

ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE



2015 Annual Report



Cover Photograph: Automobile Fire 5-4-15

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 2015 Annual Report

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CHIEF'S REPORT

I am pleased to present our annual report for 2015. This report is an overview of the highlights and accomplishments of Ashland Fire & Rescue for calendar year 2015. AF&R strives to maintain a high level of service to the community and surrounding area. AF&R continues to provide the largest suite of services of any fire department in the Rogue Valley. We are challenged by an increasing response volume and insufficient staffing to meet that demand. The philosophy of the department is to not only provide response services, but be invested in the community's education, training, and preparedness.

The City was successful in lowering its Public Protection Classification by the Insurance Services Office (ISO). This change, from a four to a three, influences the fire insurance rates for many residential and commercial buildings. Collectively, the community is realizing a substantial savings in fire insurance rates.

SOME 2015 FIRE FACTS

3,968....INCIDENTS RESPONDED TO IN 2015

10,937...NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBER RESPONSES IN 2015

1453.....NUMBER OF OVERLAPPING RESPONSES IN 2015

2547....EMS RESPONSES IN 2015

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

1792....NUMBER OF PATIENTS TRANSPORTED

540.....NUMBER OF FIRE PREVENTION BUILDING INSPECTIONS

8.9.....PERCENTAGE OF INCREASE IN RESPONSES IN LAST 12 MONTHS

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

The department took delivery a new ambulance manufactured by Horton Manufacturing in Ohio. This unit will be placed in service in March of 2016 and will respond from Fire Station 1 on Siskiyou Blvd..

Through a \$73,000 FEMA grant the department was able to purchase new vehicle extrication equipment. The old hydraulic rescue equipment the department was using was well past its service life and wasn't able to breach the more modern vehicles with their stronger micro-alloy construction. This new equipment will be placed on the fire engines at both fire stations..

The department continued its citizen emergency preparedness effort with the third annual Ashland is Ready (AIR) workshop. The workshop hosted 400 attendees and concentrated on the region's seismic risk . The city has now provided preparedness information to 1200 citizens.

The expansion of the Wildfire Hazard Zone continues to evolve and is expected to be presented to Council in April or May of 2016. This will be a major step in providing

CHIEF'S REPORT (continued)

wildfire safety throughout Ashland.

The department is working with other Oregon Fire Chiefs to usher legislation through known as GEMT, or ground emergency medical transportation. This is legislation that is already in place in California and Washington. Basically this legislation would allow for public agencies providing medical transportation to receive 64% of the gap between what Medicaid currently pays for response and transportation and what that actually costs. Currently Ashland Fire & Rescue realizes approximately 28 cents for every dollar billed for Medicaid patients. If successful this legislation will take effect in July of 2017.

The department participated in several state-level mutual aid responses for large fire events in Oregon in 2015 to deliver assistance in partnership with other Rogue Valley fire departments.

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



**ALL THREE AF&R AMBULANCES AT ASANTE ASHLAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
SIMULTANEOUSLY**

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

GENERAL

Ashland Fire & Rescue provides fire suppression, fire prevention, emergency medical, rescue, and watershed management services to the 20,713 citizens and 6.52 square miles of Ashland. Ashland Fire & Rescue also provides advanced life support 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	Fire Alarm and Sprinkler Plan Reviews
Fire Prevention Inspections	Smoke and Wildfire Hotline
Fire Investigations	Management of Ashland's Forest Lands

A LITTLE BIT OF FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

On August 3, 1885, the new city council approved City Ordinance No. 14. Section 1 created a fire committee of between three to five persons and defined its duties and powers. Section 2 outlined the committee's responsibilities—recommending fire prevention methods to the city council, examining all buildings within the city limits, and prosecution of violators. The committee was also to direct the movements of all city fire companies. Section 3 granted police powers to the committee, allowing members to require that all bystanders assist in subduing fires and to arrest anyone who hindered the work of the firefighters.



Elks Lodge Fire July 17, 1968

Ashland City Ordinance No. 17, passed in August, 1985, established the city's fire limits, prohibited construction of wooden buildings in the fire district, and required fire-proof chimneys. It also forbade building additions on wooden structures and stipulated that wooden buildings in the fire limits could not be rebuilt if they were damaged at least fifty percent in any way. City Ordinance No. 27 prohibited blacksmith shops within the fire limits as well as open fireplaces in any wooden building.¹

¹ Atwood, K. (1997) *Ashland Fire Department: A History*

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION (continued)

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 is also the City's Emergency Manager. There is one Deputy Chief who also serves as the department's Operations Chief, EMS Chief and Training Officer. There are two Division Chiefs, one oversees fire and life safety matters, and one oversees all watershed and forest lands/wildfire 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 shift. Each shift also has two Captains, one assigned at each station. Each shift has two Engineers who are trained to operate the fire pumpers, 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 and weed abatement.

