

Mosier Fire Log

April 2014

CALL SUMMARY

	APR	YTD	4/13	13 YTD	4/12	12 YTD
MEDICAL:	1	14	6	25	4	19
FIRE:	7	14	2	9	1	3

Medical calls in April:

- **Chest pain**, upper Dry Creek valley, on scene in six minutes.

Fire calls in April:

- **3/30: Motorcycle v. tree**, Interstate 84 westbound near Exit 76 (out of District by 1.5 miles). On scene in ten minutes. Mosier engine provided traffic control.
- **4/2, 4/13, and 4/22**: Motor vehicle crashes. **Canceled en route** or at scene.
- **4/6**: Request for assistance from a homeowner with a **burn pile out of control**. On scene in twelve minutes. All are reminded that the terms of a valid burn permit specify a minimum of ten feet clearance to bare ground around a burn pile, twenty feet from trees and shrubs, and forty feet from any structure.

- **4/14**: Orchard **burn pit escaped** and burned approximately ¼ acre of adjacent forest underbrush. On scene in six minutes. As with the 4/6 call, please note minimum clearances required with a valid burn permit. We were a bit surprised at the behavior of this fire so early in the year – it was slow-moving, but aggressively backing into the wind and consuming down to mineral soil. Flame lengths were sufficient to be a serious problem if the fire had occurred near a structure.

LESSON: despite a relatively wet spring, many areas in Mosier are dry enough to see dangerous fire spread. If you have outdoor piles to burn, get them done sooner than later.

- **4/27**: Called to a report of a **structure fire**, area of Dry Creek and State Road. In the area in eight minutes, though it took us another ten minutes to locate the fire. A property owner out of District intentionally disposed of a disused travel trailer by burning it to the ground. Permits are generally not issued for this type of fire. Responsible party was advised after the fact by Mid-Columbia Fire and Rescue.

Partial Burn Ban likely in May: Every year, Oregon Department of Forestry declares a ban on all outdoor burning, no later than July 1. But a few weeks before the outright ban, ODF forbids outdoor burn piles. During what ODF calls “Fire Season”, approved burn barrels and incinerators only are allowed before 11AM. This year, Chief Appleton expects the Fire Season to start as soon as mid-May. **If you have burn piles, please do your best to get them burned soon.** Chief Appleton will notify by email (if we have your address) and on the web site a few days in advance, and on the day the change goes into effect.