



# The SPANNER

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

[www.staytonfire.org](http://www.staytonfire.org)

October/November 2011



## From the Chief's Desk

~ Chief Jack Carriger

Well summer passed quickly and it seems like fall has jumped right into winter. Although summer was relatively short without much of a fire season and pretty low call volume, I think winter could be long with lots of weather-related issues. With that in mind there are some things to be thinking about. Days are getting shorter which means more darkness, hampered visibility, constantly changing weather and road conditions, unsure motorists, and more debris in the roads. Remember that conditions throughout our District can be extremely different. The road conditions in Mehama can be very different than the road conditions in Stayton; so be very cognizant of your surroundings and drive according to current conditions both responding to the station and on calls. We can only do our jobs if we arrive safely.

Remember we are moving into our busy season as far as events are concerned. The first is all the school visits and the Halloween Public Safety Open House and then right into the holidays. These are important events to our community and the Fire District

so please plan on participating; many hands make it much easier and a shorter time commitment for everyone.

A special thanks to the Fire Life Safety Team for a great job with the Fire Prevention Grant. They have received the fire extinguisher training prop and are in the process of getting it into service and training people on it. This is going to be a great opportunity for us to get safety training and education out into our community on another level. Remember, you don't have to be part of the team to be part of the team! If you have an interest in learning and helping with the presentations just contact any of the team members and they can get you going. Great job team!





**DISTRICT  
ANNIVERSARIES**

**OCTOBER**

- Eric Fery—26 yrs
- Sherry Bensema—18 yrs
- Jeff Harris—10 yrs
- Kelly Oliver—10 yrs
- Matt Riordan—10 yrs
- Barbara Nelson—10 yrs
- Byron Smith—6 yrs
- Betty Lackner—6 yrs
- Brennan Baker—5 yrs
- Monica Johnson—4 yrs
- Tom Lemons—2 yrs
- Lucy Hernandez—1 yr
- Samantha Jager—1 yr

**NOVEMBER**

- Ruben Sisto—12 yrs
- Jack Carriger—9 yrs
- Kurt Hueller—8 yrs
- Alison Lindsay—3 yrs
- Tanya McFadden—2 yrs
- Ashley Mitchell—1 yr

***Congratulations!  
144 Years of Volunteer  
Service with Pride!***

**The Importance of Social Media**

In an effort to increase the usefulness of the Districts Website, we have been following a plan to increase traffic and awareness of the activities of the district. One of the ways in which we are making some progress is the following of people on our Twitter account. We currently have over 300 Twitter followers which has increased our ability to share information to the public, and control what news gets out and when. In recent weeks, several media outlets have contacted the District for follow up on information they read on the Twitter feed, leading to some positive media exposure in local markets.



Facebook is another social media site most of you are aware of. We have been using this for news updates, public service announcements, and even to show photos from incidents, or training events. Facebook’s analytics tell us that our page is growing even without a

major event to stimulate traffic. Facebook has turned into a great way for the District to communicate to various audiences and to even answer questions about calls or events going on in the district.

The main webpage of the District has also seen increased traffic and media exposure. We are trying to make updates more common and daily if possible. Relevant information is being added to both the links and to the calendar. It is our goal to continue our enhancement of the site, and to add more useful tools that our visitors will use.

If you have recommendations or questions about the site, we are more than happy to answer those questions; hopefully this will make a better site for all of us to use.

Lastly, if you have photos from an actual event or training event that you would like to submit, we would appreciate you contacting us!

*Matt Aalto  
Recruitment and Retention Coordinator*



**Safety  
Spot**

Your Safety Committee encourages you to prepare for the upcoming season by suggesting the following safety and inspection tips for your home and vehicles:

- Check/change furnace filters
- Inspect your fireplace and make sure your chimney is clean
- Remove all flammable material from around your furnace
- Install/inspect smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and fire extinguishers
- Locate your water shutoff, insulate exposed plumbing pipes, drain garden hoses and AC pipes
- Weather-strip around doors and windows
- Check your home and roadside emergency kits for proper supplies
- Check your vehicles for good tires, wiper blades, and proper fluids
- Inspect radiator hoses and fan belts for cracks and wear
- Make sure your spare tire, jack and tools are ready for use
- Check that your lights, heaters, and defrosters are working properly



Cooler weather will soon be approaching and many people will pull out their space heaters, cover up with electric blankets, or light the fireplace. Here are some safety tips to keep in mind as you turn up the heat this fall and winter.

## Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

### BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- » Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- » Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- » Never use your oven to heat your home.
- » Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- » Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- » Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- » Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- » Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- » Test smoke alarms monthly.



### Heating Equipment Smarts

**Install** wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

**Install** and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



### FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**

[www.nfpa.org/education](http://www.nfpa.org/education)



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

### DISTRICT BIRTHDAYS

#### OCTOBER

2—Laura Houston  
15—Kelly Oliver  
19—Sherry Bensema  
25—Kenneth Beyer  
28—Matt Blaylock  
30—Doug Ahlberg

#### NOVEMBER

3—Gene Coles  
8—Adam Bailey  
9—Troy Gulstrom  
10—Sandy Johnson  
11—Allen Kibbe  
17—Carla Hazen  
22—Noah Beaman  
30—Ashley Mitchell



Happy  
Birthday!



Now collecting donations of candy for Halloween Open House. Just bring your donations and put them in the box in the back of the Training Room at Station 80.






***Upcoming Events...***

- October 28—9 am, work party at training facility
- October 30—6 pm, work party for Open House
- October 31—Halloween Safety Open House 5-8 pm
- Nov. 3—SVPC #1 dinner/meeting at Elkhorn Station
- Nov. 6—Time change; turn your clocks back
- Nov. 8—Election day
- Nov. 24—Happy Thanksgiving!
- Dec. 1—Volunteer Christmas Party/Potluck
- Dec. 3—Santa Cruise In/Car Show
- Dec 17—Toys for Joy give away

Remember to let the District Business Office know if you have experienced any changes such as new addresses, phone numbers, contact information, insurance beneficiaries, or emergency contact numbers recently. This helps us keep our database and records up to date. Thank you.

~ Rhonda Grant, Office Administrator

Go to 'News' at [www.staytonfire.org](http://www.staytonfire.org) for links to the following articles:

-  How to help your pets have a peaceful and safe Halloween
-  Halloween costume safety
-  Slide shows on recent calls and Pub Ed events



1988 W. Ida St.  
Stayton, OR 97383

«First Name» «Last Name»  
«OrganizationName»  
«Address 1»  
«City» «State» «Postal Code»

