

ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE



**2013
Annual Report**



Cover Photograph: Structure fire on 5th St. - October 31st

Ashland Fire & Rescue

Mission Statement

Ashland Fire & Rescue is dedicated to protecting lives, property, and the environment. By delivering fire suppression, emergency medical, disaster management, fire prevention and public education services by professionally trained, dedicated personnel, we strive to achieve the highest quality of public service to our customers.

Values and Expectations

PROFESSIONALISM

Dependability - *Reliability to duty and responsibility to others*
Excellence - *Continually improving job skills and knowledge base*
Presentation - *Displaying a high level of fitness and positive attitude*

COMPASSION

Empathy - *Understands and values how others feel*
Service to Others - *Giving of one's time and energy to meet the needs of others*

INTEGRITY

Honesty - *Being truthful and straightforward*
Accountable - *Responsible for one's own actions*
Ethical - *Doing the right thing even when no one else is watching*

TEAMWORK

Respect - *Shows high regard for others*
Cooperation - *Contributes to the team*
Loyalty - *Shows devotion to the improvement of the department*

COMMUNITY

Involvement - *Participates in department and community events*
Family - *Supports coworkers, their families, and the community*



Ashland Fire & Rescue 2013 Annual Report

CONTENTS

CHIEF'S REPORT	1
DEPARTMENT INFORMATION	3
FIRE AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS.....	9
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	11
FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY	13
FOREST DIVISION	15
CERT AND CPR	17
TRAINING	19
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND PREPAREDNESS	21
PERSONNEL	23
THE ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE TEAM.....	25

CHIEF'S REPORT

Ashland Fire & Rescue is pleased to present our annual report for 2013. This report is an annual overview of the highlights and accomplishments of Ashland Fire & Rescue. The department responded to 3,548 calls in 2013. The department has averaged a 2.2% increase in responses each year over the last 10 years.

The City received its Insurance Services Office (ISO) grading from an evaluation performed in late 2012. This grading, known as the Public Protection Classification (PPC), is used by most insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates. The City maintained its PPC of a 4 (range of 1-10, 1 being best) by virtue of a score of 2 for both the water system and dispatch center and a 5 for the fire department. The areas needing improvement for the fire department remain the same: the need for a ladder truck, training center, and increased staffing.

SOME 2013 FIRE FACTS

3548....INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO IN 2013

693.....NUMBER OF OVERLAPPING RESPONSES

2275....EMS RESPONSES IN 2013

86..... FIRE RESPONSES IN 2013

5.3.....AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME IN MINUTES WITHIN ASHLAND

1593.... NUMBER OF PATIENTS TRANSPORTED

260..... NUMBER OF FIRE PREVENTION BUILDING INSPECTIONS

3%..... PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE IN RESPONSES IN LAST 12 MONTHS

3..... AVERAGE NUMBER OF MEMBERS 'TURNING OUT' FOR EACH CALL

The grand opening of Fire Station 2 was held on February 14th and the facility was occupied by department personnel the following day. The project was completed within budget. Funding for this project was through a \$3 million general obligation bond.

The department contracted for two new fire pumpers to replace older units that have exceeded their service life. Delivery is expected in April from Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton, WI.

The department initiated the citizen-phase of its emergency preparedness effort. Two workshops were held for citizens where they learned about regional hazards, preparedness suggestions, and provided with 72-hour kits. Over 340 citizens participated in the Ashland is Ready (AIR) workshops.

The Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project completed phase I and expended the \$6.2 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act dollars that were provided. The project is moving into the next phases while identifying funding needed for completion.

Thank you for your interest in Ashland Fire & Rescue, please take a moment and look over our annual report. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

John Karns, Fire Chief

CHIEF'S REPORT (cont'd)

Fire Station 2



MAY 2012



FEBRUARY 2013

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

GENERAL

Ashland Fire & Rescue provides fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical, rescue, and watershed management services to the 20,295 citizens and 6.52 square miles of Ashland. Ashland Fire & Rescue also provides emergency medical transportation for Jackson County Ambulance Service Area #3 making up 650 square miles from the California border to Phoenix. Ashland Fire & Rescue also provides the following services:

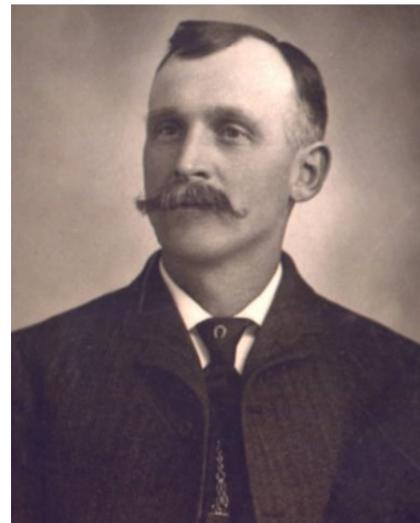
Firewise Communities	Child Safety Seat Installation
Fire Adapted Communities	Public Safety Education
City Emergency Management	Ashland Response Team
Emergency Preparedness	Citizen Alert and 1700 AM Radio
CERT and CPR	Smoke and Wildfire Hotline

HISTORY

Ashland Fire & Rescue traces its heritage to Hose Company 1 that was formed in 1887. The first "fire station" was a shed built in 1888 at the city jail to house the hose cart.

Ashland Hose Company 2 was formed in 1891. Later that same year, the City Council established the Ashland Fire Department comprised of both hose companies that later moved into the new City Hall in 1893. In 1905 the first Fire Chief, David D. Good, was selected and in 1908 the Fourth Street Fire Station was built.

In 1911 the two hand-pulled hose carts were replaced with a hose wagon pulled by horses. The hose wagon was phased out in 1913 with the purchase of a gas-powered American LaFrance Chemical Engine. That year City Hall was remodeled to accommodate motorized fire apparatus, and the city hired a Fire Chief and Driver.



CHIEF DAVID D. GOOD

STAFFING

Ashland Fire & Rescue has 27 line personnel, all paramedics, and a total staffing level of 33.8 FTE's. The daily staffing level for line personnel is a minimum of eight and maximum of nine. Line personnel work a schedule of 48 hours on-duty then 96 hours off-duty yielding a 56 hour work week. Additional personnel may be called in during extreme fire weather, large emergencies, and for special events.

