



2003

# ANNUAL REPORT

*"Volunteer  
Service With  
Pride"*

*Serving the Communities of Elkhorn, Marion, Mehama, and Stayton*

## *From the Chief's Desk*

2003 presented a wide range of challenges to the volunteers and staff of Stayton Fire District. In addition to responding to a record number of calls for service, the District also experienced a number of unique events.

The District started the year, like many families, with one of our own volunteers serving in the war in Kuwait. Scott Vigil has stayed in touch with the District throughout his tour of duty and we are pleased to report the he is scheduled to be home in April. Thank you Scott for your commitment, dedication, and for the sacrifices you and your family have made for our country.

In April we grieved with the passing of one of our Support members and a community icon, Fussy Fuson. Fussy will long be remembered for his relentless commitment to the community. In the month of June, Tony Becker, a volunteer firefighter with the District, was involved in a very serious motor vehicle accident on Hwy. 22. At the time of the accident Tony's wife Yvonne was pregnant with their second child. Tony received very serious head injuries and remained in a coma for three months and to date is still battling day-to-day towards his recovery. We are happy to say that Yvonne gave birth to a baby girl and mom and baby are doing well. Our thoughts and prayers continue for Yvonne and Tony and his recovery.

August brought on the B&B Complex Fire and Stayton Fire along with other local fire districts responded with crews

and equipment to help minimize the damage of the destructive fire. All crews returned safely with many new experiences and valuable training. In December the Volunteers concluded several years of work with the formal creation of a single District-wide Volunteer Association called Stayton Volunteer Protection Company #1. With a renewed spirit of cooperation between stations and the formation of the Volunteer Association the District is experiencing an increased level of unity and camaraderie.

On the operations side of the District, through input from the Firefighters and Officers, a Strategic Plan was created to assess the needs and challenges of the District. The plan is also intended to set goals and objectives for the District with measurable results. The plan addresses four specific topics: training, equipment,

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## *Fire Investigations*

The Stayton Fire District ran a record number of calls in 2003: 933 calls for service. Fortunately, major fires involving extensive investigations and/or fire fatalities dropped from the previous year.

Still, during the summer months

the District was busy investigating a series of small fires, all suspicious in nature. A task force was formed with the local police, State Fire Marshal's Office and the Stayton Fire District to track down a possible arsonist. The suspect was apprehended and the fires stopped.

The District investigates every fire that occurs in the District to discover its origin and help prevent such fires in the future.



Firefighters Sisto, Martinka, Kintz & Alley investigate possible arson fire on Fern Ridge Road.

# TRAINING.....



Live fire exercise—practicing second story exterior attack

Stayton Fire District takes great pride in providing quality training to our volunteer firefighters and other partnering agencies in the Santiam Canyon. Over the past several years the area agencies have joined forces to enhance the training opportunities for ALL levels of personnel. The partnerships formed on the training grounds have a direct affect on the standard of service provided to all the communities we serve. In today's fire service we rely on our neighbors to assist with maintaining a high level of service to those we serve and protect.



Exposure protection Jefferson St. live fire exercise

ity is available to all local emergency service agencies for any training and is currently used by several fire districts for various drills. The facility is maintained and constructed with volunteer labor and district funds for materials.



Practicing water streams

Firefighting is dangerous, but with the proper training we can reduce the risk and prepare personnel to respond on emergency calls. To become a firefighter it takes approximately 200 hours of classes on fire suppression, medical training, vehicle operations, Wildland classes, and hazardous materials over a 6-month time period. After the basic training, skills are maintained by attending drills one night a week for two hours. The commitment to training takes two: the district and the individual. It is our job to ensure members are properly trained to perform the job and return home to their families safely.

Stayton Fire District is committed to providing excellent training to our members and those we work with. Our number one goal is to train those who volunteer to respond to calls efficiently, effectively, and safely.



Setting up water supply for pump operations

In 2003 the Stayton Fire District with its neighboring districts have provided the following training opportunities; Wildland firefighting classes, Recruit Academies for new firefighters, EMS training, First Aid/CPR classes to the public, and live fire training.



Practice field burn

One asset for providing training to personnel in the Santiam Canyon is the Training Facility located behind the fire station in Stayton. The facility was designed to provide realistic conditions in a safe environment. Training props at the facility include a tower for laddering, rappelling, a smoke room for search and rescue of victims, a ventilation prop for cutting holes in a roof, a burn room for fire suppression, and live fire propane props for simulated vehicle, tank trailer, and propane tank fires. The training facil-



Life Flight training



Jefferson St. live fire exercise.



