



# Size-Up

August 2013

## North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1

### Fire Crew Deployed to Southern Oregon Wildfire

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Lincoln County, OR**  
**July 22, 2013**  
*Submitted by Jim Kusz*

Late Friday afternoon July 19, Lincoln County fire crews were activated to what became known as the Pacifica Conflagration Fire 20 minutes south of Grants Pass, Oregon.

Fire apparatus from North Lincoln Fire & Rescue, Newport Fire Department, Toledo Fire & Rescue, Central Coast Fire, personnel from Yachats, with the addition of Siuslaw Valley Fire & Rescue crew and engine gathered in Toledo. They departed at midnight to convoy for the five hour drive to the area near Williams, Oregon for a fire that had already claimed one home and six outbuildings,

scorched 500 acres and cost an estimated \$1.5 million.

“Normally Lincoln County sends a Task Force comprised of four Type 1 or 2 engines and one water tender,” stated Strike Team Leader, Andrew Parker from Newport. “We were

requested to send a strike team of five Type 1 engines”.

Three other counties were called for strike teams as well; they were Linn, Lane and Marion. Lincoln County was assigned as Strike Team 3 from the State Fire Marshal’s Office

*(continued on Page 2)*



### Can emergency personnel find your house during the day and at night?

- ⇒ Your house numbers should be clearly visible—reflective—from the street, day or night.
- ⇒ Make sure bushes, vehicles, etc. don’t block your house numbers.
- ⇒ Your house numbers should be in a contrasting color to your house and at least 3 inches high.
- ⇒ If yours is a rural home, mark your address clearly on the mailbox or a post at the entrance to the driveway.
- ⇒ Make sure your address is posted by every telephone in your home. In stressful situations, it can be very easy to forget your address.
- ⇒ Address signs are available at the Taft Fire Station, 4520 SE Highway 101, Lincoln City.
- ⇒ Call 541-996-2233 for information and to order your sign and numbers.

*Don't play "Hide & Seek" with your emergency service providers! Help us find you when it matters!*

★ Check and see if your neighbors have house numbers that can be seen. Let them know about our signs. ★

### Burn Season CLOSED in North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District

### New, Revised and Improved!

#### Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs)

Revised editions of the SOGs will soon be available. We will be requesting that you turn in your old SOG book when the new books are handed out. Stay tuned.

### Free Notary Services

Lois Smith  
Taft Station 1600  
541-996-2233

*Fire Crew Deployed to Southern Oregon Wildfire (continued from Page 1)*

for a primary role in structural protection. One structure in the area had burned the day before and two had fire within a foot of the buildings but were able to be saved.

As soon as crews arrived Saturday morning they were put to work to chase hot spots in extremely dry conditions. By late Saturday temperatures rose and winds began to gust, creating a flare-up on the border of the fire which threatened a home. Lincoln County crews battled that fire and Hot Shot crews worked until Sunday morning felling trees and extinguishing any further hot spots.

The Pacifica fire had resources from ODF, local fire departments, OSFM, County Strike Teams and

private contractors. Crews were hampered by temperatures into the low 100s, humidity as low as 14% and winds exceeding 25 mph.

“Overall the Lincoln County team performed extremely well, a total of 22 personnel responded, some for the first time and some who have over 20 years wildland experience” stated Parker.

“Our team was able to complete their tasks without incident or injury and gain experience for the new firefighters. Firefighters were also able to complete requirements for task book sign-off that allowed them to move up in position levels, mainly Larry Robeson who has now completed his Task Force Leader qualifications”.



**Crews from North Lincoln Fire, Newport Fire, Toledo Fire, Yachats Fire, Central Coast Fire, and Siuslaw Valley Fire**

**“ Quotes ”**

“Write the bad things that are done to you in sand, but write the good things that happen to you on a piece of marble.”

*(Arabic Proverb)*

“The beginning is the most important part of any work.”

*(Plato)*

“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

*(Albert Einstein)*

“Don’t walk behind me; I may not lead. Don’t walk in front of me; I may not follow. Just walk beside me and be my friend.”