The department has a Fire Chief who also functions as the Operations Chief and Emergency Manager. There are three Division Chiefs. One Division Chief oversees emergency medical, one oversees fire and life safety matters, and one oversees all watershed and forest lands wild-fire protection issues. Line personnel are broken down into three platoons, A, B, and C shifts. Each platoon has a commander known as a Battalion Chief who oversees all activities of that

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION (cont'd)

shift. Each shift also has two Captains, one assigned at each station. Each shift has two engineers who are trained to operate the fire pumps, one assigned to each station. The remainder of each shift is made up of Firefighter/Paramedics who are assigned either to the ambulance or pumper depending on the nature of the response. Shift members may also qualify to fill a position above their current rank if a vacancy exists. All shift personnel are certified to perform fire safety inspections in low hazard occupancies such as retail shops and apartment buildings. Shift personnel also conduct child safety seat inspections and some are CERT and CPR instructors.

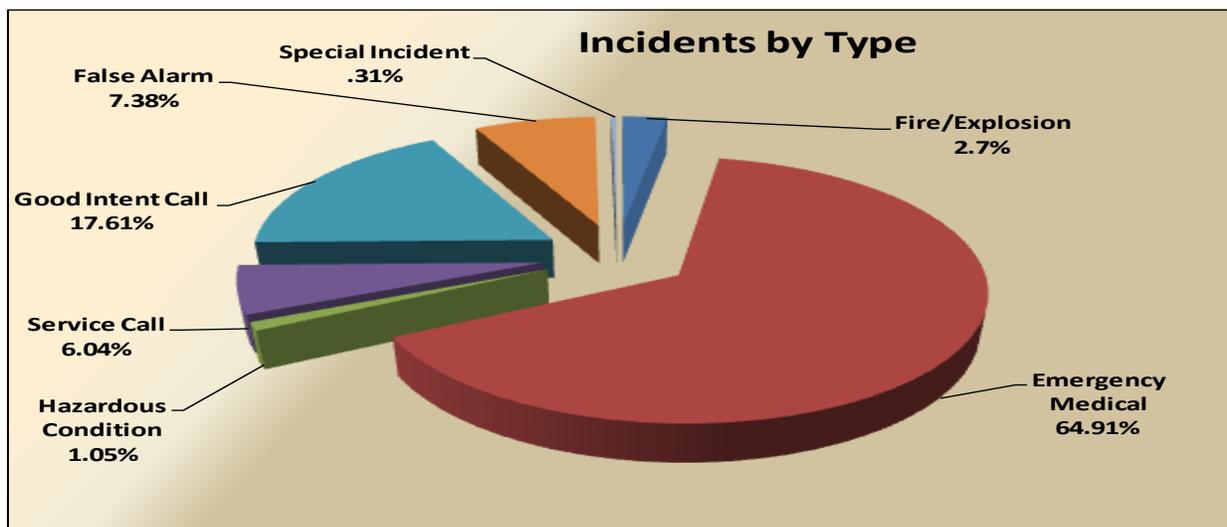
GOVERNANCE AND BUDGET

Ashland Fire & Rescue operates under Oregon Revised Statutes 476 and Article XIII of the City Charter. Ashland Fire & Rescue enforces numerous codes relating to building construction, fire and life safety, wildfire hazard zones, and wildfire fuels management.

The 2013 budget for Ashland Fire & Rescue was \$5,942,575. Ashland Fire & Rescue also managed \$3,737,989 from the water fund that was used primarily for the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project in our watershed. Ashland Fire & Rescue charges for services such as ambulance response and transportation of patients, plan reviews, fire safety inspections, and certain hazardous materials spills, motor vehicle accidents, and remote area responses.

