



The SPANNER

A Bi-Monthly Publication for the Friends and Firefighters of the Stayton Fire District

www.staytonfire.org

October—December 2020



From the Chief's Desk

~ Stayton Fire Chief Jack Carriger

2020 has certainly been a tumultuous year. So much negativity has dominated our lives for the last eight months that it has been difficult to find positive influences to feel good about. The non-stop rioting in Portland, the bashing by both political parties, event cancellations due to COVID, COVID itself and of course the wildfires have all tainted our lives with different levels of gloom that wear on our emotions and mental well-being.

However, as in most cases, there is always a positive light that emerges from the dark and in the case of the wildfires, there is no exception.

I have never experienced the kind of overwhelming generosity that flowed from our communities as well as from outside our communities. The amount of giving, sharing and caring was truly inspiring. To see our communities and those around us provide so much to the firefighters and those displaced from their homes, was nothing short of amazing. Those unselfish acts of generosity, kindness and sharing truly showcased the goodness in people and gives reason to have re-

stored faith in our society.

The same can be said about all of you, our district members. The amount of time, energy and care you provided during the fires was amazing. Your willingness to take time from your families, jobs and your own needs exemplified the strength of your



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character and your dedication to serving others.

Your commitment to providing the best service possible during extraordinary times was the positive light that emerged from the darkness. You have every right to feel proud of what you accomplished and how much resolve you gave the community.

The Board and the Chiefs cannot express deeply enough our thanks and appreciation for who you are and for all you've accomplished.

A special thank you to Ziply Fiber for getting phone service to our Elkhorn Fire Station.

As residents returned to the area many were without phone and no cell service as the fiber lines had melted. Ziply stepped up and completed the new fiber line to our Elkhorn Fire Station which provides the emergency 911 phone on the outside of the building.

They also decided to provide free Wi-Fi to the residents of Elkhorn at the fire station until they are done hooking everyone back up. They put up a banner and directions for residents to use Wi-Fi for making calls on their cell phones.



Thank you Nisha and crew for making our residents safety a high priority.

Eerie skies and devastation from recent Lionshead and Beachie Creek wild fires that swept through the Santiam Canyon.



Ferns making their way back after the fires.



COMMUNITY RESPONDS - Just an example of the amazing generosity of citizens and businesses all the way to Salem and beyond who brought hot meals, sack lunches, snack foods, energy drinks, socks, eye drops, lip balm, baby wipes, hand sanitizer, fresh fruit, water and more to help the firefighting crews. Truck loads were taken to the fire districts and emergency crews working up the canyon.

No one asked - donations and volunteers just started showing up. People saw the need and gave from their hearts. Our deepest and heartfelt thanks go out to our volunteers and communities for their support.

But they didn't stop there. Donations began coming in for the victims of the fires. Wildfire Relief Centers were set up from Gates to Sublimity. If you are in need or know someone who is, locations of the Centers can be found at www.staytonevents.com.

Other resources for recovery and safety, FEMA assistance, debris removal, waste disposal, building permits, and much more, can also be found on our website at www.staytonfire.org,



We will be having our Toys for Joy program this year with the give-away scheduled for Dec 19.

Registrations will begin in November, so be watching our website at www.staytonfire.org for sign up locations and schedules.



DISTRICT ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

Sherry Bensema—27 yrs.
Barbara Nelson—19 yrs.
Kelly Oliver—19 yrs.
Matt Riordan—19 yrs.
Monica Stacey—13 yrs.
Nick Lulay—8 yrs.
Maria Sammons—8 yrs.

NOVEMBER

Jack Carriger—18 yrs.
Kurt Hueller—17 yrs.
Tanya McFadden—11 yrs.
Jason Wren—4 yrs.
Daniel Koellmann—4 yrs.
Marcus Andrews—2 yrs.
Anjuli Foster—2 yrs.

DECEMBER

Doug Kintz—30 yrs.
Scott Vigil—19 years
Kristin Griffith—12 yrs.
Mike Beaumont—4 yrs.