*(Albert Camus)*

“False words are not only evil in themselves, but they infect the soul with evil.”

*(Socrates)*

“Words are like eggs dropped from great heights; you can no more call them back than ignore the mess they leave when they fall.”

*(Jodi Picoult, Salem Falls)*

**MDA “Fill the Boot”**

**Coming Soon!  
Contact Phil Rilatos  
to sign up to help.**



Board Member Bryce Spence celebrated his 90th Birthday on July 5th

**Fire Training**

More photos on the next page



DPSST Vehicle Fire Training / Search & Rescue Training Held Monday—July 22nd



## Bridge Concerns

I read in "The Communique" (a publication from the Oregon Fire Districts Association) a few months back that several rural bridge collapses have occurred in last few years when utility or construction trucks crossed over them.

One bridge in July 2010 had a fire engine fall through during a fire response.

Many rural and private bridges were installed decades ago and have had little or no maintenance inspections by engineers since installation.

Fifty or sixty years ago fire engines weighed from 12,000 to 15,000 pounds and the bridges could handle that; today, engines and heavy rescues can weigh 25,000 to 50,000 pounds and aerial apparatus 80,000 pounds or more.

It's not just rural bridges that are coming under attack from age either. "Almost one in four bridges, while safe to travel, is either structurally deficient, in need of repair, or ... too narrow for today's traffic volumes," the report from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials said. The report was released days before the first anniversary of the collapse of the Interstate 35W Bridge in Minneapolis, Minnesota, which killed 13 people and injured 144.

The report identifies five main problems facing the nation's 590,000 bridges:

- ◆ *Age*
- ◆ *Congestion*
- ◆ *Soaring construction costs*
- ◆ *Lack of funds for maintenance*
- ◆ *Staggering costs of new bridges*

"Nearly every state faces funding shortages," it says, preventing them from doing work to "keep their bridges sound indefinitely."

It would cost at least \$140 billion to repair all the nation's bridges if work began immediately, a nationwide safety organization said in a comprehensive report.

"States simply cannot keep up with bridge maintenance," the report warns, adding that 73% of U.S. road traffic -- and 90% of truck traffic -- travels over state-owned bridges.

Even less attention is given to rural "private" bridges. Oregon Fire Districts is encouraging county administrators and roadway engineers to work on ways to require public and private bridges useable for the general public safety as well as the safety of fire & rescue responders.

**"Almost one in four bridges, while safe to travel, is either structurally deficient, in need of repair, or ... too narrow for today's traffic volumes,"**

Submitted by Capt. Jim Kusz



**New Weight Limit Sign  
On East Devils Lake Road**

During your driver training and District familiarization, be sure to include concerns about bridges that are in your area of response.

If you notice a bridge that is posted weight limited or you feel is a concern that may present a risk to travel across safely, bring it immediately to the District's attention. We will be working this year to better mark and map roadway areas that present a problem for certain apparatus.

You'll notice all of our large apparatus have new weight and height labels on the front window that can easily be seen by the driver and officer. Make a note of the weight of your apparatus and avoid potential problems.

Drive alert, aware and be safe out there!

# Protecting Your Home from Wildfire

Information obtained from Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office website.

Creating defensible space around your home is the best way to protect your home from wildfire. The first 30 feet surrounding your home - referred to as the primary ignition zone - is the most critical - and there are some simple actions that a homeowner can take to help protect their homes from wildfire that are easy, quick, and relatively inexpensive, such as:

- Removing dead and dying debris - particularly from places where it piles up near the home such as in gutters and planters, any "valleys" that can catch debris that embers and sparks can blow onto - the most common way for a wildfire to damage or destroy a home in the wildland-urban interface.

- Storing firewood at least 20 feet away from the home or completely covering it to protect it from those same blowing embers and sparks. Properly maintaining the plants that are in the area - pruning, removing dead and dying materials, and keeping them well-watered and green.

A defensible space also allows room for firefighters to fight the fire safely.

Protecting your home from wildfire falls into three categories:

- using fire-resistant building materials (such as roofing)
- reducing fuels around your home (such as wood piles)
- planting fire-resistant plants in your landscape

While these steps do not ensure that your home will survive a wildfire, they substantially increase the chances that it will.