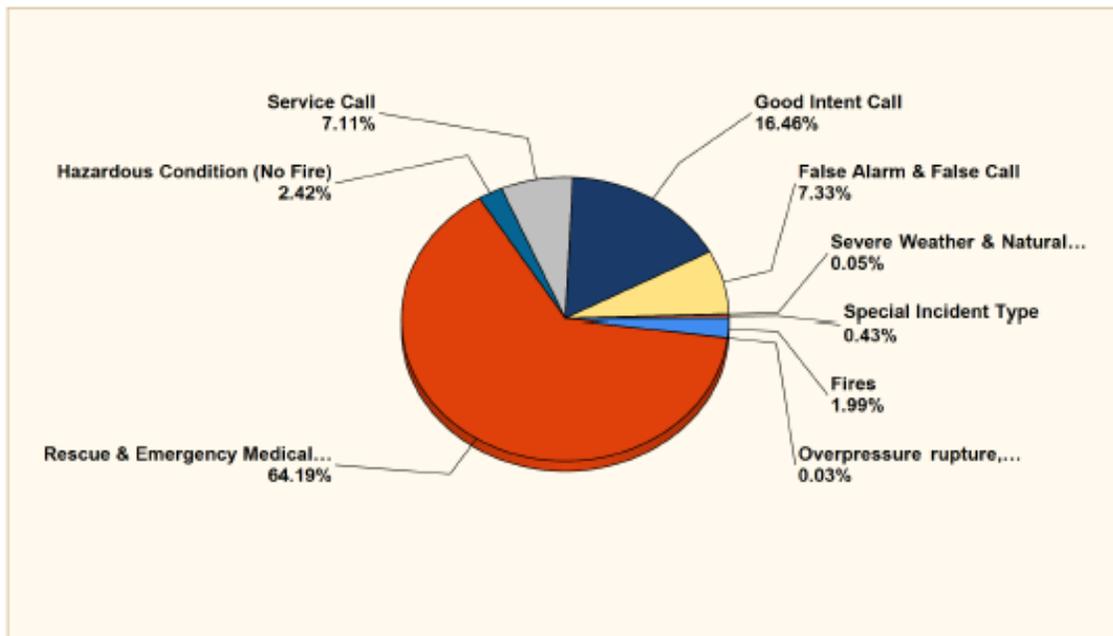
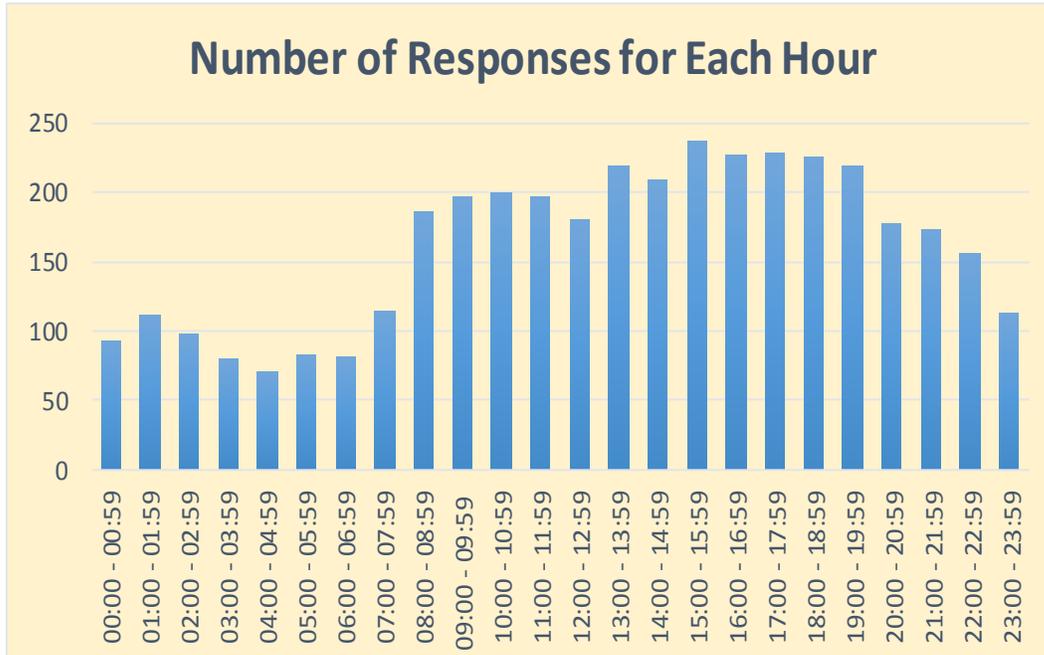
The biennium 2015/2017 budget for Ashland Fire & Rescue is \$15,780,502. Ashland Fire & Rescue also administered \$887,265 from the water fund that was used to manage city owned forest lands, and for the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project in our watershed. Ashland Fire & Rescue charges for 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 rescues.



DEPARTMENT INFORMATION (continued)

TYPES OF RESPONSES FOR 2015

The following charts show the number of calls for each hour of the day as well as the general types of incidents and their percentage of overall responses.