**Congratulations
And Thank You
For 236 Years
of Service!**

Recruiting

As this year approaches its end, our recruit academy is creeping up. We have been able to welcome five new recruits to our ranks and five more are on their way to becoming members.

This is so great, but there are still spots to be filled. We are working hard on ways to recruit while still following COVID-19 guidelines.

Now it is very important for everyone to help out like you have for so many years by reaching out to your family, friends, acquaintances, and coworkers and help spark their

interest in becoming a volunteer firefighter.

We look forward to working with our new recruits and excited to welcome in every new volunteer.

There are people out there that have the interest in becoming a volunteer firefighter, it is up to us to help bring that interest out.

New Recruits:

Troy Hazelton	St 80 FF
Ryan Diehl	St 80 FF
Brad Dees	St 80 FF
Nick Pommé	St 80 FF
Christopher Enquist	St 82 EMS

Fire Prevention –Serve Up Fire Safety

Although October is Fire Prevention Month, we encourage you to teach and share fire safety regularly with your families as we will not be able to visit your children's schools this year.

This year's national Fire Prevention theme is "Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen" but we also encourage you to provide basic fire safety education on Smoke Alarms, "Get Out Stay Out", and "Home Escape Planning".

Please check out our Fire/Life Safety page at <http://www.staytonfire.org> for fun,

SERVING UP FIRE SAFETY COOKING SAFETY CHECKLIST:

- ☒ Have an oven mitt and a pan lid nearby when cooking.
- ☒ Turn pot and pan handles inward and use back burners when possible.
- ☒ Avoid wearing clothing that may catch on handles or burners.
- ☒ Use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.



educational videos and printable activities.

Other sites to check out for information and fun activities include: www.fpw.org and www.sparky.org

Thank you for helping us get this important lifesaving information out to the children and families in our communities.



Training Facility Work Party

Saturday, October 17, Doug Kintz, Jay Alley, Sean Weitman, Marcus Andrews, Ryan Diehl from Stayton: Trish Lutgen, Larry Achen and Jen Bratton from Aumsville and Howard Ellis from Scio completed several projects at the training facility. These included finishing the vertical ventilation prop, the wall openings and windows on the second story of the training rooms, and starting on second story interior walls.

We made a lot of progress thanks to everyone's help. We will be scheduling another work party soon to keep moving forward.

DISTRICT BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

2—Laura Houston
12—Jason Wren
15—Kelly Oliver
19—Sherry Bensema

NOVEMBER

8—Adam Bailey
10—Sandy Johnson
17—Aletha Shine
30—Ashley Mitchell

DECEMBER

2—Nick Pommé
4—Dana Orr
8—Daniel Koellmann
11—Russ Strohmeyer
12—Antonio Johnson
28—Eric Peterson



**Call toll free
1-877-982-0011
for Backyard
burning information**

After the Wildfire: Watch out for these Disaster Recovery Pitfalls

Reprinted from Article by Eric Holdeman in Government Technology, September 25, 2020 issue

Eric is a nationally known emergency manager and consultant. He has 28 years of emergency management experience, having served at the federal, state (Washington), and local government (King County) level, as well as in the nonprofit sector.

After a wildfire, those who have lost their home will encounter myriad unfamiliar challenges and pitfalls as they begin the recovery process. The psychological and emotional impact created by the enormity of wildfire devastation, coupled with the grief caused by the loss of a home and a lifelong accumulation of belongings is one of the most traumatic experiences a person can face.

Sean Scott, author of the book, [*Red Guide to Recovery*](#), a resource handbook for disaster survivors, said in an interview, “Wildfire survivors often suffer varying degrees of PTSD like symptoms and find themselves unable to make important decisions soon after the initial wildfire event.

As we watch people picking through the ashes of their home, Scott highlighted the significant risks they are taking. He pointed out that one pitfall that unsuspecting wildfire survivors encounter once the first responders leave the scene is exposure to toxic substances generated by the fire and other health hazards.