The below photos illustrate a residence in northwest Oregon before and after actions were taken to protect this home from wildfire.



*The front-center of the residence ("Before")*



*The front-center of the same residence ("After")*

## Fire-resistant plantings and landscaping

Fire-resistant plantings and landscaping is another great way to protect your home from wildfire. Using alternative building materials, proper spacing of materials - keeping flammable materials away from the adjacent area of your home, and using fire-resistant plants can greatly reduce your wildfire risk.

Fire-resistant plants do not readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. They may be damaged or even killed by fire, but their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fire's intensity. They can be used to create a fuel break that reduces and blocks intense heat.

Plants that are fire-resistant have moist and supple leaves; little dead wood or accumulated dry, dead material within the plant; water-like sap with no strong odor; and low sap and resin. Most deciduous trees and shrubs are fire-resistant.

Plants that are highly flammable generally have fine, dry or dead leaves or needles within the plant; their leaves, twigs and stems contain volatile waxes or oils; the leaves have a strong odor when crushed; the sap is gummy, resinous and has a strong odor; and some plants have loose or papery bark.

An example of a highly flammable shrub that is often planted in home landscapes is juniper. It accumulates dead needles within the plant and has volatile oils in the foliage.

Even fire-resistant plants will burn if not well-maintained, so be sure to keep all of your landscape plants healthy with watering and pruning. Annuals also can be part of a fire-resistant landscape if well watered and maintained, as can a well-maintained lawn. Bark mulch, however, can ignite easily; gravel or decorative rock can be good substitutes. Conifers and other large trees that are next to the house should be pruned to a height of 15–20 feet above the ground, or to just above the lower roof line, to keep fire from reaching the house or tree crowns.

Remember: Fire resistant does not mean fire proof!

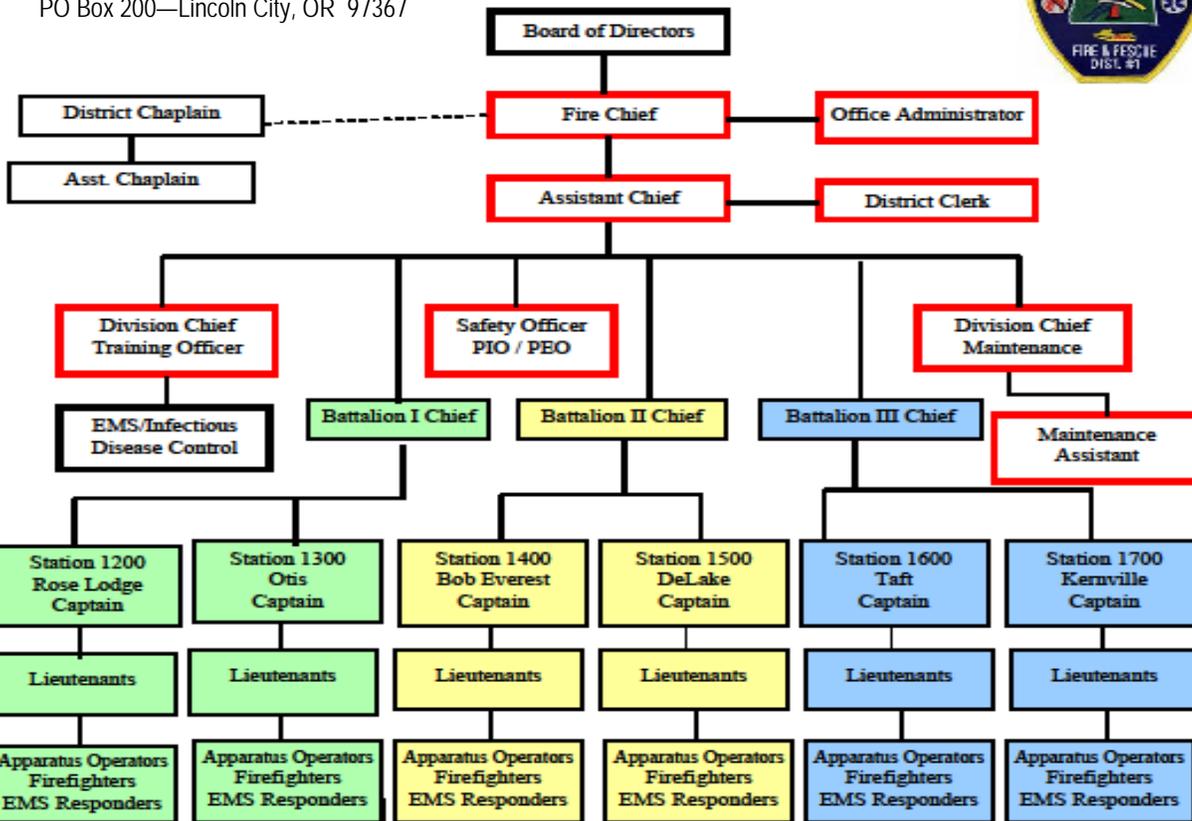
Check with local Extension Offices or a nursery to find out which plants are adaptable to your area and to avoid planting invasive plants.



