

Camas-Washougal Fire Department Newsletter

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CWFD Command Staff:

Nick Swinhart

Fire Chief

Ron Schumacher

Division Chief/Fire Marshal

Cliff Free

Division Chief of EMS

Allen Wolk

Battalion Chief

Larry Larimer

Battalion Chief

Mark Ervin

Battalion Chief

Contact Information:

E-mail:

nswinhart@cityofcamas.us

Website:

[www.cityofcamas.us/
index.php/firemain](http://www.cityofcamas.us/index.php/firemain)

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



CWFD 2013 Open House

The Camas-Washougal Fire Department held their 13th annual open house at Station 42 on September 28. The open house included participation from the Clark County Sheriff's Office and Vancouver Police K-9 units and live fire and extrication demonstrations from CWFD members. Various organizations from the community provided health and safety displays and information. Unfortunately inclement weather prevented the much anticipated Lifeflight demonstration. Despite the bad weather, the event was considered a success with several hundred visitors from around the community.

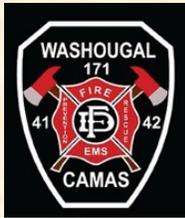


Combined Promotional and Entry Level Testing

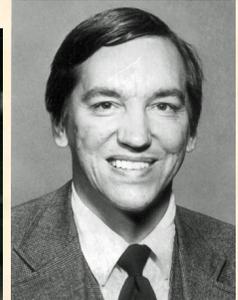
Of the many efficiencies created by the CWFD merger, two more will likely come to fruition before the end of the year. Civil Service Commissions in both Washougal and Camas have approved combined promotional and entry level hiring processes between both cities. Union leadership has also assisted by creating the necessary contract language adjustments to make the process possible. This complex arrangement is necessary as both agencies are still legally distinct at the moment and operate under two different sets of municipal codes and policies. The combined promotional and hiring process is expected to be more efficient, faster, and cost less money, than if the cities did separate tests on their own.

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. 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. Washougal City Administrator David Scott and Camas consultant Paul Lewis are almost finished with the interlocal agreement language that will likely come before both councils before the end of the year for action.



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Fall 2013, top to bottom—
CWFD staff hand out candy
at the Camas Boo Bash, B-
Shift firefighters extinguish
an attic fire, firefighters
from around Washington
attend the memorial service
for longtime Tacoma para-
medic instructor Mike
Smith, who passed away in
October, CWFD staff assist
Mayor Higgins in judging a
chili cooking competition at
Camas School District Of-
fices

Fire Chief Photo History Comes Together

Compiling photos of the fire chiefs who have headed both organizations over the years has been a longstanding project that was just recently completed. Documenting such photos is important for maintaining department history, as well as honoring those who helped bring both organizations to where we are today: Working together in partnership to provide the best possible service to our communities. Photos above, left to right—Camas Fire Chiefs Ed Reed, Frank Province, Dick Huycke, Lawrence Beauchamp, Willard McCoy, Deloy Little, Maynard Erickson, William Hillgaertner, Dave Artz, Leo Leon, Washougal Fire Chiefs Darrell Alder, Basil Taylor, Ron Caster, Cam Hershaw, and Ron Schumacher.