TYPES OF RESPONSES

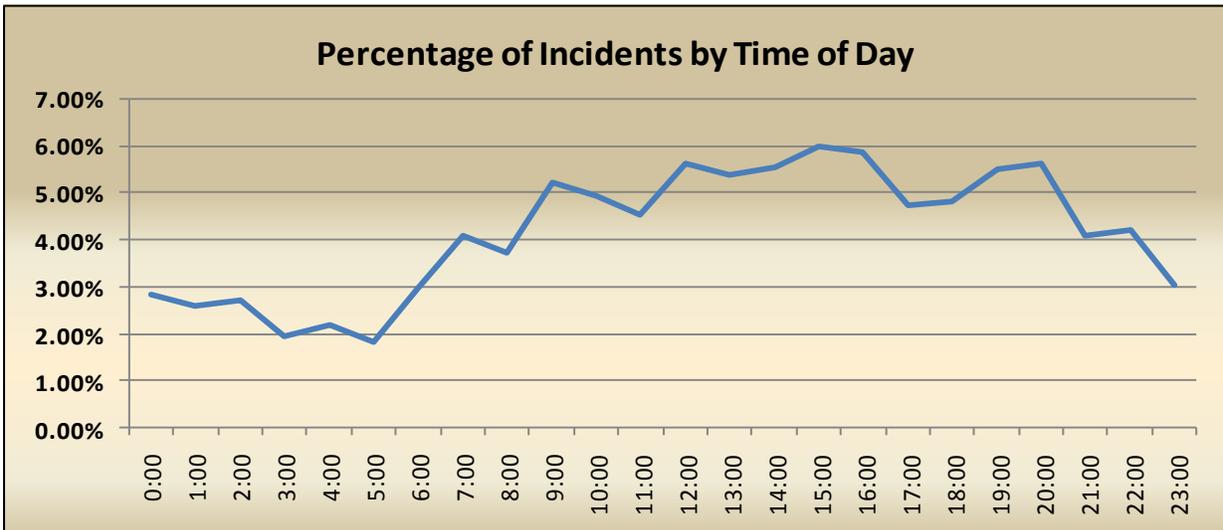
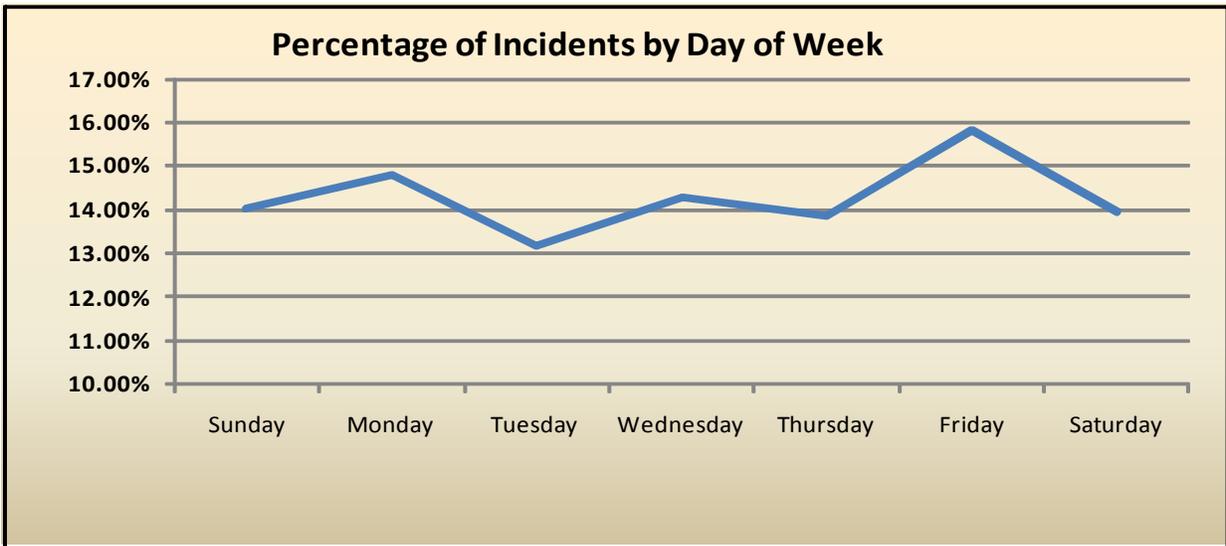
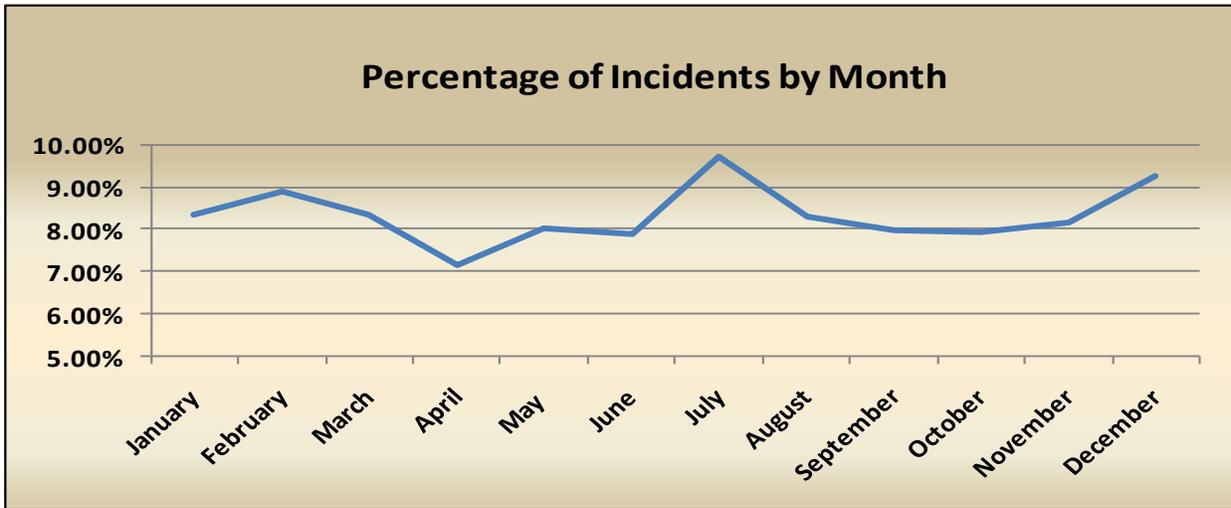
This chart shows the general types of incidents that the department responds to. Some responses require a code 3 response (red lights and siren) while for others a code 1 (no red lights or siren) response is appropriate.



WHEN INCIDENTS OCCUR

The next three charts show the percentage of responses broken down by month of the year, days of the week, and time of day. Information such as this helps the department plan its non-emergency activities.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION (cont'd)



DEPARTMENT INFORMATION (cont'd)

FIRE STATION 1 455 Siskiyou Blvd.



**2011 CHEVROLET
COMMAND VEHICLE**



2002 PIERCE TYPE 1 PUMPER



**2003 PIERCE WILDLAND
INTERFACE ENGINE**



**2011 LIFELINE
AMBULANCE**



1991 E-1 TYPE 1 PUMPER



**2007 TYPE 6 BRUSH
ENGINE**



**2006 LIFELINE
AMBULANCE**



**1999 LIFELINE
AMBULANCE**

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION (cont'd)

FIRE STATION 2 1860 Ashland St.



**1993 PIERCE TYPE 1
PUMPER**



**2003 FORD TYPE 6
BRUSH ENGINE**



**2008 LIFELINE
AMBULANCE**



**2003 LIFELINE
AMBULANCE**



**TECHNICAL RESCUE
TRAILER**

FIRE and EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Ashland Fire & Rescue responds to a wide variety of call types within the City of Ashland and our Ambulance Service Area (ASA #3). The department also responds to and receives aid from neighboring jurisdictions under mutual and automatic aid agreements. The department also participates with other state resources through Oregon's Emergency Conflagration Act managed by the Oregon State Police/State Fire Marshal. Jackson County Fire District 5 and Ashland Fire & Rescue also have a cooperative agreement to rotate "Duty Officer" assignments so that both departments can get a second Chief Officer responding if the incident is significant. Several officers in the department also participate in the Rogue Valley Fire Chief's Incident Management Team. All line personnel at Ashland Fire & Rescue are EMT-Paramedics.

Ashland is divided into two fire response districts. Fire Station 1, 455 Siskiyou Blvd., serves District 1 and Fire Station 2, 1860 Ashland St., serves District 2. District 1 has approximately 74% of the responses and District 2 approximately 26%. Most of the responses to the Green Springs area and incidents on I-5 are handled by Station 2. The administration staff are assigned to Fire Station 1.

As with all fire departments in Jackson County, Ashland Fire & Rescue is dispatched by Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon



Vehicle Extrication

(ECSO), a dispatch and PSAP (public safety answering point) center located near the Medford airport. Both Ashland Police Department and Ashland Fire & Rescue pay a fee to ECSO based on population of area served and number of responses. For Ashland Fire & Rescue the average dispatch "cost" per call is just over \$45.

Ashland Fire & Rescue maintains hazardous materials technician certifications for three line members. Hazardous materials releases are rare for the Rogue Valley but the I-5 corridor brings a strong potential for a significant hazmat event. The department also maintains the ability for basic radiation detection through an inventory of Geiger-Muller meters and personal dosimeters.

Ashland Fire & Rescue also maintains a num-



Williams Fire Mutual Aid Response

FIRE and EMERGENCY OPERATIONS (cont'd)

ber of members trained in technical rope rescue and confined space rescue, a highly technical discipline. The department has a trailer with its technical rescue equipment located at Fire Station 2 that can be towed to an emergency scene.

