

# Mosier Fire Log

## September 2013

### CALL SUMMARY

	SEP	YTD	9/12	12 YTD	9/11	11 YTD
MEDICAL:	4	42	7	37	2	52
FIRE:	6	26	1	13	3	14

### **Medical calls** in September:

- **Diabetic issue**, Memaloose rest area eastbound, on scene in seventeen minutes.
- **Nausea and dehydration**, downtown Mosier, on scene in two minutes.
- **Nausea and weakness**, downtown Mosier, on scene in four minutes.
- **Pain and unable to move**, west of Hatfield trailhead, on scene in six minutes.

### **Fire calls** in September:

- **9/4: Smoke investigation**, I-84 milepost 69, on scene in twenty-two minutes. Actual location was four miles east of reported, and adjacent to westbound lanes, requiring trip to Rowena in order for Mosier to access. Fire was very small, in brush, caused by pieces of a catalytic converter ejected from a moving vehicle. Fire extinguished by ODF, Mosier provided a blocking engine.
- **9/5:** Report of a lightning strike followed by "**a poof of smoke**" in vicinity of Carroll Road, on scene in six minutes. Nothing found after extensive investigation.
- **9/5: Grass and a tree on fire**, following a lightning strike, off State Rd, on scene in three minutes. Photos of this tree are on our web site, [www.mosierfire.com](http://www.mosierfire.com).
- **9/5:** Report of **intermittent smoke** following lightning, vicinity of Dry Creek and State Roads. Nothing found after extensive investigation. See note below.
- **9/6:** Request for assistance from Hood River County on **wrong-way driver injury collision**, I-84 westbound milepost 67, on scene with a structure/rescue engine in fourteen minutes.
- **9/20:** Request for mutual aid on a **grass fire**, I-84 eastbound milepost 82, on scene with a brush engine in seventeen minutes.

## **B U R N   B A N   L I F T E D**

Oregon Department of Forestry has lifted the annual burn ban as of Monday, September 30 at 9AM. Burn barrels and burn piles are allowed with a valid permit, during daylight hours.

Burn permits are free in the Mosier Fire District. City of Mosier residents will need to stop by City Hall to request a permit. Outside the City, simply call the Fire Chief to request a permit, 541-478-3333.

## **Fire Notifications by email**

Want to receive email updates on fire activity in the area? If so, email your request to the Fire Chief at [mosierfire@gmail.com](mailto:mosierfire@gmail.com). Include your name and all email addresses you'd like added to the list. When fires occur we'll do our best to send out current, useful information.

You can also visit our web site for current fire information. In the last six weeks, our web site, [www.mosierfire.com](http://www.mosierfire.com), was the go-to place for Mosierites looking for information on the Blackburn Fire and then on a controlled burn by the US Forest Service off Dell Road during dry, windy weather. Up to four hundred people per day looked to us for the latest maps, photos, and information.

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## **Volunteer News**

**Maggie Goter, Joe Haythorn, and Lisa White** recently started the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course at the Community College. Upon graduation and licensing, they will bring our EMT contingent up to eleven.

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## **Lightning Storms: Is it Smoke or Water Vapor?**

During the lightning on September 5, we responded to several 911 calls reporting smoke. Other than a confirmed tree fire (which was called in as fire, not smoke), we found no sign of smoke, but plenty of “water dogs”, or water vapor rising from trees and open ground.

Mosier residents are asked to try briefly to confirm smoke before calling 911, unless you clearly see flames. Often during and just after a lightning storm, “water dogs” will look for all get out like smoke. By observing for a minute or two, you can usually tell the difference: water vapor tends to dissipate into nothing within thirty seconds or so, while smoke — even from a very small fire — generally does not dissipate completely. If you see what looks like puffs of smoke which come and go and completely disappear in less than half a minute or so, chances are it's water vapor. If you see a persistent column rising high into the sky or blowing downwind without completely dissipating, chances are it's smoke.

Similarly, dust from orchard mowing or road construction tends to settle back to earth eventually, while smoke does not.

By observing for a minute or two before you call 911, you might save us from another wild goose chase. We take considerable risk being out in a lightning storm. Think about that.

Your Fire Department is here to respond to any concern about what you think is smoke, and if in doubt after giving it a minute or two, you should call 911. And certainly if you see flames, call 911 without delay. But be aware that we spend a fair amount of time chasing down reports of smoke that turn out to be something benign, so please do give it a minute or two if you're not 100% sure.