washougal, please call the CWFD Fire Marshal's Office at (360) 834-6191 or (360) 835-2611.

Recreational and cooking fires up to 3'x3'x2' are still allowed in all of Clark County without a permit. Only charcoal or seasoned firewood (not lumber) may be used as fuel for a recreational fire. Recreational and cooking fires not within a container must be located at least 25 feet from structures, vegetation, and other combustibles. Recreational fires larger than 3'x3'x2' need a special written permit from Southwest Clean Air. Recreational fires that generate complaints due to smoke or unsafe conditions are investigated by police and/or fire officials and in some cases may be ordered extinguished.



CWFD Milestones

CWFD Captain Larry Saari (far left) retired from the department at the end of June 2013. Captain Saari began his career as a volunteer firefighter with the Washougal Fire Department on September 14, 1981. He would go on to become a paid firefighter on April 10, 1986 and was promoted to fire captain on October 25, 1993. Captain Saari served as interim fire chief twice during his career. Captain Saari dedicated his career to education, serving as the department Public Education Officer. He also worked extensively as a CPR instructor and was the training officer for WFD before the merger with CFD began in 2011. Captain Saari was an early proponent of the current partnership between the departments. When the trial merger began he became the joint agency's first training captain and helped establish the ground work for what has become a very successful training program for East Clark County firefighters. Captain Saari will be greatly missed by the entire staff at CWFD and we thank him for his many years of service.

On May 1, 2013, CWFD volunteer firefighter Mike Heyer (above right) resigned from the department. Mike actually served two stints with the department, the first one being from 1987 thru 2002. His second period of service was from 2011 to 2013. Volunteering was a family tradition for Heyer. During his tenure he served with his father Larry Heyer while his son Bradley is a current member. Mike served as volunteer association president, where he earned a reputation as a strong organizational leader. Also leaving the volunteer ranks recently was Jeremiah Will (above middle). Jeremiah joined the department in 2010 and resigned in June 2013 to join the U.S. Army. Serving as a volunteer firefighter is a very difficult job these days and Mike and Jeremiah are to be commended for their many years of service to the community. CWFD wishes them good luck in their future endeavors!



Top Row—CWFD personnel hold training sessions at Station 42 and near Lacamas Lake

Left: CWFD personnel effect the rescue of an injured patient in the Prune Hill neighborhood. Right: Emily Gillespie, a reporter with the Columbian, interviews Washougal PD officers Dan McPherson and Jesse Layman before they were given an award for life saving at a June 10 council meeting