Ashland Fire & Rescue was able to replace all of its aging rope and technical rescue equipment with new items through a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant of over \$76,000. This equipment is used for low and high angle rescues, confined space and trench rescues. The department utilizes these disciplines for vehicular accidents in the mountains as well as remote area rescues of hikers and mountain bikers.

Jackson County experienced a low frequency of wildland fires this year though local resources responded numerous times to Josephine County fires under regional mutual aid agreements. Jackson and Josephine County Fire Departments are members of the Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association and as such have strong agreements and model policies in place. Due to some of the fires in Josephine County being declared conflagrations, Ashland Fire & Rescue re-

ceived some funds from the State and FEMA to help reimburse costs for those responses.

Ashland Fire & Rescue responded to 86 fire incidents in 2013, an increase of 10 from 2012 though the total fire loss was reduced considerably from 2012.

With new vehicles having more robust construction for safety reasons and using vari-



SOU Resident Assistant Training

ous micro-alloy metals, the department is pursuing funding for new hydraulic rescue equipment (jaws of life) to replace its current 20+ year old extrication equipment. The current rescue equipment is not able to breach and

manipulate many of the new cars being built today.

Members of the department hold annual fire and life safety training for the resident assistants of SOU. The resident assistants are taught evacuation procedures, fire safety and basic fire suppression skills.

Two firefighters are members of the Southern Oregon Critical Incident Response Team. SOCIRT maintains a team ready to respond and assist first responders after difficult events.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ashland Fire & Rescue has been providing high quality ambulance services to the residents of south Jackson County as the primary ambulance service provider since 1996. We consistently meet the standards and requirements of our Ambulance Service Area (ASA) agreement. This year Ashland Fire & Rescue responded to over 3,500 calls for service, a 3% increase over last year. Paramedics responded to over 2,275 medical calls and transported nearly 1,600 patients to the area's three hospitals. Ashland Fire & Rescue's average response time within the city of Ashland was approximately 5.3 minutes.

Ashland Fire & Rescue's Fire-Med subscription program offers low cost ground ambulance subscription services with sign ups in October of each year. In addition to regular ground Fire-Med membership, Ashland Fire & Rescue has negotiated an agreement with Mercy Flights Air Ambulance to provide Air service for our "Fire-Med Plus" membership. This year the Fire-Med program had 1,453 household memberships covering 2,769 members and transported nearly 300 Fire-Med members.

In 2013 our department continued to face technical changes and challenges for emergency medical services. There were still a number of system wide shortages of neces-

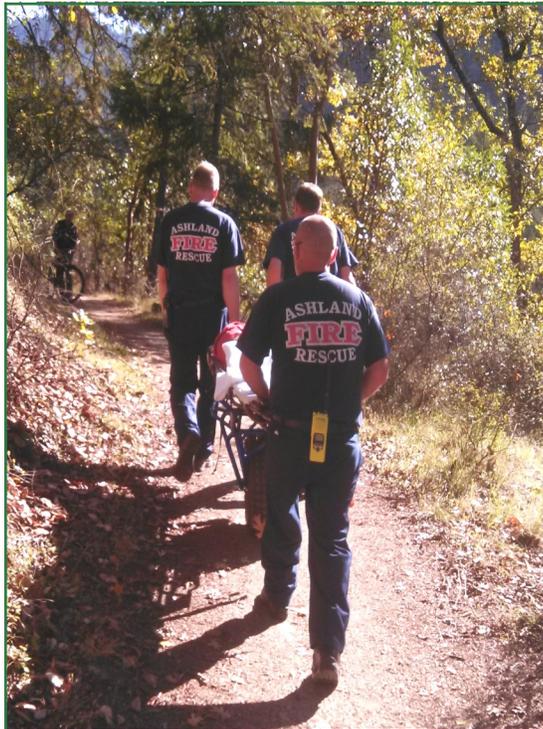
sary medications. Revenues were again negatively impacted by changes in Medicare compensation calculations and the overall reduction in reimbursement. Congress did not pass a one-year renewal of the Ambulance Relief Act that had previously provided a two percent increase in ambulance services reimbursement. Ashland Fire and Rescue went before the Jackson County

Commissioners and was awarded an increase in the base rate for transports beginning on January first, which brings our rates closer to the other ambulance service providers in the area. Call volume for 2012 was up slightly compared to the previous year, and again this year we saw an increase of 3% in call volume. This February, July and December saw spikes in calls (371 in December) with as many as 27 in one 24 hour period, which challenged our staffing and response.

Ashland Fire & Rescue personnel logged

a total of 1,536 hours of EMS training this year with each person receiving an average of 48 hours of individual training in addition to fire training, responding to emergency calls and completing their other assigned departmental duties.

All Ashland Fire & Rescue personnel completed the necessary state requirements of continuing education, training and skills



Remote Area Rescue of Mountain Biker

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (cont'd)

requirements and renewed their State of Oregon Emergency Medical Technician License at their current level in June.

Ashland Fire & Rescue continues to improve its operations through the use of technology. This past year Ashland Fire & Rescue has been working on several projects to increase the quality service to our community. To increase efficiency and effectiveness in daily operations the EMS Report Quality Assurance program was updated. The program was converted to a computer based program which was previously completed with paper copies. The program was restructured to provide a peer review based system with an on-screen fillable form allowing feed back through an automatic e-mail response system. With the new system in place, we have realized an improvement in the quality of reports and improved acceptance of Q.A. Another way we have increased efficiency and reduced paper was to change our "ride-along" program registration to an on-line fillable form on the city/department website. This new feature has improved the EMS web site for the public by providing answers to frequently asked questions about this program.

As our mission statement says "Ashland Fire & Rescue is dedicated to protecting lives" and in that vein we have been working to protect all of our citizens. The fire department is concerned about our shut in seniors who have no one that checks on them regularly. The department is developing a program using the citizen alert system called "Ashland Checking In." The purpose of this program is to provide a safety net for those individuals who are at risk by age, handicap or medical disability who may

suffer an emergency event that may not be recognized or reported for an extended period of time, increasing the risk of increased morbidity and mortality. The department has created the framework and criteria for the program and has run an initial beta test. The department will continue to refine the program and determine its feasibility over this next year.

Ashland Fire & Rescue has continued to pursue all eligible grant opportunities. Grants awarded by State EMS for Children allowed us to conduct several required training events in Advanced Life Support in house. This not only completed the requirement for re-licensure but allowed funds to be redirected to other needed training. Ashland Fire & Rescue has also facilitated the placement of a public access AED (heart defibrillator) through a generous grant from the Ashland Firefighters Local 1269 at the city's Senior Center this past November. The AED was presented to the Senior Center at the annual Thanksgiving dinner that the department and firefighter association provide to the seniors each year.