DEPARTMENT INFORMATION (continued)

FIRE STATION 1 455 Siskiyou Boulevard



2011 CHEVROLET
COMMAND VEHICLE



2014 PIERCE TYPE 1 PUMPER



2003 PIERCE WILDLAND
INTERFACE ENGINE



2015 HORTON
AMBULANCE



2006 LIFELINE
RESERVE AMBULANCE



2002 PIERCE TYPE 1 RESERVE
PUMPER



2007 TYPE 6 BRUSH
ENGINE



1999 LIFELINE RESERVE
AMBULANCE

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION (continued)

FIRE STATION 2 1860 Ashland Street



**2014 PIERCE TYPE 1
PUMPER**



2003 FORD TYPE 6 PUMPER



**2011 LIFELINE
AMBULANCE**



**2008 LIFELINE RESERVE
AMBULANCE**



**TECHNICAL RESCUE
TRAILER**

FIRE and EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

Ashland Fire & Rescue responds to a wide variety of call types within the City of Ashland. We also provide medical transportation in Ambulance Service Area Three (ASA #3). This ASA is defined by Jackson County and runs from the California border to the southern city limits of Phoenix. The department 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. The Fire Chief is also the Fire Defense Board Chief for Jackson County and represents the



Severe weather generate large number of emergency responses



Candidate participating in an Engineer's promotional examination

county at the state level for large events.

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 is assigned to Fire Station 1.

As with all fire departments in Jackson County, Ashland Fire & Rescue resources are dispatched by Emergency Communications of Southern Oregon (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 \$46.

Ashland Fire & Rescue maintains hazardous materials technician certifica-

FIRE and EMERGENCY OPERATIONS (continued)



Ashland Fire & Rescue resources assisted with the Stouts Fire near Canyonville through the State Mutual Aid System

tions 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 hazardous materials event. The department also maintains the ability for basic radiation detection through an inventory of Geiger-Muller meters and personal dosimeters.

Ashland Fire & Rescue maintains a number 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 participated in several mutual aid requests, two at the state level. The Stouts Creek Fire near Canyonville consumed 26,452 acres and utilized 226 personnel in September. The Canyon Creek Complex in November near John Day burned 110,261 acres, 43 homes, and 50 other structures. This was a reminder that not all large fires occur during the rec-

ognized fire season. During this fire all state resources had been placed in service with no back-up or additional units available.

Ashland Fire & Rescue realized its largest increase in call volume in 2015. Total calls reached 3968. This accounted for delayed responses and an overall increase in response time average.



The department concluded its community-based Strategic Plan. A copy can be seen at Ashland.or.us

The department was successful with a \$75,000 grant that allowed the purchase of new extrication equipment that will allow firefighters to manipulate the newer, stronger cars and trucks when patients are trapped after an accident.

The department completed its much anticipated Strategic Plan. This community based document utilized both external and internal stakeholders to develop a five-year plan identifying the priorities of the community and needs of the department to meet those needs..

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Ashland Fire & Rescue (AF&R) has been providing high quality ambulance services to the residents of southern Jackson County since 1996. We continue to meet or exceed the standards as set forth by Jackson County for our Ambulance Service Area (ASA) agreement. This year AF&R responded to almost



4000 calls for service, a 9% increase over the previous year. Of these calls, Paramedics responded to over 2500 medical calls and transported nearly 1800 patients to the area's three hospitals. AF&R's average response time to serious calls was approximately 5 minutes within the city of Ashland.

AF&R's Fire-Med subscription program offers low cost ground ambulance subscription services with annual sign ups in October of each year. In addition to the regular ground ambulance membership, AF&R has negotiated a partnership

agreement with Mercy Flights Ambulance to provide air ambulance transports for our Fire-Med Plus members. In 2015 the Fire-Med program had 1,584 memberships covering 3,034 members. Of the 1800 patients transported, approximately 300 were Fire-Med members.

The beginning of the New Year brought us the Ebola scare, prompting health care providers around the world to ramp up their policies and procedures to deal with this not so new but significant threat. AF&R was no exception. Following the guidelines put out by the CDC, AF&R quickly developed an Infectious Disease protocol to handle a potential Ebola patient. To this day, AF&R is the designated transport agency for all possible infectious disease patients (as identified by the Jackson County Health Department) in Southern Oregon.

In June the departments 27 Paramedics received their two-year license renewal



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (continued)

from the state of Oregon. Prior to recertification, the Paramedics had completed at least 48 hours of continuing education in addition to demonstrating skills competencies in areas such as: cardiac arrest management, splinting and bandaging, airway management and surgical cricothyroidotomy. The start of a new recertification period in July means that the Paramedics of AF&R will have to receive another 48 hours of continuing education prior to June 2017. To enhance our training program the department has partnered with Rogue Community College to teach the needed continuing ed-



Prehospital Trauma Life Support Training

ucation over the next two years.

The department's ASA contract was due to expire at the end of 2015. ASA contracts are awarded by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners (JCBOC) and must be renewed every five years. As with past ASA renewals, no other agency or organization wished to bid for ASA III other than AF&R. In

order to receive approval the department had to compile a 185 page document to be submitted to the county for review. The document covered things such as: clinical sophistication, vehicles and equipment, response time data, financial data, dispatching practices, continuing education, community service and quality assurance. We are happy to report that our renewal application was approved by the JCBOC and AF&R will continue to serve Southern Oregon for another five years.