What most people don’t realize is that

Survivors often rush to their homes to assess the damage and begin sifting through the debris looking for keepsakes in shorts and flip flops, without considering the potential health and safety risks.

wildfires typically generate high concentrations of toxic chemicals, poisonous gases, heavy metals such as lead, mercury, arsenic, and other toxins generated by the combustion of plastics, furniture, vehicles, building materials, and household products. These contaminants mix with one another to form furans, dioxins, acids, and innumera-

ble toxic byproducts that fill the air and become part of the ash and airborne particulate. Many of these chemicals are extremely dangerous to your health and can cause sickness and/or disease with only one exposure.

Furthermore, soot and ash can also pose a health risk if they come in contact with your bare skin, where they can be absorbed. Scott recommended the following safety tips:

- Avoid breathing air contaminated by smoke odor and minimize your exposure to contaminated areas.
- If you need to enter a fire or smoke damaged structure, wear proper personal protective equipment, including a proper fitting respirator with a P-100 HEPA filter designed to filter vapor or gasses (not a dust

- mask), eye protection, disposable coveralls, gloves, work boots, etc.
- Avoid handling or coming in direct skin contact with items or materials affected by smoke, soot, or ash.
- Avoid getting ash into the air as much as possible. Do not use leaf blowers that will put ash into the air.
- If you experience any adverse health symptoms from exposure to smoke or soot, seek medical attention immediately.

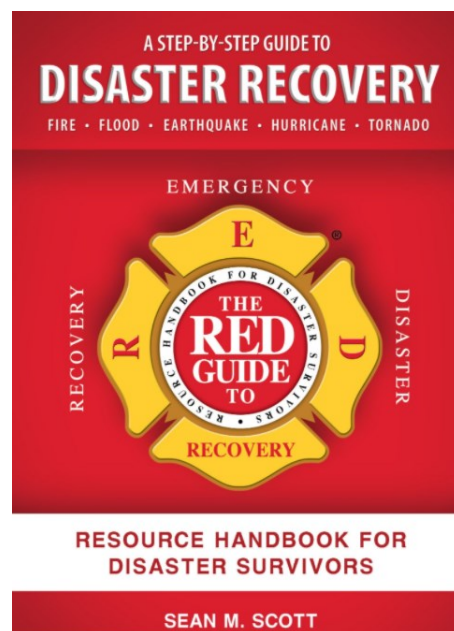
Scott called out that one of the most difficult, if not the most difficult, challenges in the recovery process will be navigating the insurance claim process. Here you will be required to create an inventory of all the personal property that was in or around the home, get accurate estimates for the rebuilding of the home, outbuildings, and landscaping, etc. This process requires great patience as most wildfire insurance claims do not completely settle for a year to two years after the date of the actual event.

Once you have finalized the insurance claim process and have money to begin the rebuilding, you'll need to be very careful to select the right contractor to do the reconstruction. It is all too common to hear stories of homeowners that

have been victimized twice by disasters, once by the event itself and then a second time by a contractor who either took the homeowner's money and ran or did shoddy work, leaving the homeowner with a home that is unfinished or unlivable.

Lastly, one of the pitfalls that Scott pointed to is that after a fire there are scams and/or opportunists that descend on disaster-stricken areas. Scott noted that often times scam artists will set up shop in a motel or hotel and offer free disaster seminars or claim assistance as a means to select their victims. They may show up to local town-hall meetings and pass out cards or flyers offering a vast array of services, often at discounted rates (especially for wildfire survivors). These tactics can be avoided by simply doing your homework, doing thorough background checks and not signing anything until you have your attorney review any contracts before signing.

One of the best things you can do is become better informed personally about the disaster recovery process. His book, "Red Guide to Recovery", is chocked full of good information that can be used by individuals, agencies and non-profits to better serve themselves and the people they serve.



Upcoming Events...

**District Buildings Remains Closed
to Public Meetings**

Halloween Safety Open House Cancelled

Fun alternatives can include

A Scavenger Hunt

Family Movie Night

Neighborhood Costume Parade

**Volunteers—check training calendar
for drills and thank you
for responding to calls for service**

Congratulations Corner

Congratulations
to Antonio
& Christine
Johnson
as they
welcome their
daughter
Dylan
Josephine.
Born August 9,
2020.
6 lb., 7 oz., 18"



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