The department technical committee has embarked on a project to update our EMS patient reporting system to meet new and current standards. This new program will enable paramedics to document treatment, complete their reports and send them to the receiving hospitals from the ambulance rather than waiting until they return to the station. This new system incorporates new and more efficient technology software to manage many aspects of the department's EMS operations. We hope to complete this project in 2014.

FIRE and LIFE SAFETY

The Fire & Life Safety Division is primarily focused on activities that save lives and property by preventing fires. Prevented fires are difficult to measure; however, statistics do show that fire prevention efforts make a difference in the safety of a community. Assignments of the Fire & Life Safety Division include plans review, fire code enforcement, weed abatement, fire investigations, public information, public education, CERT and public CPR training. The Fire &



Grease Laden Kitchen Hood Found During a Fire Prevention Inspection

Life Safety Division was staffed with two full time personnel, the Division Chief/Fire Marshal and the CERT Coordinator, one temporary Weed Abatement Coordinator, eight hours per week administrative support person, and three firefighters conducting target hazard fire inspections. The interim CERT Coordinator was promoted to the permanent position in the fall.

After being approved to use 50 days of overtime for fire inspections in target hazards, three firefighters were selected and trained to conduct these inspections. These three firefighters have started their inspections, and are finding opportunities to make our community safer. Each of them passed their Fire Inspector 1 code certification by



**Can You Find the Electrical Panel?
Hint—It's Behind All of the Flammable
Liquid Containers**

October and are working towards obtaining their Oregon Fire Inspector I certifications. Because of the timing of the approval, a significant increase in inspections has not been recognized yet. However, it appears that we

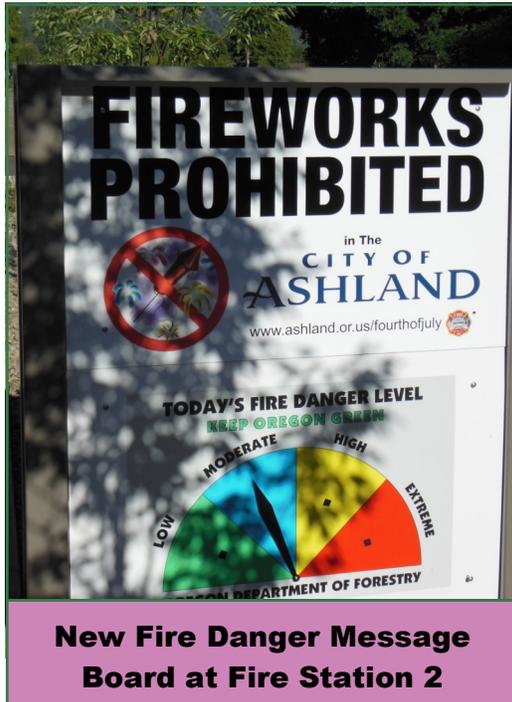


**Fire That Originated in a Wall and Ran
Into the Attic From
Improper Installation of a Stove**

FIRE and LIFE SAFETY (cont'd)

will be able to inspect all of our commercial, school and apartment buildings every other year. The ultimate goal is to provide annual inspections, however that will require additional staffing.

Occupancy inspections were conducted by Ashland Fire & Rescue on Halloween night.



New Fire Danger Message Board at Fire Station 2

There were two instances of overcrowding and blocked exits identified. Two establishments were cited for both overcrowding and blocking exits. They both plead guilty to the overcrowding and not guilty to the blocked exits. The trials are pending in 2014.

There were 398 plans reviewed including site, landscape and fire breaks in the wild-fire hazard zone, building, fire alarm, fire sprinklers, kitchen hood suppression systems, and planning applications. Of these reviews, 14 fire sprinkler plans were reviewed to be installed in nine single family homes and five commercial structures. All of these fire sprinkler plans were required by codes specifically or as an alternative to fire apparatus access or firefighting water supply. Sixteen flow tests were conducted

with the Water Department to determine the available water to design the fire sprinkler systems.

Summer weed abatement came on fast and furious as 515 properties were inspected. Eighty-eight properties were found to be in violation, and one citation was issued. A total of 53 complaints were received for properties in violation of the weed abatement requirements. The citation resulted in the offender pleading not guilty, going to trial and being found guilty by the judge.

At least 45 press releases were issued by the department to inspire fire prevention and to inform the public about the events of the



Fire Safety Education at Bellview School

department. These news releases led to seven live news reports, four live radio interviews, numerous recorded television and radio interviews and many print articles.

With the construction of Fire Station 2, a two-sided sign board has been added to the Ashland Street side of the building. Including the signs on North Main and at Hwy 66 there are three on-street opportunities to provide safety messages.

Fire safety education was presented to 20 grade school classes and to the SOU residential life staff. There were also five fire extinguisher classes and 23 station tours. Fifteen hours of Fire Safety Officer standby for the movie *Wild* were provided.

FOREST DIVISION

Ashland Fire & Rescue's Forest Division guides wildfire mitigation, prevention and forest stewardship to help protect homes, property, and the City's municipal water supply. Forest Division staff partner with citizens, state and federal agencies, and non-profit groups for healthier and safer forests and neighborhoods under the Firewise Communities, Ashland Forest Resiliency and the developing Fire Adapted Communities programs. City forestlands management, watershed fire patrol, wildfire prevention and education, wildland fire training, and the City's Forest Lands and Firewise Commissions were also part of the Forest Division's program of work in 2013.

Ashland Forest Resiliency Project (AFR)

The AFR project hit mid-stride in 2013 with the completion of work using \$6.5 million of federal Economic Recovery "stimulus" dollars received in 2010. Roughly half of the 7600 acre footprint has now been completed. The City and partners, the U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy and Lomakatsi Restoration Project, made significant progress toward a safer and more resilient forest ecosystem. Activity in 2013 included fuels reduction thinning and controlled burning along with ecologically informed tree removal by helicopter along the eastern border of the City's municipal watershed. To date, the AFR partners have accomplished:

- 2,203 acres of wildfire fuels treatments
- 1,010 acres ecologically sensitive logging
- 1,198 acres of controlled burning
- 1,6 full time job equivalents
- 2,000 students educated

- Wildlife, soils, and vegetation monitoring over thousands of acres

To augment on-the-ground activities, community engagement, multi-party monitoring, workforce development, and education were key components of AFR in 2013. A video, "Fire for Water: Forest Restoration for Ashland" was produced in 2013 as part of the AFR community engagement effort. The video is available at the AFR website homepage at www.ashlandwatershed.org.