The tragic events at UCC in October reinforced that no community is immune to mass casualty incidents. In an effort to make sure that AF&R would be ready to handle such an incident the department secured some grant funded training through the state. In December, members of AF&R, Jackson County Fire District #5, SOU Public Safety, Ashland Police Department and Mercy Flights attended a High Threat Tactics, Techniques and Treatments for Emergency Responders class. The eight hour course focused on working in a hostile environment, hemorrhage control and rapid patient evacuation. The Ashland Police Department and AF&R will continue to train together with a goal of conducting a large scale drill during the summer of 2016.



FIRE and LIFE SAFETY

The Fire & Life Safety Division is primarily focused on activities that save lives and property by preventing fires. 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 & 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 on overtime.

The division received a FEMA Fire Prevention & Safety Grant in the amount of \$110,000 in cooperation with Medford Fire Rescue. The grant is being used to build a residential fire sprinkler demonstration trailer, provide education in the community on residential fire sprinklers, install a retrofitted fire sprinkler system in two homes and produce a fire sprinkler commercial.

One of the new challenges facing many city departments is the implementation of the legalization of marijuana laws. Hash oil related fires and explosions have increased, and the potential for the unsafe and illegal modification of electrical supplies exists. Both of these have demonstrated fire safety issues. During 2015 Police, Fire, Building, Code Enforcement and Conservation to developed a plan to provide a public safety presentation related to the growing and processing of marijuana.

The department provided inspections to 400 businesses resulting in a total

of almost 540 inspections. Almost 70 of these inspections were related to new construction. Inspections are provided in the majority of Ashland businesses annually, with some target hazards being inspected annually. The ultimate inspection goal is to provide annual inspections in most of our facilities, however that will require additional staffing. Annual inspections will



help to reduce the number of serious situations like those listed above. There were also hydrant 19 flow tests completed with the Water Department.

Halloween inspections this year found no violations for overcrowding or blocked exits; however, there was one theater that made efforts to open in a commercial warehouse after months of communication with Community Development and the fire department.

There were 371 plans reviewed including site, landscape in the wildfire hazard zone, building, fire alarm, fire sprinklers, kitchen hood suppression systems, and planning applications. Of these reviews, 21 fire sprinkler plans were reviewed to be installed in 11 single family homes, and 10 commercial structures. All of these fire sprinkler plans were required by codes spe-

FIRE and LIFE SAFETY (continued)

cifically or as an alternative to fire apparatus access or water supply.

The 2015 Weed Abatement season marked the initial implementation of a new GIS base tool for managing inspection information. The new tool was developed internally by Weed Abatement Coordinator Steve Parks and GIS Manager Jason Wegner. This new tool reduced the paper used and increased efficiency. Inspection of the entire city included 9057 properties. There were 196 notices issued to non-compliant properties and 165 notices to abate letters sent. The city abated two property at a cost of \$2,212 and issued two citations for non-compliance. Both properties were bank-owned properties. For one property, this was the second year of non-compliance and the second year of being issued a citation. The 2015 Weed Abatement season was long and challenging. Fire season began on June 5 and within a week, mowing of dry grass had to be stop each day by 1 p.m., by the end of July we reached extreme fire danger and a 10 a.m. shutdown, and at the beginning of August, mowing of dry grass was prohibited. There were still a few lots that needed to be abated that were in the code enforcement cycle, which made abatement more costly due to fire engine stand-by.

The Forest & Fire & Life Safety Divisions have worked with the Planning Department on the expansion of the Wildfire Hazard Zone. While there are still several meetings to be held, the expansion of the Wildfire Hazard Zone meets one of the City Council's goals for this biennium and is essential for the protection of our community from wildfire.

Relationships with our local media continues to be afford us the opportunity to gain prime position in the news for prevention, events and incidents alike. The department partnered with the Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association to create an evacuation campaign based on Ready, Set, Go. The campaign included the production of a television PSA with paid advertising and several live interviews with each of the tv stations. This year the department began a tri-weekly column with the Daily Tidings. Topics have included fire prevention, services provided by the department and projects the department is working on. Response to the column has been favorable and seems to help in accomplishing the department's goals.

Firefighters, CERT and FireWise Coordinators continue to provide safety education to all of the K-5 classes in the city. Additional fire safety classes are provided as requested and include the Ashland High School foods classes and the SOU Residential Life Staff.



Fourth grade student who won fire safety essay contest at the Willow Wind School and received a ride to school in a fire engine.

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 Fire Adapted Communities programs. City forestlands management, watershed fire patrol, wildfire prevention and education, wildland fire training, and the City's Forest Lands and Wildfire Mitigation Commissions also fall under the Forest Division's program of work.

Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project (AFR)

AFR is ongoing collaboration to enhance and protect the City's water supply, homes and lives, and critical habitat in our forested watersheds. In 2015, we had increased funding, the first prescribed underburn, and the return of helicopter tree thinning late in the year. AFR was one of nine recipients of a Joint Chiefs' Restoration Partnership grant, which included \$1 million in private lands funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, matched with \$1.2 million in U.S. Forest Service dollars. In 2015, the AFR Partners completed:

- 212 acres of fuels reduction thinning
- 897 acres of controlled burning
- 1652 acres of work prepared for 2016 Implementation

AFR continued to maintained high visibility in the community through field

tours, tabling at events and through the [AFR webpage](#) and [Facebook](#). The Ashland Map, a 48 panel map produced by the Chamber of Commerce, was distributed in 2015 and the second edition started production by the end of the year. "Marty", a mosaic statue of the elusive, but numerous Pacific fisher, was unveiled along a popular hiking trail in the watershed. Marty, namesake of Marty Main, the City's contract forester, is the first piece of a watershed art trail that will develop over time. A grant was secured in 2015 for the second installation.



AFR partners with Senator Ron Wyden at a press conference to announce new AFR Project funding

The AFR partnership, alongside Mayor Stromberg, hosted a visit from the Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) in July. Convened by Undersecretaries of both Agriculture and Interior Departments, the WFLC has members of all federal land management agencies, National Association of State Foresters, International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fire Administration, and varied county and local representatives. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell

FOREST DIVISION (continued)

presented Mayor Stromberg with an award for dedication to bettering public lands during the City's long-time partnership with the U.S. Forest Service. AFR Partners applied for another grant in the Joint Chiefs' program, and worked long hours to apply for a State of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board grant program as well.

City Forestlands

The Forest Lands Commission continued to update the 1994 Ashland Forest Plan, a document that guides City forest policy and practice on approximately 1000 acres of City and Parks Commission

managed land. Significant progress was made during the year, and a schedule for plan completion in mid-2016 has been on track. On the ground, staff and the City's contracting forester, Small Woodland Services, Inc worked to implement ongoing prescribed, or controlled, underburning on City lands. Two burn units were completed in the spring totaling 30 acres in strategic zones for watershed and community wildfire safety. Another 20 acres was thinned of dense vegetation and piled for later burning. Brush piles were finally burned on the Winburn Parcel, left from the 2013 helicopter restoration project and unburned during two abnormally dry winters.



Workers from Grayback Forestry reduce fire danger through burning brush piles in AFR

Firewise Communities

Ashland's Firewise Communities program continued to achieve success through a variety of wildfire mitigation and education activities, increasing the number of certified *Firewise Communities* from **10 in 2014 to 23** at the end of 2015. As part of a comprehensive wild-

fire education and prevention program, Firewise Communities recognizes neighborhoods that work together to craft wildfire preparedness solutions. The former Firewise Communities Coordinator job description was promoted to Fire Adapted

Communities Coordinator to reflect a larger sphere of duties not related only to the Firewise program. In a year of transition, one person was hired and then took another position, an interim coordinator, Steve Parks, stepped in until a permanent choice, Alison Lerch, started work in July as a fully funded City position. Through the transitions, these staff delivered individual wildfire safety home assessments, grant-funded reimbursements for removing hazardous vegetation around homes, and created and distributed educational materials regarding wildfire prevention. One grant from Jackson County was completed and one more remains for 2016. A Firewise Clean-Up Day event was held in

Ashland during Firewise Week early in May 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 with 152 car loads and 200 cubic yards of green debris dropped off.

Fire Adapted Communities

Ashland Fire & Rescue adopted the national Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) program, which is part of the larger National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy. The FAC program guides all of a wide range of wildfire preparedness activities. Ashland is a partner in the Fire Adapted Communities Network, a national group of communities who gather in person and virtually to share experiences and create best practices. Ashland also joined 4 other Fire Departments chosen nationwide to create a Fire Department Exchange program, aimed at sharing experiences with each other and fellow Fire Departments via an experiential exchange at each of the 5 host departments. Ashland will host in 2021.

Watershed Patrol

Watershed Forest Patrol continued under a cooperative agreement between the

City, U.S. Forest Service and the Jackson County Sherriff'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. The patrol deputy cracked down on illegal camping throughout the summer, an activity that typically involves campfires or stoves, sources of ignition during the summer months.

Wildland Fire Season Training

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 safety. The Firewise Community of Tamarack Place on upper Park Street, hosted this year's training and gained the benefit derived from Ashland firefighters getting to know their neighborhood intimately.



Oregon Department of Forestry crews removing junipers as part of a neighborhood Firewise effort. Royal Oaks Estates Firewise Community on the left and woodland Drive on the right, Woodland Drive on the right.

CERT and CPR

Ashland's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) continues to highlight civic engagement with well-trained, highly prepared volunteers willing and capable of supporting Ashland Fire & Rescue's response missions. CERT volunteers receive baseline training in specific areas of response to align with emergency response agencies and provide critical support where and when needed. The Ashland CERT training program includes fire suppression, disaster medical operations, search and rescue, emergency response organizational structure, termed Incident Command System, disaster psychology, two-way radio operations, and hazardous response procedures. Advanced training opportunities include the Get Ready, Be Set, Go evacuation protocols, firefighter rehab, emergency vehicle operations, shelter operations, traffic flagging, and specific agency assist procedures. Ashland is proud to parent one of the most robust CERT programs in the Rogue Valley with over 200 active members.

