

Camas-Washougal Fire Department Newsletter

November 1, 2012

Volume 2, Issue 8



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



Washougal Turkey Carnival November 16 and 17



The 2011 Turkey Carnival brought hundreds of people to the Washougal Fire Station over two days. Make sure to mark your calendars for this year's fun and entertainment!

Annual Firefighters TURKEY CARNIVAL

WIN CHOICE TURKEYS!!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16th • 7:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17th • 7:00 P.M.
Always the weekend before Thanksgiving!

BINGO • DICE • WHEEL

CHEESEBURGERS • SOFT DRINKS
AND POPCORN AVAILABLE
FREE COFFEE

WASHOUGAL FIRE HALL
Corner of 14th & A Street, just off Hwy 14

Sponsored by the Washougal Volunteer Fire Department
Proceeds go to support the Volunteer Fire Department
and for the purchase of new equipment



THANKSGIVING DAY FIRES

Fast Facts

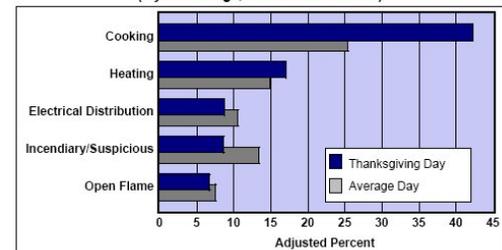
- Cooking is the leading cause of home fires on Thanksgiving Day.**
- Eighty percent of Americans don't realize that home fires are the single most common disaster across the nation.*
- Cooking fires nearly double on Thanksgiving Day, occurring more than twice as often than on another day.**
- The number of home fires the American Red Cross has responded to has risen 10% since 2000.*
- Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home fire injuries.**
- Every two and a half hours someone is killed in a home fire. In a typical year, 20,000 people are injured in home fires.**
- Thanksgiving Day home fires cause more property damage and claim more lives than home fires on other days.**
- Having a working smoke alarm reduces one's chances of dying in a fire by nearly half.**

Preparedness Tips

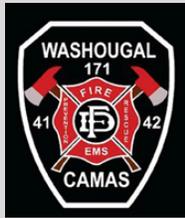
- ✓ Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- ✓ If you are simmering, baking, boiling, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that the stove or oven is on.
- ✓ Avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking.
- ✓ Keep kids away from cooking areas by enforcing a "kid-free zone" of three feet around the stove.
- ✓ Keep anything that can catch on fire—pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, and towels or curtains—away from your stove top and oven or any other appliances in the kitchen that generates heat.
- ✓ If you must use a turkey fryer, make sure it is outdoors and in an open area away from all walls, fences or other structures that could catch on fire and away from moisture that can cause serious burns from steam or splattering hot oil. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ Smoke alarms save lives. Install a smoke alarm near your kitchen and use the test button to check it each month. Replace all batteries at least once a year.
- ✓ After your Thanksgiving guests leave, ask a family member to perform a home safety check to ensure that all candles and smoking materials are extinguished.
- ✓ Visit www.redcross.org/homefires for more information on how to be fire safe on Thanksgiving Day.

Sources: American Red Cross,* U.S. Fire Administration,** and the National Fire Protection Association.***

Causes of Residential Structure Fires on Thanksgiving Day
(3-year average, NFIRS data 1996-98)



Source: NFIRS only



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On November 5, Firefighter/EMT Katie Linton, Firefighter/Paramedic Eric Bridges, and Firefighter/EMT Matt Baldwin, were officially sworn in to office for the Camas-Washougal Fire Department. Camas Mayor Scott Higgins administered the oath of office, which was attended by the firefighter's families and several of their new colleagues. The firefighters were hired as a result of CWFD's SAFER Grant award and began their duties immediately.



On September 22, CWFD conducted its annual Open House at Station 42 on Parker Street. Thousands of citizens participated in the all-day event, which included CPR and first aid instruction, live fire demonstrations, and a visit from the Lifeflight crew out of Aurora. Many CWFD personnel volunteered their time to help run the event, including Division Chief Cliff Free who was the emcee throughout the day.

Your Camas-Washougal Fire Department

The Camas-Washougal Fire Department covers 20 square miles and over 33,000 citizens for fire protection and approximately 80 square miles containing 65,000 citizens for paramedic services. CWFD averages approximately 5,000 fire and medical calls annually.

There are currently forty four career firefighters, one chief, two division chiefs, one deputy fire marshal, three battalion chiefs, and two administrative assistants at CWFD. The department is also supported by over 30 highly trained volunteer firefighters. All line firefighters are either EMT/IV Technicians or EMT/Paramedics and have high levels of training in fire suppression.

We have four fire stations, Station 41 in downtown Camas, Station 42 in the Prune Hill area, Station 171 in downtown Washougal, and Station 172 in northeast Washougal. Station 41, 42, and 171 have 24 hour full time staffing and at least one paramedic unit at each station. Station 172 on 39th Street in Washougal is manned by volunteer firefighters under a cooperative agreement with East County Fire & Rescue. Since July 13th, 2011 a long term functional consolidation has been in place between the Camas and Washougal Fire Departments. Under this agreement, both departments operate under one chief and combine all operational staffing in an effort to improve efficiency and save money. This merger will continue until at least December 31, 2013.