



Upcoming Events

Wings & Wheels 7/7

QRT 7/11

CPR Class 7/14



Chief/Director

Remembering Who We Are

A quick Google search about Firefighters and Paramedics getting into trouble will lead to pages of information. Here's a synopsis of what I found on Page-1 of 10 possible search results. ***"Off Duty Firefighter Gets Into a Brawl Leaving Strip Club, Firefighters Loses Job After Using N-Word at Hooters, Brooklyn Firefighter Fired Over Wearing Anti-Affirmative Action Shirt, Firefighters and Paramedics Get In Trouble Over Social Media Posts, Denver Paramedic Gets 12 Years In Beating, and San Antonio Fire Department Paramedic Arrested."*** As you look through the search results you can see that bad behavior on and off duty can come back to haunt you. Just 30 seconds of poor judgement can wreck 20 years of dedication and hard work. You will also note that you don't find similar articles about plumbers, retail workers and many other professions. We are held to a higher standard and there is little forgiveness by the public when we step out of line.

Why are people so judgmental when it comes to public safety workers? Because they trust you with their lives, their property, and the lives of their family members. They want and expect the smartest, strongest, and nicest person showing up in their time of need. Whether we like it or even agree with it, people expect more from us. It's part of the job and it's part of accepting all of the praise we get when we're out in public. One doesn't come without the other.

Unfortunately, as Public Safety professionals we have created a piece of our culture that embraces rowdy behavior and alcohol consumption. Both of which are a bad combination that has led to bad outcomes for many of our comrades. Nevertheless, being the problem solvers that we are, we found a way to justify this part of our culture by saying it's just "blowing off steam and or trying to relax". However, if we take an honest look at it we know this part of our culture needs to change. Throughout my career I have seen a lot of improvement in our profession and currently there is an emphasis on first responder PTSD. This awareness is long overdue and brings me to my point...

You willingly exposing yourself to danger, psychological trauma, disease, and violence so that you can help others. You never ask to be thanked because you love what you do. **YOU** are **GREAT PEOPLE** and our community is better because of **YOU**. Unfortunately, repeated exposure to bad things takes a toll on people. We all know this even if we don't want to admit it. But here's what you need to keep in mind. Substance abuse, erratic behavior, poor judgement, and anger can be signs of PTSD. Any of the above headlines can easily fit into at least one of these signs. Therefore, I ask that you think twice before blowing off some steam, consume alcohol responsibly and in moderation, and most of all, watch out for each other. Don't let the wear and tear of the job manifest in an unhealthy way that destroys everything you have worked so hard create.

Jim Langborg, Chief/Director

"Working Together For Our Community"



EMS Operations

June was a very busy month for WLAD, not with only call volume but with Public Education events, event coverage and regional training.

Here is what we have going on at a glance.

June 22nd	FACC Aging in place at Florence Event Center
June 24th	Greentrees Public Education

WLAD budget was approved from the Budget committee and then WLAD Board.

We conducted our first regional EMS Committee meeting. Swisshome / Deadwood Fire, Mapleton Fire, Siuslaw Valley Fire and WLAD all got together to discuss regional EMS topics. We discussed the implementation of the EMT task books, EMR / EMT class that are approaching, and the BLS kits that will be ordered in July.



June EMS calls	
911 Response, transports	188
Transfers	38
Specialty Care Transfer	5
911 Response, no patient transport	29
MIH Response	32
TOTAL call volume	321
June SVFR Statistics	
Total Incidents	54
Drill Nights	4
Volunteers Hours committed on Incidents	466
Volunteers Hours committed on Drills	292

Mobile Integrated Healthcare is going well. Chris saw 46 patients in the month of June, as we continue to look for gaps in healthcare locally, we have begun assisting more in Palliative care.

Around our house: The previous administrative space has now been converted to the crew room. The seismic building upgrade and dry-rot has been completed. It looks like by the end of June the IT room will be completely transitioned to one area, we have started working on the old crew room to convert that space into bedrooms and then we will finish off the remodeling project with front bathroom. Rescue 10 had a new bumper and winch installed to take away some weight from the front-end.

Safety message: Summer traffic is upon is! Be mindful that the children are out of school and tourist are beginning to visit our area.

Matt House, EMS Operations Manager

Message from Community Support Team

Is everyone aware of the new comprehensive Employee Assistance Program (EAP) now in place for all paid and volunteer SVFR staff? The program is offered through CASCADE, and it provides FREE and CONFIDENTIAL counseling services to you and your immediate family members. CASCADE offers counseling for stress management, relationship issues, depression, anxiety, drug and alcohol issues, as well as legal and financial counseling, weight loss and wellness programs, home buying programs, and much more. They have counselors experienced in working with first responders and the stress inherent in your work. They will assist you through email, text, over the phone, or face to face. Every SVFR employee/volunteer and your immediate family members are entitled to 3-6 counseling sessions per year at absolutely no cost. Give them a call at (800) 433-2320 or check out their website (www.cascadecenters.com) for more information about available programs and resources. You can also talk with Tony, Shannon or Lori for more information.