Volunteers served more than 2,300 hours combined in 2015. Volunteer hours include regularly scheduled training and other events, and this year also included a few other notable activities including public delivery of mass notifications during a dam failure exercise potentially affecting residents in the inundation zone and an agency assist with Jackson County Search & Rescue when an Ashland resident went missing. CERT volunteers took direction from JCSAR in pinpointing and locating the missing person. Members also had an opportunity to train with the Oregon Department of Forestry. ODF forecasted a need for additional support during fire season and provided CERT volunteers training early

in the season necessary to align support efforts. Because CERT volunteers receive valuable baseline training they are frequently able to integrate with other response agencies and assist them in multiple areas of response and recovery.



Ashland CERT continues to be an essential community support structure at the Ashland Fourth of July parade providing additional support to both fire and police departments. CERT has been functioning in highly organized systematic approach at the parade annually for over a decade. CERT volunteers also assisted in the success of the annual Ashland Is Ready (AIR) event. AIR combines many facets of emergency preparedness locally and regionally to promote citizen awareness and preparedness. Volunteers served more than 120 hours preparing for the event and providing assistance the day of the event.

The Ashland High School Student Emergency Response Team (SERT) Club formed in 2015 consisting of trained high school students in cooperation with administrators and teachers. The SERT Club aims to educate students in areas of hazards and disaster response while encouraging leadership roles within the school's emergency operations plan. CERT is very excited to have this part-

CERT and CPR (continued)

nership targeting a highly vulnerable population of youth otherwise reliant on the school officials. The partnership encourages students to participate in weekly Club meetings where they work on mini targeted projects of preparedness while also continuing their training experiences and opportunities for growth outside of the school environment.

Ashland CERT is pleased to continue a partnership with Southern Oregon University providing credit earning students an opportunity to complete the CERT training series for three university credits towards an undergraduate degree. The partnership is its third year. Undergraduate students may complete CERT training for lower and/or upper division credit opportunities twice annually.

The Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) program continues to provide community outreach through the nine steps to preparedness. Community members have the opportunity to partake in the free program adopted and administered locally through the CERT. MYN encompasses small neighborhood disaster planning and response incorporating the individual neighbors' skills and expertise and equipment inventory into planning for a catastrophic event. The MYN program attempts to promote readiness and action among neighbors. Neighbors taking advantage of the planning program identify individual needs of families with small children, pets and elderly and infirm and what appropriate actions are necessary to respond to these neighbors in a disaster.



Ashland Fire & Rescue continues to provide public certification courses accredited under the American Heart Association to the public. Additional courses have been scheduled to meet the growing demand for our courses

annually taught in-house by trained department instructors. Additionally, the department continues to support the Southern Oregon CPR Initiative in providing hands-only CPR training in providing hands-only CPR training to all seventh grade students in the Ashland School District and throughout Jackson County. With the passing of Oregon Senate Bill 79, making CPR training a mandatory component of graduating, this program is essential in strengthening knowledge and response by recognition of cardiac.

CERT continues to provide the Employee Emergency Response Team (EERT) training annually. This city supported program teaches preparedness knowledge and skills to city employees with regards to home and work encouraging them to prepare their families and assist their coworkers and patrons if a disaster occurred while at work or home.

The Emergency Prepared Business (EPB) program continues to strengthen the community through free training sessions providing area businesses the necessary steps and assistance to become better prepared. The EPB program aims to create resiliency countering local businesses suffering a major disaster to enable them to stay in business and thrive in terms of financial stability.

TRAINING

The department continued to try and meet the minimum training standards as set by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration, Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and



Training (DPSST), the Oregon Health Authority, the National Fire Protection Association and the Insurance Services Office. AF&R was successful in meeting some of the standards but not all.

Some of the highlights for 2015 included an internal fire engineer's academy and a locally hosted engine/apparatus vehicle driver course utilizing a specialized truck that simulates wet and icy road conditions.

The departments engineer academy was held twice a month for the first six months of the year. The department averaged six candidates per training session. Curriculum for the academy included operation and maintenance of fire pumps, basic and advanced hydraulics, power tool maintenance, engine invento-

ries and safe driving practices. The academy culminated with a promotional engineer's exam. The department successfully passed five of the six candidates who are now eligible to work as move-up engineers and are ranked for future promotion.