City Forestlands

Implementation of the Winburn Parcel helicopter thinning project, 21 acres of prescribed burning, and updating the Ashland Forest Plan took place in 2013. The Winburn project is the result of the Winburn management plan that was passed by the Commission and Council in 2007. To accomplish a more sustainable and resilient forest ecosystem, trees were removed from 75 acres on the 160 acre parcel of land in the middle of the watershed. To meet ecological needs first, the project needed supplemental income to pay for expensive helicopter thinning. The Nature Conservancy provided grant dollars from the Forest Service under a program to expand the AFR project onto adjacent non-federal land. This grant filled the

funding gap in order to make the Winburn project a reality on the ground. The City's forestry contractor, Small Woodland Services, Inc., has followed up by piling slash and will burn those piles in Winter/Spring 2014. Prescribed burning took place on two units close to homes and bordering trails. This is the second year of the prescribed burn



**Media Tour During AFR
Helicopter Thinning**

FOREST DIVISION (cont'd)

program, aimed at both reducing wildfire risk and reintroducing the role of fire as an ecological process in our local forests. The Forest Lands Commission began an arduous process to update the Ashland Forest Plan, originally crafted in 1992. The plan update will reflect significant progress made since that time and chart a renewed course for management of the City's forestland ownership.

Firewise Communities

Ashland's Firewise Communities program continued to achieve success through a variety of wildfire mitigation and education activities. As part of a comprehensive wildfire education and prevention program, Firewise Communities recognizes neighborhoods that work together to craft wildfire preparedness solutions. Ali True, Firewise Communities Coordinator, delivered individual wildfire safety home assessments, grant-funded reimbursements for removing hazardous vegetation around homes, and created and distributed educational materials regarding wildfire prevention. Two significant grants assisted in the program's success. The first, from Jackson County Title III funds, paid for a portion of the Firewise Communities Coordinator position. The second, a \$75,000 grant from the Oregon Department of Forestry, paid for grants to property owners to reimburse the removal of hazardous vegetation up to \$500, as well as grants for hazardous fuels removal in recognized Firewise Communities. For the third year, this grant was made available to all city residents, including those outside the Wildfire Hazard Zone.

The Firewise Commission, a group of dedicated citizens working to inform and prepare Ashland for wildfire, continued to provide a host of innovative programs and opportunities to city residents. The Firewise city-wide efforts included events centered on Firewise



Week (May). The events included information and materials at the Ashland Public Library along with story times on wildfire preparedness with special appearances by Smokey Bear. The *Firewise in the 4th Grade* educational program and poster contest continued for the second year in four local elementary schools, and resulted in the presentation of the "Firewise Five" to over 150 students. A Firewise Clean-Up Day event was held in Ashland during Firewise Week that allowed City residents to dispose of yard debris for free. This event was coordinated with Recology Ashland Sanitary Service, and was a huge success, surpassing all expectations

with 525 yards or 65 tons of debris collected. In November, the Firewise Communities Coordinator, Ali True, presented at the national Firewise Backyards and Beyond conference in Salt Lake City regarding Ashland's unique urban wildland fire mitigation strategies and solutions.

Fire Adapted Communities

Ashland Fire & Rescue is adopting the national Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) program, which is part of the larger National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The FAC program will guide all of Ashland's wildfire preparedness activities once adopted. Division Chief Chambers attended a six-day training at the national fire academy in Maryland and will guide implementation of the FAC program in the coming years along with the Firewise Commission and community partners.

Watershed Patrol

Watershed Forest Patrol continued under a cooperative agreement between the City, U.S. Forest Service and the Jackson County Sheriff's department. A deputy patrols city and federal land in and around the Ashland Watershed two days a week to discourage activities that increase the risk of wildfire.

CERT and CPR

CERT volunteers busily trained throughout the 2013 year with many agencies and the City of Ashland to strengthen our capabilities and skills in several areas including providing firefighter rehab to assisting in running the Emergency Operations Center. CERT members volunteered more than 2,100 hours in 2013 assisting with basic training, attending meetings, trainings, and other events including assisting the City of Ashland in the annual functional exercise, the Ashland Police Department in the campus shooter simulation, the Ashland Chamber of Commerce at the annual Fourth of July Parade, and Ashland Fire & Rescue with the Ashland Is Ready (AIR) event.

Ashland CERT coordinated many public and member awareness sessions in 2013 including a Jackson County Search and Rescue presentation and swift water awareness session, Avista Utilities natural gas awareness session, weather conditions presented by the National Weather Service, Oregon Health Authority presented triage for mass casualty incidents, and a radio communications session was provided by Jackson County Amateur Radio Emergency Services group.

Two Basic Training sessions were held in partnership with Southern Oregon University graduating 39 participants including 11 students from the university. Twenty-six participants joined Ashland CERT as a re-



sult of the training they received and the value they felt toward supporting the community and fire department. Current members spent over 400 hundred hours collectively planning and implementing the final simulations for both training sessions.

CERT members participated several advanced training sessions focusing on tracking resources, incident management and command structure, firefighter rehab, and assisted evacuations. Members also participated in a wildland urban interface walk, highlighting the importance of pre-planning



and knowing specific neighborhoods in the urban interface for evacuation purposes. Members also learned the importance of solar storms through a tabletop exercise and how a solar storm may impact our abilities, and the protocols for opening bases and establishing staging and teams for response during incidents.

Public outreach efforts this year continued to focus on the Map Your Neighborhood program facilitating neighbor gatherings focused on readiness, response, and resiliency, fifth grade disaster family planning for students and parents, supporting the Southern Oregon CPR Initiative teaching seventh grade students hands-only CPR, and basic training and membership promotion at local events and other venues. CERT

CERT and CPR (cont'd)

was instrumental in providing personnel staffing to open a relief shelter for those seeking solace from the smoke filled skies as a result of area wildfires.

CPR Program

Ashland Fire & Rescue continued our commitment to life safety and the public by continuing to recognize the importance of CPR training. Community – wide CPR training is a critical tool in life-saving. Continued enhancement of the community’s ability to recognize and respond to cardiac arrest will help increase survival rates. Nearly 80% of cardiac arrests occur outside of the hospital (for example, at home, work, the park, or your favorite establishment). Approximately 92% of cardiac arrest victims do not survive. Often bystanders do not step in & perform CPR as they haven’t received training or their training is not current.