North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1 is committed to providing quality emergency services through the efforts of dedicated personnel.

# North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1

PO Box 200—Lincoln City, OR 97367



**Question:**  
How do I let go of gossiping when it is an integral part of my day and part of my coping mechanism?

**Some ideas:**  
Many of us initially use gossip as a way to connect with others and talk about something that seems to engage others' interest in us. After a while, it becomes a habit and the

frequent focus of conversations. Some people say it even feels normal and natural.

When you recognize that the downsides to gossip (it perpetuates conflict and negativity, creates rifts, triumphs in the misfortune of others, and is hurtful and damaging to ourselves and others) have too much negative impact on your personal and professional life, and even your health, here are a few ideas to help change the gossip habit:

- Give some thought to what you can talk about that engages and steers away from gossip: something that adds value, humor, fun, delight or useful information.
- Identify what gossip gives you when you are using it as a coping tool. How else can you meet that need that is good for you and the group? I.e.: if I use gossip as a way to connect at work when my day is feeling stressful or I am feeling upset, what other strategies can I use in that moment to get some relief? (Take a 3 minute walk, share a joke, close my eyes and breathe for 3 minutes, focus on what I appreciate in the moment, name my upset emotion and identify what I need to feel okay.)

To stay out of the gossip circle - try:

- Staying busy. Focus on your work, then you can't be available to listen to their latest story.
- Learn to walk away from gossip. If someone passes a story on to you, don't pass it on.
- Turn it around and say something positive. It isn't nearly as much fun to spread negative news if it's spoiled by a complimentary phrase about the person being attacked.
- Choose your friends wisely at work. Share information sparingly until you are sure that you have built up a level of trust.

Gossiping wastes time and hurts morale. It has become a norm that hurts us individually, our teams, and our families. Be part of the solution. Congratulate yourself for changing this pattern!

From Robin Rose @ [www.robinrose.com](http://www.robinrose.com)

## July

03—Jamie Mason  
05—Bryce Spence  
06—Lacy House  
10—Cheri Street-McPherson  
10—Aaron Linfoot  
12—Jarett VillaFane  
13—Shawn Carter  
17—Mike Skiles  
19—Heather Moore  
25—Talya Weldon  
28—Carol Smith  
29—Hobie McCallum  
31—Rochelle Toon

## August

04—Katie Thompson  
10—Dave McKee  
11—Tom Gakstatter  
14—Brian Nordyke  
21—Jack Robben  
25—Todd King  
24—Ron Woodard

## September

05—Ken Brown  
06—Scott Robertson  
08—David Ramage  
21—Marcus Coon  
26—Laura Thomas  
29—Andrew McDonald

# Birthdays



The Size-Up Newsletter is a publication of North Lincoln Fire & Rescue District #1.

Lois Smith, NLFR Office Administrator, is the editor of the newsletter.

Please direct any comments/suggestions to  
LSMITH@NLFR.ORG.