# TEACHING

## Fire Prevention Education

Twelve Volunteer Firefighters assisted with 5 station tours and visited 42 classrooms during fire prevention month. Our theme for 2003 was “Get Out! Stay Out!”. We focused on teaching kids to test smoke alarms and to properly maintain them. Also to practice escape routes, knowing two ways out and having a meeting place outside.

Each child received a ribbon and temporary tattoo with a fire safety message and a handout to take home to draw an escape route with their parents.

We reached 1103 kids with this safety message: 430 Preschool and Kindergarten, 338 First and Second Graders and 335 Third and Fourth Graders. Our annual Fire Safety Open House in October was a great success with 831 children and parents coming throughout the evening. Betty Lackner chaired the event with help from 29 other Volunteer Firefighters.



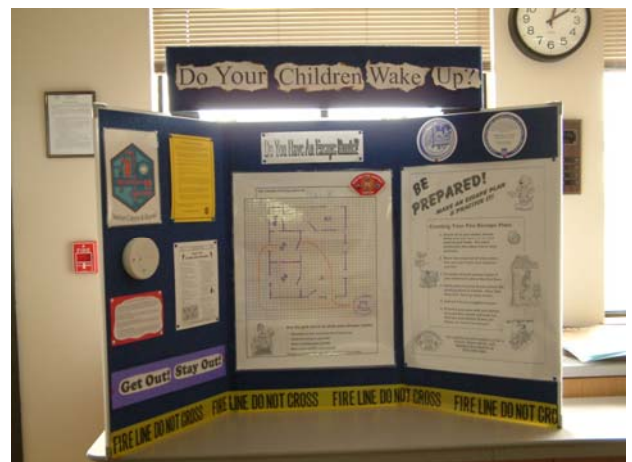
Children learn about being a firefighter through the “Junior Firefighter Challenge”

## Juvenile Firesetter Report

Public Education Coordinator, Deborah Gregson, received her DPSST Certification as a Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Specialist I in September of 2003. With ongoing training and involvement in JFS networks, she can keep up on the latest techniques and strategies for juvenile firesetters and their families. This results in a program that is beneficial to the community as well as the firesetter and their family. A decrease of 15% in reported juvenile fire-setting offenses over the last year proves that the system works when properly implemented.

Nine interventions were done this year; all nine were males between 5—16 years of age. Ignition sources included matches, lighters and candles. Materials ignited were plastic, paper, grass fields, furniture and accelerants. Most sources were obtained from the homes of the juveniles.

Four kids were referred to Marion County Health for further counseling. All juveniles and their families received fire and life safety education.



Prevention Education display on smoke detectors, escape plans, and fire safety.



Volunteer Shawn Forsythe helps senior citizens keep on top of their blood pressure.



## Stayton Firefighters Respond to Central Oregon Conflagration

In August the Governor invoked the Conflagration Act for two fires burning in Central Oregon; the Booth Fire (on Hwy. 20) and the Butte Fire (near Warm Springs) that were burning in the Deschutes National Forest.

The fires, spreading over tens of

thousands of acres, closed down highways and required the help of firefighters from all over the state. Structural task forces were placed at Suttle Lake Camp Ground, Santiam Lodge, Hoodoo, Blue Lake, Camp Tamarack at Dark Lake, Suttle Lake Resort, Black Butte Ranch and the

Methodist Youth Camp.

Five firefighters from the Stayton Fire District were able to assist by protecting structures at Camp Sherman and Hoodoo Lodge: Ron Tegen, Barbara Nelson, Brad Weller, Ken Rowling and Riley Martinka .

# 2003 Annual Awards Banquet



Assistant Chief Alley recognizes 30 Years of Service by Captain George Crosiar

The District recognized the exceptional service of its volunteers at its annual awards banquet held at Cascade Hall at the Oregon State Fairgrounds this year.

Several people received Years of Service awards: John Lackner, 5 years; Dunnell Cole and Riley Martinka, 7 years; Sherry Bensema, Troy Gulstrom, Gene Coles and Ron Bemrose, 10 years. Kevin Axhelm received Exempt Firefighter status for retiring with more than 17 years of service.

Special recognition was given to Bonnie Reid for **20 years** of service at the Mehama Station



Firefighter Bonnie Reid proudly dons her leather fire helmet for 20 years of service.

and to George Crosiar for **30 years** of service at the Marion Station.