Ashland Fire & Rescue’s commitment includes initial training and sustainment of certified instructors credentialed through the American Heart Association (AHA). Currently seven staff members are trained and credentialed as instructors. We offer three certification training strands in-

cluding HeartSaver First Aid / CPR / AED, Adult CPR HeartSaver, and Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers. We also offer our Family and Friends course that is available to those of all ages to give them CPR skills (hybrid class). Additionally we currently provide annual CPR training to seventh grade students in Jackson County through a partner program the “Southern Oregon CPR Initiative” with partners including local EMS agencies, local chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, and the AHA.

Instructors certified 90 community members including Oregon Shakespeare Festival and seasonal Ashland Parks & Recreation employees. Additionally 14 community members

were exposed to CPR through our Family & Friends course in September. Furthermore, in cooperation with the CPR Initiative, 488 seventh grade students were trained in hands-only CPR. The students had the assignment to go out and teach the same skills

to five others resulting in up to 2,400 individuals being CPR trained supported by Ashland Fire & Rescue.



ANYTIME CPR TRAINING AT ASHLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL



TRAINING

During 2013 Ashland Fire & Rescue's primary focus was to meet state and federal requirement for maintaining individual certifications and the department's fire protection rating from ISO. The department passed a training review and renewed its training agreement with Oregon's Department of Public Safety Standards and Training. The focus for next year will be on raising the certification level of all personnel from Firefighter I to Firefighter II through additional training and proficiency testing.

The department publishes a monthly comprehensive training schedule that is administered by the Station 2 Captain. This includes EMS, structure and wildland fire suppression, command and control, fire pre-



Rapid Intervention Training

vention, technical rescue, driver and pump operator, and various administrative training opportunities.

In December the department serviced and repaired its live-fire training trailer that had been out of service. The trailer provides realistic training and experience to department personnel and will enhance the quality and realism of training scenarios. The trailer was moved from Fire Station 2 to the City's B Street yards.

A new mobile fire pump drafting trailer was purchased that will provide additional fire pump operational training. This type of training was previously only available by sending personnel and equipment to other area fire departments that have a pump pit. The drafting trailer will also be utilized during the annual fire pump testing and certification that is required.

Department personnel participated in Weapons of Mass Destruction training in Anniston, Alabama, de-



Weapons of Mass Destruction Decontamination Training— Alabama

TRAINING (cont'd)

livered by the Department of Homeland Security. This course teaches proper response and decontamination tactics for a variety of WMD agents and scenarios.

The department hosts annual confined space rescue training. This event brings in personnel from jurisdictions throughout the west coast. This discipline is highly technical and demands recurring training to maintain adequate proficiency and safety margins.

Forestry Division Chief Chris Chambers coordinated and taught the annual wildland urban interface class for firefighters from Ashland. Firefighters learn and practice skills crucial to home protection during a wildfire event in Ashland or fires throughout Jackson or Josephine Counties. Home assessment, or triage, and tactical firefighting skills are stressed within a framework of firefighter and public



Wildland Urban Interface Training

safety. The Mountain Ranch neighborhood (Green Meadows Way) hosted the 2013 training, allowing firefighters to learn the details of a local neighborhood, a great benefit during training.

The department conducted an internal academy for engineer candidates from January until June. This voluntary academy is designed to provide candidates training that is specifically applicable to that position. Candidates are provided classroom and manipulative training to better prepare them for the engineer position. The department alternates the engineer academy with a captain's academy. Each academy is presented every other year.



Fire Environment Trailer

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT and PREPAREDNESS

The Fire Chief for Ashland is also the City's Emergency Manager. The Emergency Manager is responsible for the training of employees for response to an emergency as well as the City's hazard assessment and preparedness of the citizens and businesses for those hazards.

The department manages the City's mass notification or "reverse 9-1-1" system, known as Citizen Alert. This system also has the ability to send notifications to City employees and volunteers. The department and Jackson County Emergency Management are partners with this system. The contract was renewed in 2013 for two additional years. The department continues to market and encourage citizens to "opt-in" to Citizen Alert which maximizes the system's benefit. The department also manages the 1700 AM emergency radio, and the smoke and wildfire hotline. This phone system carries



"Ashland Is Ready" Citizen Preparedness Workshop

number of stakeholders in the region. Each City department may play a role in an EOC activation, and these exercises are an opportunity for personnel to maintain proficiency with emergency management skills. Several after action reviews were conducted at the conclusion of the exercise to identify areas needing improvement. This information will be implemented in future exercises. It is the goal of the department to conduct one table top and one functional exercise each year.

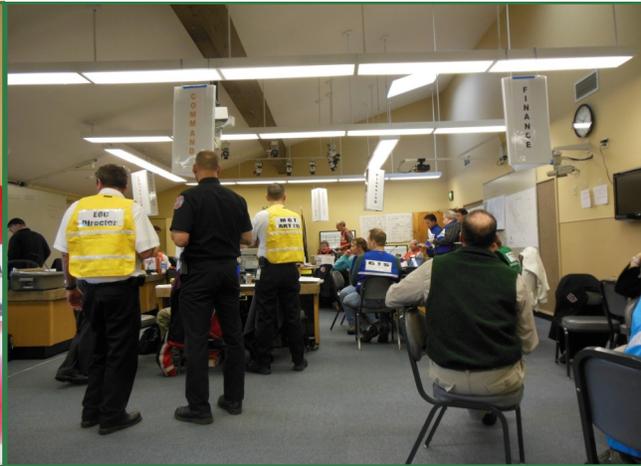
The department is continuing with its ART (Ashland Response Team) program. This is a group of volunteers from Ashland who have had emergency response or emergency management experience. The department provides additional training as needed including participating in training offered by Homeland Security. In 2014 three ART members will be attending an Enhanced Incident Command training course in College Station, Texas. These volunteers assist city personnel during activations of the emergency operations center and may be summoned to field incident command posts during large events. This

"Remember, when the disaster strikes, the time to prepare has passed"

a constant stream of emergency preparedness information and is updated during significant or emergency events.

In March the department conducted a function exercise for the City's Emergency Operations Center. The exercise utilized a severe weather-based scenario and involved a

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (cont'd)



EOC Functional Exercise in March

group meets once a month at Fire Station 1 where they prepare and train for activations.

The department initiated its citizen-based phase of its program for emergency preparedness with the AIR (Ashland Is Ready!) workshops in September. Two workshops were held that provided information from experts on emergency preparedness, hazard identification and risk assessment. The workshops had two sponsors, Ashland's Shop'n Kart and Asante Ashland Community Hospital. These sponsors helped underwrite the costs for the attendees' 72-hour kits that were provided at the end of the workshops. Over 340 citizens participated in these workshops. The department hopes

to continue these in 2014.

