

# **Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department/LRFD**

## **2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

February 8, 2017

Submitted by Steve Rhodes, Fire Chief

I am hereby submitting an annual review of fire department operations as required by our LRFD Bylaws. Our Mission Statement is:

The Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department meets the needs of our community by providing well-trained firefighters for response to fire, rescue, medical and public service incidents. We protect lives, property, and the environment with compassion and a dedication to excellence. We meet or exceed the requirements of local, State and National statutes and standards related to the Fire Service. Our conduct will reflect our commitment to safety, honesty, personal responsibility, fairness, respectfulness and integrity. We recognize that the most effective way to protect lives and property is to prevent fires from occurring through fire prevention and education.

### **Staffing**

As 2017 starts, we have 18 active volunteers. 5 volunteers joined during 2016, and 3 others resigned due to medical issues that would affect their ability to work. We continue to work with our FF trainees undergoing NFPA FF1 training as provided by our State certified instructors. All FFs, Driver Operators, and Chief Officers/Instructors have just been recertified by the DPSST for 2017. We have 3 Emergency Medical Technicians, 7 Oregon First Responders, and all personnel, including Explorers, are trained in CPR/AED. Three of our FFs are also NFPA Apparatus Operators, and our heavy equipment drivers are commercial licensed. Nine FFs and Explorers are currently enrolled in an Oregon Emergency Medical Responder course through UCC, with former LRFD FF Dale Pospisel teaching the course.

Our Fire Explorer program continued in 2016, and all Explorers are completing the State certified FF 1 academy here at the LRFD. This program is affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, and is open to ages 14-18. The LRFD FF Association provided the funds to reregister our junior firefighters for 2017. The program continues to thrive and grow, and this year 3 of the Explorers turned 18 and moved into our Volunteer program. I want to thank Asst. Chief Keith Williams, Captain Tom Johnson, FF Lindsey Chitwood, and FF Rich Chitwood, as well as all of our current members, for their assistance with getting us to where we are today. We believe this is the future of our Department in the making.

### **Incidents**

The LVFD responded to 161 calls for service during 2016. As a comparison,

2015 - 196 calls, 2014 - 160 calls, 2013 - 133 calls, 2012 - 102 calls.

Of the total, medical aids accounted for 69 incidents (43%), structure fires numbered 23 (14.3%), natural cover fires were 22 (13.6%), public assists were 21 (13%), motor vehicle accidents numbered 14 (8.7%), alarm system malfunctions numbered 1 (1%), Haz/mat incidents totaled 4 (2.5%), and other miscellaneous calls totaled 7(4.3%).

Of the total fires responded to, 33 were mutual or automatic aid into our surrounding jurisdictions. We received mutual or automatic aid on 16 incidents, evenly split between natural cover fires and structure fires. The LRFD experienced a fire loss of approximately \$2,620,000 in our District, primarily from the Lookingglass School Gym Fire and a large shop/barn fire in Flournoy Valley.

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There were no fire related injuries or loss of life.

The LRFD participates in mutual aid and/or automatic aid agreements with all Fire departments in Douglas County. This year, we provided response outside of our District on 33 incidents, while receiving aid in return 16 times. The current aid system benefits our District, and continues to provide paid fire engines and other equipment from DFPA, Douglas FPD#2, and Winston Fire for any fire in our District.

We experienced 40 less medical calls this year, with an increase in public assist calls partially offsetting the call volume loss. As the "Greatest Generation" ages and passes in our District, and more in home care occurs, types of incidents are changing. The total call volume decreased by 35 in 2016. Significant incidents responded to include the Lookingglass Gym Fire, a large barn/shop fire in Flournoy Valley, a fatality MVA on Lookingglass Road, the Pilot Gas Station fire in Green, one house fire in both Tenmile and Camas Valley, several house fires in District 2 and Roseburg, and a hazardous materials response involving fuel leaking into a pond.

## **Vehicles**

The vehicle fleet of the LVFD/LRFD represents the majority of the financial assets of our Department. During 2016, our diesel equipment was again serviced, safety checked, and repaired as needed at Southern Oregon Diesel. This was the fourth year of our maintenance program, and I believe this commitment of both time and finances will result in longer service life and safer driving operations.