In March the department participated in a regional training sponsored by the DPSST. Following four hours of classroom instruction firefighters were given a chance to drive a specialized vehicle on a closed course. A hydraulic lift system built onto an engine sized chassis simulated road conditions that firefighters may find themselves driving in during the winter months. By

creating situations where the "engine"

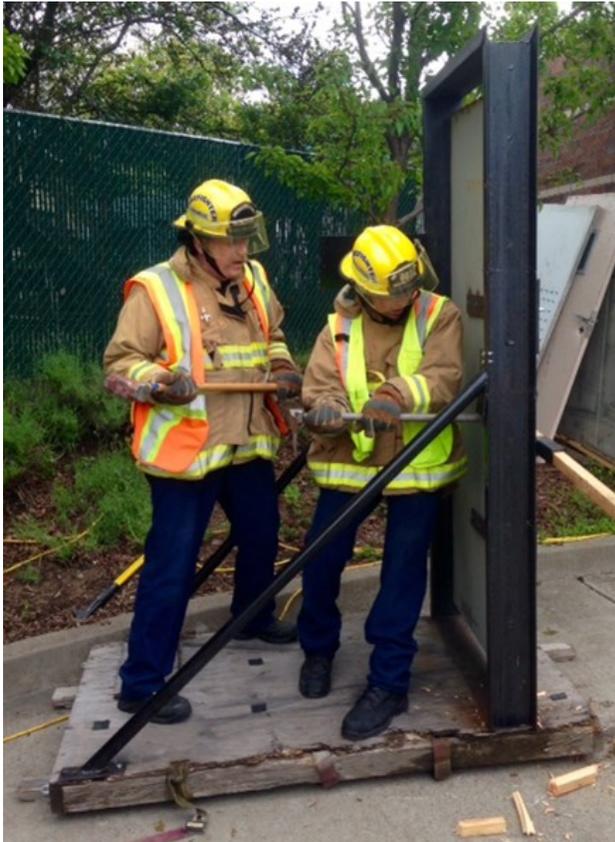


would start to lose control, our firefighters were able to practice recovery skills in a controlled environment.

The difficulty in properly training personnel increases significantly with each new

TRAINING (continued)

layer of emergency response training firefighters are required to receive. Without adequate training grounds or a dedicated training facility firefighters must take to the streets, neighborhoods and parking lots.



Despite the difficulty of training without proper facilities, Ashland Fire & Rescue is dedicated to provide firefighter training with the goal to become more effective in serving the public. 2015 found crews training on basic firefighting skills as time allowed. Monthly drills were conducted to improve on such things as water supply, forcible entry, fire stream application, ladders, ventilation, victim rescue and firefighter safety.



Practice does not make perfect. Perfect practice makes perfect.

Vince Lombardi

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT and PREPAREDNESS

Ashland Fire & Rescue continues to be heavily involved in local and regional emergency management and preparedness efforts. As the City's Emergency Manager the Fire Chief 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 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 a constant stream of emergency preparedness information and is updated during significant or emergency events.

The department has "branded" its *Ashland Is Ready (AIR)* program to include all components of emergency preparedness. The department is planning to reintroduce employee emergency training as it was last delivered to employees in 2011.

In April the department and Public Works conducted a functional exercise for the City's Emergency Operations Center. The exercise scenario involved an earthquake with a subsequent compromise of Hosler Dam. This was required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as the power station at the City's water treat-

ment facility generates a portion of the City's electricity. Each City department fills a role in an EOC activation, and these exercises are an opportunity for personnel to maintain proficiency with emergency management skills. During an actual emergency .



Dave Tygerson of Ashland Electric talks about safety at the AIR Workshop

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 participation in courses offered by Homeland Security. 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 group meets once a

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (continued)

month at Fire Station 1 where they prepare and train for activations.

The department conducted the third annual AIR (Ashland Is Ready!) workshop, a citizen-based program for emergency preparedness. This year it was held at SOU. 400 area residents took advantage of this opportunity to learn more about emergency preparedness strategies and visit vendors offering products to enhance citizen's preparedness levels. Thus far 1200 area residents have attended our AIR workshops.

The state of Oregon is increasing its efforts for citizen preparedness due to concerns of an event along the Cascadia Subduction Zone. A large seismic event occurs along this fault line approximately every 341 years with the last event happening in 1700. The state is planning a large state-wide exercise in 2016 that will utilize a scenario of a 8.0 to 9.0 magnitude Cascadia Subduction



AIR Workshop at SOU

Zone earthquake. The exercise will be called *Cascadia Rising* and the City of Ashland will participate in the exercise.

In concert with Jackson County Emergency Management, the department is in the process of updating the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for both organizations. It is not expected that the plan will change a great deal and this effort will primarily be to update the action items.



Citizen Fire Extinguisher Training

The Fire Chief is taking the lead on a regional effort to promote citizen evacuation awareness and capability. This program will also promote the "Ready/Set/Go" federal evacuation strategy. This will be for all hazards and not just wildfires.

PERSONNEL

2015 brought many changes to the makeup of Ashland Fire & Rescue.

In March, Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator Ashley Lara accepted a position with Jackson County Fire District #3. We were disappointed to lose her but glad she will be helping other communities in the Rogue Valley accomplish their Firewise goals.

Captain Curt Formolo officially retired from the department on April 12th. Curt started his career 26 years ago as a student firefighter. Curt worked as a Paramedic, Firefighter and Engineer, finishing the last five years of his career as a Fire Captain. We wish Curt health and happiness as he begins this new phase of his life.

Captain Formolo's departure allowed the department to make two promotions. On April 13th Engineer Justin Foss was promoted to Captain and Firefighter Robert Trask was promoted to Engineer.

