

Mosier Fire Log

September 2011

CALL SUMMARY

| | Sep | YTD | 09/10 | 10 YTD | 09/09 | 09 YTD |
|----------|-----|-----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| MEDICAL: | 2 | 52 | 6 | 32 | 5 | 47 |
| FIRE: | 1 | 15 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 29 |

SELECTED CALL DETAILS

Fire calls in September:

9/1: Mosier provided a water tender on request to Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue, for a brush fire on the north side of I-84 near the Discovery Center. Firefighters **Ron Carroll** and **Charles Young** were on the fire for four hours, including time for a quick field repair to the truck's water piping, with gratitude for assistance from **Cascade Motors**.

Medical calls in September:

- Nausea and possible seizure in Mosier Manor, on scene in six minutes
- Ground-level fall with facial bleeding, Dry Creek, on scene in five minutes

Both medical calls this month were staffed by two EMT's and a total of three FF's.

F I R E S E A S O N

Mosier is still in a burn ban as this goes to press. Fuels are still dry enough to burn real good, though the onset of fall weather means the overall fire danger level is coming down. You will know we're out of the burn ban when Oregon Department of Forestry's brightly colored signs come down, well after the rains have set in. Thereafter, burn permits are required by the City, and by ODF outside the City.

We have been very fortunate so far this fire season. We have not had extended periods of high fire danger, as is more typical for Mosier summers. And we were effective on the three significant brush fires since May. Knock on wood ...

The down side of our good fortune is that fuels have been accumulating steadily for the last several years of mild weather. The shrubs and seedling trees have thrived noticeably. We may be enjoying relatively lower fire risk in the short term, at the expense of greater fuel loads setting us up for a bigger fire in the future. Mosier Fire District has tools, equipment and training for property owners and tenants to maintain defensible space. Contact Chief Appleton with questions, 541-478-3333.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer **Marc Berry** assisted a family displaced by a house fire in Hood River. Marc is a Disaster Assistance Team member with the Columbia River District of the American Red Cross.

BRUSH CLEARING PARTIES: Will resume on **October 8**.

We will meet at **9:30AM** on the second Saturday of each month, for two hours. Volunteers welcome and encouraged. We provide some safety equipment.

- **Saturday, October 8:** Rock Creek Rd at Hwy 30
- **Saturday, November 12:** ODOT Haul Rd to Rock Pit

Training:

- Volunteers **Charles Young, Ellen Dittebrandt, Aurora Moore, and Kris McNall** attended a half-day class on cardiac emergencies. The intent was to give an overview of all the steps and components of an organized cardiac response at our level of practice. CPR, recognizing and understanding relevant drugs and EKG readings, and ways to assist paramedics with advanced airway and cardiac procedures were the main topics.

- **Structural Firefighter Academy** enrollment opens soon. The Academy usually runs ten weeks at one evening per week plus a couple of weekends. Graduates are trained to a basic level, the first step to becoming a certified firefighter.

- **Chief Appleton** completed a series of FEMA courses which are now required for some kinds of federal reimbursement. The training took many days and hours over the last eight months, with a completion and recording date by September 30.

- Volunteers **Ellen Dittebrandt** and **Jeff Behringer** started a two-semester course for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) – Basic at Columbia Gorge Community College in Hood River. Upon graduation, these two will give Mosier a total of nine EMT-B's and one Intermediate.

INSURANCE RATING UPDATE

Chief Appleton is about to request an interim review by the Insurance Service Office (ISO) of our protection class ratings. In 2008, ISO downgraded the City of Mosier from a 6 to a 7, and the old Mosier Rural Fire Protection District from a 8b to a 9. Since 2008, we have taken steps which correct some key criteria for ISO's rating, notably by training and by testing equipment. The goal of this interim review will be to reach the old protection classes at a minimum. Chief Appleton is cautiously optimistic that the City in particular can see further improvement, possibly as low as a 4 in the City with more hard work. Stay tuned! As a rule of thumb, property insurance premiums may go down by about ten percent per class, but there is no formula. There are other factors which also affect premiums