Lori Severance, Community Support Team Coordinator

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a FREE and CONFIDENTIAL counseling service.

It is confidential and it helps!

All SVFR & WLAD

Call 24/7

Cascade Health EAP

1-800-433-2320

If you need assistance and can't get through to your EAP please contact your supervisor we will help you find the resources you need.



July Birthdays

Tom Van Winkle

Colton Griswold

Logan Baltazor

Tyler Payne

TeamRescue.us

Your employee portal to information

Now available for your computer or mobile device!

Fire Operations

1. The fire service is a dangerous profession. Every year, on average 100 firefighters die and another 80,000 are injured. To stay safe, study and learn about your emergency work and its hazards. Knowledge of the job enhances safety. (Never stop learning and training, training should be a daily pursuit.)
2. Heart attacks are the number-one killer of firefighters. Remain in good physical and mental condition. A lifelong commitment to exercise and good living can save your life and make you a better firefighter. (Who is using the Fitness Program at fitforduty.com?)
3. The military, police and fire service – we are all in dangerous professions where members risk their lives. But fire fighting is different. For example, in the military to be a good soldier you may have to shoot people. In law enforcement, to be a good police officer you may have to arrest people. In the fire service, to be a good firefighter we have to save lives. After your career is over, your memories will be good ones.
4. The job makes the man or woman; the man or woman does not make the job. What does this mean? It means look at your supervisor or chief. You will most likely assume some of the personality traits of that person during work. We rarely change the job. The job changes us. When you set your sights on a position or rank, look closely at the person who has that job, because you may become like him or her.
5. Support your boss. The top job is the toughest assignment in your department. If you get an opportunity to work with the chief, take it. You will see close-up the pressures and stresses of the position. So, if later you achieve the position, you will know what to expect. (You can also see how something can seem so big at the lower levels and it's a small, small part of the overall plan.)
6. Balance your work in the fire service and your family. After you accomplish all your life goals and ambitions at work, you will then understand, like I did, you could not have accomplished it without their love and support.
7. A firefighter is a social worker with muscles. The fire service is physical social work. You help people by stretching hose lines and raising ladders.
8. The fire service does more than fight fires. We now are an all-purpose emergency service – fires, medical emergencies, auto extrication, drowning, hazmat, rope rescue, confined space collapse rescue, floods, and everything else that gets thrown at us. We do it all.
9. Specialize and teach. Learn one of the emergency service specialties very well. Become an expert in the subject, and then teach it to a new firefighter. Then find someone who knows all about a topic that you don't learn from them. As a friend of mine told me, "We all have an obligation to leave this fire service 'better' than it was when we joined.
10. SVFR is currently at 70% more calls than last year. That is a giant increase. Our medical response was 44% last year and is 48% this year. Ponder that for a second. Yes we are running more medical calls but we are running lots more of all types of calls. SVFR cannot operate unless everyone from the Chief down to the newest candidate is doing their part. I thank you all for continuing to pursue excellence. Now go out and make a difference!

Good luck, stay safe, OPS.

Jim Dickerson, Fire Operations Chief

A Note from Recruitment and Retention Coordinator “BOA”

We’ve been Hosed!

What’s synonymous with Firefighters...Hose and we got it! Recently, Siuslaw Valley, Mapleton and Swisshome Deadwood fire departments received a \$224,600 Regional Grant from FEMA for new hose. After it was all said and done, our order consisted of \$160,186 worth hose, for which we paid \$8812.00, after matching 5%. This grant is one of the many efforts SVFR has made towards partnering with their upriver sister departments to help improve emergency response to all citizens and visitors of our region.

Just how much hose does a quarter of a million dollars buy? Well, consider a Boeing 787 cruises at about 41,000 plus feet. That’s the length of hose we received.

Then we started receiving it. Pallet after pallet started filling our Logistics building, until it seemed like it was going to burst at the seams.

Why new hose? Well, like everything else, hose wears out. Hose typically lasts about 15 years. Today’s fires are not like those of days gone by. Nowadays, fires burn hotter due to all the products made with synthetics.

In the 70’s, a person had an average of 17 minutes to escape, after their home’s smoke alarm activated. The scary statistic now, is that’s been cut down to 3 to 4 minutes to get out! Fires are burning faster and hotter! Hoses get damaged quicker.

What’s the difference between the sizes? Well, as we say, “small fire, small water; big fire, big water.” So, different sizes of hose are needed.

We received over 10,000 feet of Large Diameter Hose (LDH). We use this as supply hose to pump water into those ever so thirsty water tanks on our apparatus. Previously, we used to pull 2 hoses off the first arriving Engine and connect to the hydrant. With LDH, one hose is all that’s needed. Amongst the order was wildland, attack and aforementioned supply hose. Additional adapters and necessary items to facilitate the new hose, also came with the order.

So, if you see some shiny new yellow hose on our rigs, you’ll know, our grant writers were once again burning the midnight oil, saving our district vast amounts of money.

Pete “Boa” Recruitment and Retention Officer



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