To fill the position created by Captain Formolo's departure the department hired Brandon Winwood. Brandon grew up in Nampa, Idaho graduating from Nampa High in 2007. Brandon moved to the Eugene area after high school and began volunteering with Lowell Rural Fire Protection District. He completed his Associates Degree in Paramedicine at Lane Community College and began studies at the University of Oregon. Before graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Human Physiology and a minor in chemistry, Brandon worked part time for ODF as a summer wildland firefighter and as a medical specialist manager. When he is not protecting the citizens of Southern Oregon you can find him mountain biking, cycling, skiing or surfing.



**Fire Adapted Communities
Coordinator
Alison Lerch**

In May the department held a Battalion Chief's promotional exam. Six candidates started and finished the process.

In June the department held an Engineer's promotional exam. Six candidates started the exam process consisting of a written test and extensive practical scenarios. In the end, five candidates



**Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic
Brandon Winwood**

PERSONNEL (continued)

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. 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.

In June we said goodbye to Division Chief Greg Case. Greg started his firefighting career with Ashland in 1989. He worked as a Firefighter/Paramedic for 10 years before promoting to Division Chief of EMS.

Following Greg’s retirement the department eliminated the EMS Chief position and filled the Deputy Fire Chiefs position which had remained unfunded for several years. Following an internal process, Battalion Chief David Shepherd was promoted to Deputy Fire Chief on July 1st. To fill his spot, Captain Matt Freiheit was promoted to Battalion Chief and Firefighter Marshall Rasor was promoted to Captain.

Also in July, the department hired Alison Lerch to fill the vacant Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator position. Alison comes to us from the Chicago area. After graduating from Glenbrook North High School she attended 4.5 years at University of Missouri-Columbia. In 2006 Alison earned a Bachelors of Science degree in Forestry with an emphasis in Forest Ecology and Rural Sociology. After graduating she worked for the Fisheries Department before accepting an internship with the Student Conservation Association in North Carolina assisting with Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP).

Alison moved to Moab, Utah in 2007 to work as a Forestry Technician with the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands and was later hired full time as the National Fire Plan/Sovereign Lands Coordinator for the southeast area of Utah. She spent seven years working with 25 separate communities composing CWPPs, writing grants for fuels reduction projects, and administering contracts. Alison facilitated community



Congratulations to Division Chief Greg Case and Captain Curt Formolo on Their Retirements

PERSONNEL (continued)

meetings and provided a safe place for people to express their concerns about wildfire. She was also a red carded wildland firefighter from 2008-2014, assisting local fire wardens on wildfires in southeast Utah.

Alison and her husband moved to western Washington to work for the Quinault Indian Nation in 2014, but the chance to work for a municipal fire department with a strong forestry team ended up bringing them south to Ashland. Alison is grateful to be working

for a municipal fire department with a strong forestry team. Alison is married to her husband Andy who is a forest entomologist. They have a toddler son Ro-

wan who turned one in December.

With a number of retirement vacancies occurring in 2016 the department held

an entry level firefighters examination in the fall. 30 applicants were invited to participate in the three day process. Day one found the candidates taking a written exam and physical fitness assessment. The top 20 candidates then moved on to an assessment center on day two. The field was then narrowed to 10 applicants who partici-

ated in oral interviews on day three. In December we made job offers to three of the top 10. You can read about them in next year's Annual Report.



Congratulations to Deputy Chief David Shepherd (far left), Captain Marshall Rasor, Battalion Chief Matthew Freiheit on their promotions

THE ASHLAND FIRE & RESCUE TEAM

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



John Karns, Fire Chief
David Shepherd - Deputy Fire Chief
Margueritte Hickman, Division Chief
Chris Chambers, Division Chief
Kimberley Summers, Administrative Assistant
Alison Lerch, Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator
Terri Eubanks, CERT Coordinator
Angela
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 Brandon Winwood
Firefighter Brent Knutson
Firefighter Nick Palmesano

B SHIFT

Battalion Chief Scott Hollingsworth
Captain Justin Foss
Captain Marshall Rasor
Engineer Robert Stephens
Engineer Todd Beck
Firefighter Jennifer Hadden
Firefighter Ron Garfas-Knowles
Firefighter Ashley Manning
Firefighter Vacancy

C SHIFT

Battalion Chief Matt Freiheit
Captain Kelly Burns
Captain Dave Hanstein
Engineer Robert Trask
Engineer Dave Roselip
Firefighter Trent Stoy
Firefighter Shannon Turner
Firefighter Michael Mekkers
Firefighter Tim Hegdahl

**Division Chief
Chris Chambers**

**2015 Fire Chief's
Award**



Division Chief Chris Chambers received the Fire Chief's Award for
"Outstanding customer service and a long term commitment to improving Ashland Fire & Rescue"





Ashland Fire & Rescue



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



541-482-2770

**www.ashland.or.us
(Opt-in to Citizen Alert Here)**

www.ashlandcert.org

www.ashlandwatershed.org

1700 AM Ashland Emergency Radio

Smoke and Wildfire Hotline 541-552-2490

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