Howard Stroble, with the Oregon Department of Forestry, presented Assistant Chief Alley with a special award, for his work promoting the common goals of the Stayton Fire District and ODF and for his efforts in seeking interagency cooperation.

The "Volunteer Service With Pride" award went to Troy Gulstrom.

Nominees for Rookie of the Year were Keith Kreger, Shawn Forsythe, Les Peterson

and Dan Overman with Keith Kreger taking the honors.

Jim Nelson was chosen as Support Person of the Year. Other nominees were Beth Gregson and Pat Clokey.

Ruben Sisto was chosen as Medic of the Year. Brad McKenzie and Troy Gulstrom were also nominated.

Jeff Harris and Allen Kibbe shared the honor of Outstanding Firefighters of the Year for the Stayton Fire District. Dan Houston and Barbara Nelson were also nominated.



Firefighters Allen Kibbe and Jeff Harris share the honor of Outstanding Firefighters of the Year.



Support Person of the Year, Jim Nelson



Medic of the Year, Ruben Sisto



Officer of the Year, George Crosiar



# FIREHOUSE

## Software



## A Challenging But Progressive Change

FIREHOUSE is an integrated database that covers incident entry, personnel, inventory and maintenance, hydrant testing and training records. Once fully implemented, the program will eliminate duplicate entry of data into multiple software programs and enable easy access to statistical data.

The program is broken up into modules so we are implementing one module at a time. We have been using the program for incident entry to begin with. This is a huge change because all of our firefighters will eventually be entering and accessing information rather than one person.

## Support Team Revived

There are a lot of opportunities for the public to volunteer their time with the Fire District and one way is to join the department's Support Team. Although we've had many people assisting over the years, it was decided to create a formal group.

The Support members help with administrative chores such as large mailings, assembling manuals, filing and organizing. Some also help with photography, scrap booking, food preparation, on-scene rehab, childcare, fundraisers, assisting with prevention presentations and other District events.

At this time the team meets every other month to work on projects and to plan events and fundraisers. They are currently working on ways to raise money for smoke detectors for citizens and for burn victim barrels (cans filled with needed supplies for victims of house fires).

Volunteers are a vital part of the Fire Service and invaluable to our communities.

## Volunteer Associations Unite

Stayton Fire District has four stations located in Mehama, Marion, Elkhorn and Stayton. Each station had its own Volunteer organization with a member that sat on a Volunteer Council. The Council met once a quarter to coordinate fundraisers, to assist each station with help on any function, and to promote participation in community affairs. Even though the individual associations worked well together, a more unified organization was desired.

The process of uniting all the Volunteer Firefighters into one organization has finally come about after nearly two years of work. As with any group that wishes to come together in this way, it takes cooperation from all sides. There were many committee meetings to develop bylaws, discuss funding, decide on meeting locations and address other issues and concerns of the individual stations. Then there was the task of naming the organization. Keeping with tradition, the name of the organization became "Stayton Volunteer Protection Company #1". There's still more work to do but we're well on our way.

*"There is no surer tie among people than when they are united in spirit and purpose."*

## Successful Grant Projects

We were successful in applying for two grants to purchase equipment for Emergency Medical Services this year.

In May, we received a grant from the Office of Rural Health EMS Enhancement Grant Program for \$1,858. The grant funds helped us replace our wooden backboards with plastic boards that meet current OSHA regulations and purchase equipment for mass casualty incidents. The backboards were in need of replacement and we did not have enough for large incidents. The mass casualty equipment will improve efficiency by clearly identifying the patients that need immediate care.

In December, we were awarded \$3,800 to purchase two Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and provide CPR and AED training for Stayton Police Officers. One of the AEDs will be given to the Stayton Police Department for one of their patrol cars and the other one will be used as a back-up unit at the Stayton Fire Station. The addition of the AEDs will increase the odds that an AED will be available in the first four minutes of a heart attack. The grant was awarded from the 2003 Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant Program.

These grants will increase safety for our firefighters and the patients that they help.

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facilities, and apparatus, and includes a fifth miscellaneous category. The plan identifies and prioritizes the needs of the District in each category, and has proven to be a very effective tool for keeping us focused on our long-range plans.

Although we have been effective with the purchase of small equipment, repairs to facilities, and advances in training through the plan, we have also identified challenges and very serious shortfalls facing the District. The two largest challenges are the safety of our volunteer firefighters and our ability to provide service. The safety of our volunteers is our number one priority. The planning process identified the age of our SCBAs, many which are 15 to 20 years old, and their reliability as a growing safety concern. With several SCBAs experiencing failures during training sessions and during actual calls it is imperative that we replace our SCBAs. Our ability to provide service is directly related to the equipment needed to perform given tasks.

