

Camas-Washougal Fire Department Newsletter

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***Our Mission:
To provide the highest
quality service to our com-
munity through the protec-
tion and preservation of life
and property***



CWFD Merger Update

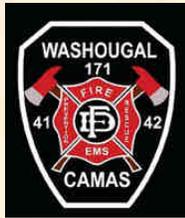
Since July of 2011, the Camas and Washougal fire departments have been working under the auspices of a temporary functional consolidation that has been renewed twice. Among many efficiencies, the merger has doubled staffing and provided a paramedic unit at the Washougal fire station, while also significantly decreasing response times for Washougal citizens suffering serious medical emergencies. In Camas, the merger has provided for a renewed effort towards fire prevention and inspections and increased staffing and equipment. Both agencies have benefited from the creation of a training officer position (which was filled from existing staffing) and have realized financial efficiencies and savings that are tied to the merger. Financial consultant Paul Lewis commented at the most recent merger ad hoc committee meeting that the continuation of the merger could provide for millions of dollars in savings for both cities by harnessing efficiencies that may be created when replacing very expensive capital items like fire engines or fire stations.

The current interlocal agreement between the cities that provides the legal framework for the ongoing merger efforts expires at the end of 2013. In September, the city councils of Washougal and Camas provided the "green light" to begin immediate efforts to draft a long term interlocal agreement to provide for the continuation of the partnership. Camas City Administrator Nina Regor and Washougal City Administrator David Scott are already beginning work on the creation of this draft document which would eventually come before both city councils for recommendations for changes or for approval. Further updates will be provided when available.



CWFD Open House on September 28

The Camas-Washougal Fire Department will be holding their 13th annual Open House and Health and Safety Fair on Saturday, September 28th from 10:00am – 2:00pm at Station 42, 4321 NW Parker Street, Camas WA. The open house will include Clark County Sheriff's Office and Vancouver Police K-9 demonstration at 11:00, Lifelight helicopter landing at 12:00 (weather permitting). Available throughout the day are live fire and extrication demonstrations, car seat installations and inspections, fire prevention tips, CPR information and practice, and fire engine displays and explanations. Various organizations from the community will be providing health and safety displays and information. Confirmed organizations so far are Clark County Sheriff's Office, Clark Public Utilities, CRESA, Ft. Vancouver Power Squad, Pure Wellness, 211 Info, Washougal Sport and Spine. Also, the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington's mobile dental van will be on site, for people to tour and learn about the free dental, medical and vision services the Free Clinic provides for uninsured children and adults. Bring your friends and family and enjoy the day at the fire station!



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CWFD Division Chief of EMS Cliff Free departs for the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland in September. Chief Free has been accepted in to the academy's four year Executive Fire Officer Program, which provides graduate level education to select fire officers from around the world. EFO students attend two week programs every year for four years at the NFA campus. At the end of each class students are required to write and submit significant research papers that have to receive a passing grade before the student can move on in the program. It is not an easy path, but it's one that we know Chief Free is well suited for.



In August, CWFD received permission to reapply for the federal SAFER staffing grant in an attempt to secure continued funding for the three positions funded by the program in 2012. The grant was applied for specifically by the Camas Fire Department as the two departments are still not legally and permanently merged. The department will likely not get word on whether the grant has been received until early in 2014.



CWFD Milestones

In September, CWFD saw the departure of two long time members. Aireanna Baldwin, who had been with the department as an administrative assistant for 12 years, recently took a similar position at the Washougal Police Department. Aireanna was an integral part of the organization and helped keep the department functioning smoothly in far too many ways to be able to list. She will be missed by all and will be impossible to replace. Thank you again, Aireanna! Until the end of 2013, Aireanna's position will be filled by Jennifer Onorati. Jennifer comes to us from Florida via a Portland "temp" agency that the city uses. Please introduce yourself to Jennifer when you see her.

Longtime volunteer firefighter, lieutenant, and volunteer association president Tim Kutchera recently made the difficult decision to leave the department. Tim had volunteered tirelessly for the department for over 8 years. In his life outside the fire department, Tim has been a pilot for Alaska Airlines for many years. Recent changes in his duties and home base airport have resulted in him not having the time to dedicate to the department. He is hopeful that at some point in the future his work commitments will allow him to rejoin the department. CWFD would be happy to welcome Tim back at any time! In the meantime, the reigns of the volunteer organization fall to Vice President Jake Grindy.



- Fire departments responded to an estimated annual average of 156,600 cooking-related fires between 2007-2011, resulting in 400 civilian deaths, 5,080 injuries, and \$853 million in direct damage.
- Two of every five home fires starts in the kitchen.
- Unattended cooking was a factor in 34% of reported home cooking fires.
- Two-thirds of home cooking fires started with ignition of food or other cooking ingredients.
- Ranges accounted for the 58% of home cooking fire incidents. Ovens accounted for 16%.
- Children under five face a higher risk of non-fire burns associated with cooking than being burned in a cooking fire
- Microwave ovens are one of the leading home products associated with scald burn injuries not related to fires. Nearly half (44%) of the microwave oven injuries seen at emergency rooms in 2011 were scald burns.
- Clothing was the item first ignited in less than 1% of home cooking fires, but these incidents accounted for 16% of the cooking fire death.