

Mosier Fire Log

May 2011

CALL SUMMARY

	May	YTD	05/10	10 YTD	05/09	09 YTD
MEDICAL:	7	23	2	17	1	22
FIRE:	2	5	1	8	2	9

SELECTED CALL DETAILS

Mosier's first brush fire of the year came at 3:30 PM on May 23rd. Five Mosier firefighters were on-scene in sixteen minutes to a report of a burn pile out of control in the area of Wilson Road near Mosier Creek Road. We arrived to find a creeping ground fire approximately 60 feet in diameter on a south-facing slope in steep, rocky poison oak under mature pines and oaks. First-arriving unit quickly had half of the fire scratched out using a hand tool, while others stretched a hose line, with which we successfully extinguished the remaining flank just about the same time as our mutual aid partners from Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and US Forest Service showed up. We turned the fire over to them for mop-up. The fuels reduction contractor who started the piles also helped mop up, much to his credit. Total fire area about one-tenth of an acre.

Three days later we were called to the same address for a report of a tree on fire. Chief Appleton was on-scene in five minutes to find the tree already put out by the same contractor from Monday, whose burn pile started the tree on fire. No further action. Despite two calls in less than a week, Mosier Fire has high regard for this contractor and wishes to see him continue to thrive while helping our constituents.

Yes, it's that time of year when outdoor burning becomes very risky, deceptively so given the wet cool spring. **ALL OUTDOOR BURNING IN MOSIER FIRE DISTRICT REQUIRES A PERMIT**, either from ODF or from the City. All outdoor burning is prohibited after July 1, until the ban is lifted by ODF sometime well after fall rains have set in. Please visit our website for further information. www.mosierfire.com

Medical calls in May consisted of a dislocated knee, a very serious gastrointestinal bleed, leg pain after a fall, difficulty breathing in a patient we have seen before for stroke and a hip fracture, seizures following chest pain, an infant with a squirrel bite, and two vehicle occupants who were injured by a struck deer breaking side windows and partially entering the passenger compartment at freeway speed.

Mosier continues to respond to medical calls with at least two EMT's, and typically at least four responders total per call. In May, our longest response to the patient was thirteen minutes to the west-bound Memaloose rest stop, and the shortest response time was four minutes to Mosier Manor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2011 – 2012 Budget approved

The Budget Committee met on Thursday, May 12 and approved a budget for the coming fiscal year. The tax rate levy will stay the same, at \$1.65 per thousand of assessed value, well below the permanent rate limit of \$2.10. Total tax receipts are projected at \$156,000. Spending priorities are also largely unchanged, focusing on upgrading our training and safety equipment in addition to paid staff. A digital copy of the approved budget will be posted by June 6 on our website. The Board will meet to adopt the budget on June 9, 2012.

Many thanks to community volunteers **Scott Baker** (Budget Committee Chairman), **Bill Reeves**, and **Marc Berry**, as well as the tireless work of **Jeanne Reeves** who has shouldered much of the actual number crunching on behalf of the Fire District and the preceding Mosier Rural Fire Protection District for many years.

Microwave burn zone update:

Chief Appleton met recently with representatives of Oregon State Parks, ODF, and US Forest Service to assess potential fire hazards in the lower Microwave area, a triangular area from the Twin Tunnels to the trailhead parking lot and down to Rock Creek. Two bits of preliminary good news, awaiting further correspondence from State Parks.

First, the potential hazard of numerous standing dead trees is minimal at this time. There's just not enough ladder fuel, the kindling for a really big fire, because the Microwave did us the favor of getting rid of all of it.

That points to the second bit of good news. The Microwave created a window of opportunity to manage the ladder fuels by reintroducing fire into the forest ecology west of town. State Parks indicates interest in using controlled burns in the lower Microwave area on a planned rotation, specifically to manage the fire threat, but also to improve forest health. Chief Appleton will continue to press this with State Parks.

BRUSH CLEARING PARTIES:

We will meet at **9:30AM** on each of the following Saturdays:

- **June 11, 2011**: Rock Creek Rd, from Hwy 30 to sewage plant. Park at Rock Creek Access entry.
- **July 9, 2011**: Rock Creek Rd and ODOT Haul Rd. Park at Chamberlain Park or Rock Creek Access entry.
- **August 13, 2011**: Finish Rock Creek Rd and ODOT Haul Road.
- **September 10, 2011**: Begin Lower Microwave area, Rock Creek Access.

WEBSITE LINK AND FURTHER RESOURCES: <http://mosierfire.com/>

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