Like our SCBAs, several of our trucks are aging, 23 to 44

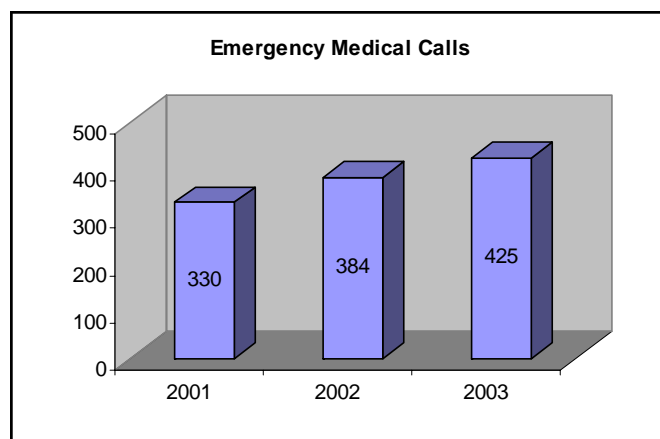
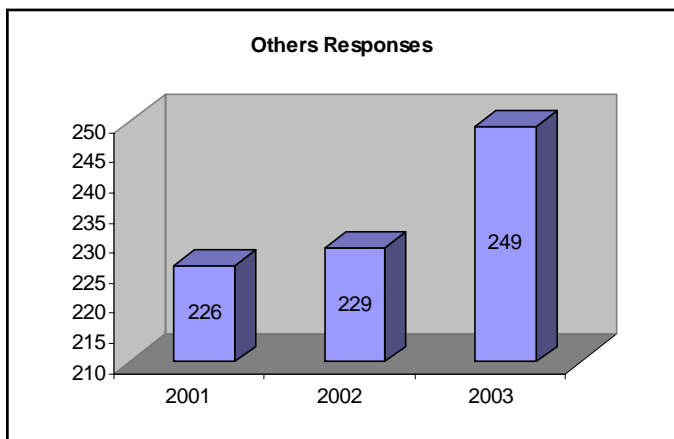
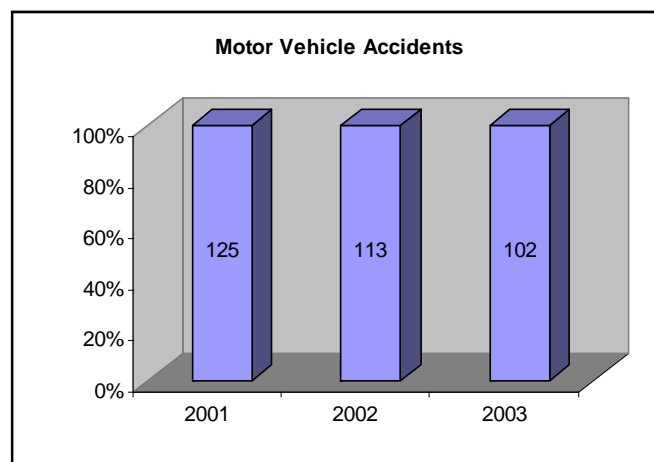
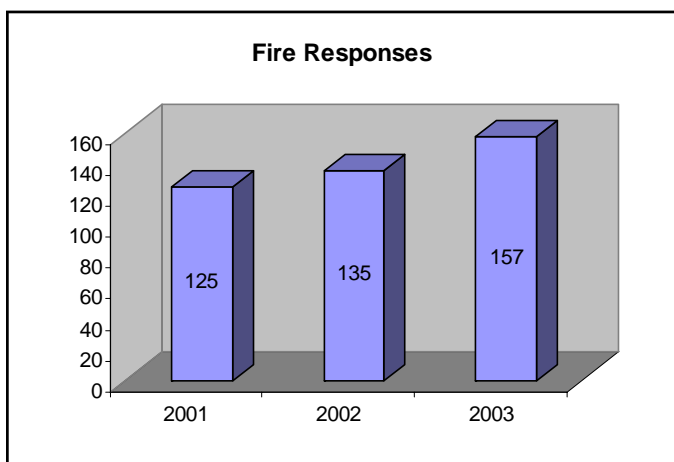
years old. These trucks are no longer capable of fully providing the support or specialized tasks required by our communities growing emergency service needs. The shortfall lies in our ability to fund the purchase of this very expensive equipment, approximately 1.6 million dollars. With an annual operating budget of \$860,000 it is clear the District will need additional support to provide for the future safety of our volunteers and community.