The department, working with Human Services, developed an employee-based program that further trains individuals identified floor wardens for City facilities. This program is known as the Employee Emergency Response Team (EERT). Sixteen employees will participate and be responsible for managing their respective area in terms of emergency evacuation, accountability, hazard mitigation, and basic emergency medical and rescue procedures. This program addresses the need for emergency procedures training that was identified by the City's insurer. The department's CERT program will develop the training delivery.



PERSONNEL

2013 was a relatively quiet year for the personnel division of Ashland Fire & Rescue.

Having successfully completed his one year probationary period, firefighter Nick Palmesano officially joined the ranks of AF&R in June.

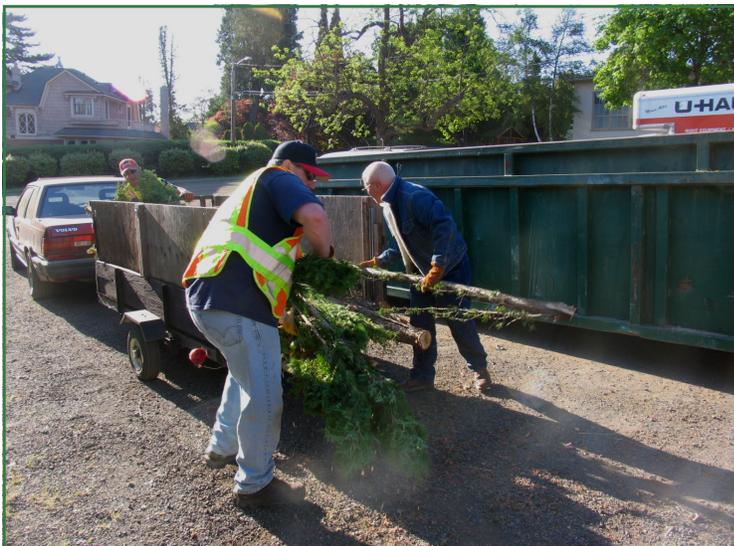
Nick was born and raised in Ashland. After graduating from Ashland High School in 2003, he attended the University of Oregon, earning a BS in Human Physiology. Nick returned to Ashland to pursue his lifelong goal of becoming an Ashland firefighter. Nick credits the positive interactions he had with the local firefighters as a child for influencing his decision to enter the field. As all AF&R personnel are required to be certified paramedics, Nick enrolled in the year long paramedic class at Rogue Community College. During this time Nick was able to pick up experience while volunteering with Jackson County Fire District #5. He was later hired by Rogue River Fire District where he worked as a Firefighter/Paramedic before



**FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC
NICK PALMESANO**

coming to work for AF&R. In his spare time Nick coaches girls basketball at St. Mary's High School. He enjoys riding his jet ski at Emigrant Lake, spending time with family and friends, attending Oregon Duck games, and working out at the local YMCA.

In June the department held an engineer's promotional exam. Eight candidates started the exam process consisting of a written test and extensive practical scenarios. In the end, four candidates passed the exam and are now eligible for future promotions and are allowed to "work up" in the engineer's position according to department staffing requirements. The exam process was preceded by an engineer's academy held by the department. Over a five month period firefighters participated in department led training designed to give them the necessary tools needed to perform the job of a fire engineer.



**Off Duty Department Members Donated
Time to the Firewise Cleanup Day**

PERSONNEL (cont'd)

In September, Reverend Jim Curty joined the department to serve as our volunteer Chaplain. Chaplain Curty grew up in the Rogue Valley and attended Phoenix-Talent schools. He graduated from Northwest Nazarene University in 1987 with a B.A. in Religion and later received a Masters of Divinity from Nazarene Theological Seminary. Chaplain Curty has worked as the Lead Pastor at Ashland GracePoint Church for the last 14 years. Chaplain Curty is both a member of the Rogue Valley Chaplain's Association and the International Conference of Police Chaplains. As a Chaplain for AF&R, Jim is available to assist personnel and affected community members with support following and during difficult calls. Jim also tries to visit crew members from time to time to offer support during their day-to-day operations. Chaplain Curty is also available to assist the Ashland Police Department with difficult calls they may be tasked with handling.

AF&R also conducted a Battalion Chief's promotional exam which occurred in November. The four candidates who passed the exam process were evaluated over a two day period. The exam consisted of a written test, promotability assessment, essay composition, oral presentation and tactical exer-



**Department Chaplain
Jim Curty**

cise.

In January, Chris Chambers, the Forest Resource Specialist was reassigned as the Forestry Division Chief. In November, Battalion Chief Dana Sallee passed his promotional probationary period, officially taking the helm of A Shift. Congratulations Dana.

Senior

Thanksgiving

Dinner at the

Senior Center



THE ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE TEAM

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

John Karns, Fire Chief
Unfunded - Division Chief/Operations
Greg Case, Division Chief
Margueritte Hickman, Division Chief
Chris Chambers, Division Chief
Kimberley Summers, Administrative Assistant
Ali True, Firewise Communities Coordinator
Terri Eubanks, CERT Coordinator
Jim Curty, Department Chaplain

LINE PERSONNEL

A SHIFT

Battalion Chief Dana Sallee
Captain Steve Boyersmith
Captain Todd Stubbs
Engineer Rod LaCoste
Engineer Lance Menold
Firefighter Derek Rosenlund
Firefighter Marshall Rasor
Firefighter Brent Knutson
Firefighter Nick Palmesano

B SHIFT

Battalion Chief Scott Hollingsworth
Captain Curt Formolo
Captain Matthew Freiheit
Engineer Robert Stephens
Engineer Todd Beck
Firefighter Jennifer Hadden
Firefighter Ron Garfas-Knowles
Firefighter Ashley Manning
Firefighter Brian Anders

C SHIFT

Battalion Chief David Shepherd
Captain Kelly Burns
Captain Dave Hanstein
Engineer Justin Foss
Engineer Dave Roselip
Firefighter Trent Stoy
Firefighter Shannon Turner
Firefighter Robert Trask
Firefighter Tim Hegdahl

**Captain
Matthew Freiheit**

**2013 Fire Chief's
Award**



Captain
Matthew Freiheit received the
Fire Chief's Award for
***"Outstanding customer ser-
vice and a long term com-
mitment to improving Ash-
land Fire & Rescue"***

Ashland Fire & Rescue



**SERVING ASHLAND AND THE
ROGUE VALLEY
SINCE 1887**



541-482-2770

www.ashland.or.us

www.ashlandwatershed.org

1700 AM Ashland Emergency Radio

Smoke and Wildfire Hotline 541-552-2490

Follow Ashland Firewise on Facebook and Twitter

