

Mosier Fire Log

August 2011

CALL SUMMARY

	Aug	YTD	08/10	10 YTD	08/09	09 YTD
MEDICAL:	8	50	3	26	3	42
FIRE:	3	14	3	14	4	23

SELECTED CALL DETAILS

Fire calls in August:

- **8/1:** Grass fire on north side of I-84 near mile 72, on scene in nine minutes; extinguished grass and poplar trees in orchard, turned mop-up over to ODF. Fire re-lit the next morning and Mosier units again extinguished then handed over to ODF.
- **8/2:** First Mosier unit on scene in five minutes to a call for a brush fire at Survival Garden on State Road, structures threatened. Fire was on a slope facing into very high wind, expanding in all directions rapidly. Mosier units extinguished quickly then handed the scene over to ODF/USDA joint command for mop-up. Investigation determined that the fire was caused by an electrical short where a tree branch rubbed through insulation on two 230-volt power lines from transformer to house. This was a good stop by Mosier, a fire which could have been "The Big One" in just a few more minutes, affecting every home to the top of Seven Mile and Wasco Butte.
- **8/22:** Confirmed sighting of an eastbound railroad tank car smoking profusely at front axles at Mosier Creek; unable to locate subsequently.

Medical calls in August:

- Elderly patient disoriented and combative, on scene in fourteen minutes
- Bicyclist crashed at Twin Tunnels, fractured eye socket, on scene in ten minutes
- Difficulty breathing in car at Exit 69, on scene in four minutes
- Extreme vertigo in condos, on scene in four minutes
- Possible dislocated ankle on Rattler Ridge, patient intercepted in five minutes
- Third call to one patient for shortness of breath, on scene in two minutes
- Elderly man on Catron Road not feeling well, on scene in three minutes
- Motorcycle v. deer Hwy 30 at Canyon Way, on scene in six minutes
- Missing person with possible heart attack, Twin Tunnels, on scene in four minutes
- Report of a person down on I-84 eastbound mile 72, on scene in seven minutes

Staffing on medical calls continues to average three EMT's and as many as seven total responders.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Training:

- Volunteers **Charles Young** and **Ben Iremonger** completed live-fire training with Odell/Pine Grove on a burn-to-learn structure, July 23. This is great experience. We have so few structure fires anymore that it is tough to train adequately. This training also puts Ben and Charles one step closer to certification as Firefighter One.
- **Chief Appleton** completed a four-day course in Oregon City for the ICS 300/400 certificate. This is FEMA's Incident Command System, at the level of expanding incidents such as the Microwave Fire. ICS 300/400 is part of the qualification for leading such an incident, and it is also required of chief officers by FEMA for certain kinds of reimbursements, such as grants.
- Volunteers **Marc Berry**, **Ellen Dittebrandt**, **Ron Carroll**, and **Chief Appleton** completed a two-day course for qualification as Incident Safety Officer, taught by Chief Devon Wells of Hood River Fire Department.

Microwave Fire remembered

The last big fire in Mosier started at about 9PM on August 27, 2009 on top of the mountain between Mosier and Hood River. A little less than twenty-four hours later, it had burned through 1,200 acres right to the west edge of the City of Mosier, where crews from around the state made a heroic stop, sparing the town and hundreds of families to the east. To this day, Oregon Department of Forestry has not released findings from its investigation, but they have made clear that the cause had something to do with an electrical fault at or near the Microwave facility.

Of all the images and stories from the fire, the one which haunts me still is the sight of 800 firefighters gathered to save our town from all over Oregon, asleep in the fields at the Hood River County Fairground as I drove in for the 6AM briefing on the second morning of the fire. Few if any other folks from Mosier even knew the fire camp was there, let alone the scale. To my left, the wildland crews had set up a vast sea of tents next to their brush rigs. On the right, row upon row of city fire trucks, from Astoria to Ontario, with their crews quietly snoozing in the dim light. The few souls who were up noticed the lettering on my doors -- "Mosier Fire" -- and the faint misting of red fire retardant on the windows and cab, from a bomber which missed its mark in high wind the day before. A few waved or flashed a thumbs up. I rolled down a window and said thank you. Later, I thanked a few hundred at the briefing, on behalf of the Mosier community, and said "Mosier loves you".

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