Overall it has been a challenging but successful year for Stayton Fire District, and through it all the volunteers and staff have stayed committed to providing excellent service to our community and those who pass through it.



Cold spell grips the Santiam Canyon keeping Volunteers busy and making responding to calls dangerous.

## 933 Calls For Service



# Volunteer Activities

Besides responding to a record number of calls in 2003 (933 calls for service) and contributing over 5364 volunteer hours on calls, drills and special training, the Volunteers were also involved in a variety of other District and community events.

## *State Sponsored:*

Grand Safety Station (OR State Fair)

## *Community & Joint Agency Sponsored:*

Bike Rodeo

Safety School

Trade Fair

4th of July Parade

Summerfest

Covered Bridge Festival

Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Back to School Fair

Gregory Scott Swim Party (donated funds to Rescue Equipment Fund)

Car Seat Clinic

## *Fire District Sponsored:*

Halloween Safety Open House

Santa Cruise In

Toys for Joy Program

Fireman's Breakfast in Stayton

Sweetheart Breakfast and Bingo in Mehama

Mehama

School Carnival in Marion

Road Cleanup - Elkhorn area

Monthly Blood pressure checks at the Community Center

Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas Ornament Contest

Volunteer Family Christmas Party



Firefighter Allen Kibbe prepares eggs at the Fireman's Annual Breakfast.



Sarah Nelson, daughter of firefighter Barbara Nelson, proudly shows off her handmade Christmas ornament.



Volunteer firefighter, Nick Rowling, shops for just the right gift for the Toys for Joy Program.

# 2003

# Stayton Fire District Roster

## Stayton Station



Alley, Taunie  
 Axhelm, Kevin  
 Beaman, Noah  
 Becker, Tony  
 Cathcart, Doug  
 Classen, Brian  
 Cupp, Gary (-)  
 Fery, Eric  
 Forsythe, Shawn (+)  
 Gregson, Deborah  
 Grumbo, Leon  
 Hill, Vince (-)  
 Houston, Dan  
 Jones, Paul  
 Kibbe, Allen  
 Kintz, Doug  
 Lackner, John  
 McFadden, Kevin  
 McLain, Jered (+)(-)  
 McKenzie, Brad  
 Nelson, Barbara  
 Oliver, Kelly  
 Peevy, Greg  
 Pietrok, Matt  
 Priddy, Joel  
 Riordan, Matt  
 Robinson, Jennifer (+)  
 Rowling, Ken  
 Sisto, Ruben  
 Tinney, Jeremy (-)  
 Underwood, Evan (-)  
 Vigil, Scott  
 Vaughn, Brad  
 Weitman, Eric  
 Weitman, Terry

## Stayton Support

Clokey, Pat  
 Fitzgerald, Elizabeth  
 Fuson, Fuzzy (-)  
 Gregson, Beth (+)  
 Jantz, Steven (+)  
 Parker, April  
 Tegen, Ron  
 Vaughn, Roberta (+)

## Chaplains

Berg, Bob  
 Fisher, Dick

## Mehama Station



Bemrose, Ron  
 Griffith, Craig (-)  
 Gulstrom, Troy  
 Hansen, Doug  
 Hueller, Kurt (+)  
 Lennig, Jerome (-)  
 Potter, Jim  
 Reid, Bonnie

## Mehama Support

Bell, Brittney (+)

## Resident Volunteers

Cooper, Ben (-)  
 Flick, Jacob (-)  
 Rowling, Nick (+)  
 Stephens, Jack  
 Walker, Ryan (-)  
 Weller, Brad

## Marion Station



Chrisman, Gary  
 Crosiar, George  
 Harris, Jeff  
 Kimball, Dan  
 Kimball, Jim (-)  
 Kreger, Keith (+)  
 Overman, Dan  
 Peterson, Les (+)  
 Wooldridge, Andy

## Marion Support

Dotter, Don

## Elkhorn Station



Bensema, Sherry  
 Cole, Dunnell  
 Cole, Tim  
 Hazen, Carla  
 Johnson, Sandy  
 Williams, Thomas

## PERSONNEL

Fire Chief Jack Carriger	Assistant Chief Jay Alley
Office Administrator	Maintenance Officer
Rhonda Grant	Ken Smith
FF/EMT/IMS Laura Houston	FF/EMT Riley Martinka

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ray Porter	Gene Coles
L. Jay Myers	Richard Morley
Michael Odenthal	