Engines 1030 and 1031 passed the annual NFPA Standard 1911 pump tests in October. This is a test required by ISO (Insurance Service Office) to maintain our insurance rating, as well as the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to maintain our accreditation as a Fire Department in Oregon. Each pumper was reported to be in safe and good operating condition. Tender 1061 will be tested biannually due to less pump activity. Some minor repairs were made to vehicles during 2016, including:

- New front tires for B1080
- New batteries for E1030 and R1070
- Exhaust reweld and light bar repair on E1030
- Electrical repairs for left side lights for Tender 1061

Budgeted vehicle operations fund expenses for the rest of fiscal year 16/17 include 4 rear tires for 1060, and annual maintenance for all units. Near future (5 year) vehicle needs include planning for the replacement of Engine 1031. Our Board approved the purchase of a new 1080 using existing Equipment Replacement Fund monies, and the vehicle was constructed during 2016 with delivery in early 2017. This vehicle has been designed to satisfy our wildland fire extinguishment needs, while also providing a limited capacity to conduct initial attack operations at structure fires. It is currently being outfitted and should be ready for response in the next few

weeks. The old 1080 will be used as a utility vehicle for the District, with the slide out pump and tank sold.

Future vehicle needs were identified in our 2013 strategic plan and will be addressed in the next few fiscal years. Engine 1031 and Tender 1061 will be evaluated, with a replacement plan being brought to the Board. I intend to submit for a FEMA Grant for the new 1031 this coming year, and will present vehicle information to the Board for approval.

### **Equipment**

The LVFD/LRFD was successful in securing an ODF/VFA matching grant for fiscal year 16/17. Funds for budgeted equipment purchase were \$16938. Identified equipment purchases were reduced by ½ for this FY, and I will again

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submit for a VFA grant for FY 17/18. The previous grant and purchases made this year have allowed us to offset future capital PPE costs, finish outfitting the new 1080, increase our wildland firefighting capabilities, and purchase numerous small pieces of equipment and PPE related to the safe and efficient operation of this Department.

At this time, inventories have been updated and are in a maintenance mode. Written tracking for all ODF grant equipment is due in 2017, and is being prepared. Future needs for the remainder of this fiscal year are minimal -finishing biannual maintenance and testing of our breathing air units and 5 year testing of bottles, repair of one set of PPE damaged in recent fires, and replacement of expendable equipment as it is used, worn out or damaged.

Future equipment needs to be addressed before 2022 include our SCBA units and bottles. The bottles are undergoing the final 5 year test of a 15 year service life. The SCBAs are now 2 generations old and approaching 15 years of service life. At this time, to replace 12 SCBA's and 24 bottles would cost approximately \$65,000. I will include this need in future FEMA Grant applications.

### **Fire Prevention/Public Education**

The Lookingglass Rural Fire District falls under adopted Oregon State fire prevention codes. The current codes and standards are the 2014 edition of the Oregon Fire Code and the 2013 edition of the International Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Code. These codes outline requirements for new construction, as well as maintenance of existing occupancies and infrastructure. The State Fire Marshall in Medford, Mike Shaw, currently administers our District until a new Roseburg area Fire Marshall is in place. At this time, only large assemblies, schools, and board and care facilities are being inspected due to personnel limitations on a schedule of once every 2 years. We are in the process of signing a contract and plan of operation outlining where the District and State responsibilities lie.

DFPA enforces ORS 277 and any wildland codes in our area. They continue to permit and monitor control burns during and outside of fire season. There is still an open investigation concerning the rash of wildfires in our area in 2015.

Illegal burning of garbage and other materials remained an issue in 2016 as the Douglas County landfill charged for disposal. Educational material has been placed on our website, and a cooperative agreement between the LRFD, DEQ, State Police, and Douglas County Sheriff Office

is in place for prevention, education, and enforcement. We continue to experience a small number of these incidents.

Fire prevention and education classes for Geneva Academy and Wellspring school were completed this year. The Lookingglass School teachers and students were unable to attend while canceling at the last minute. The program we presented included a physical agility for students, fire extinguisher and hose training, smoke detector education, and a meet the firefighter/tour of equipment. We had 11 volunteers and explorers present for this program.

The LRFD participated in the annual Clean Up day May 14, 2016. Vehicles paraded with the rest of the participants, and the Firefighter Association provided a food booth and Ice cream social near the Grange. Funds raised were applied to our annual Christmas benefit, with the delivery of food, clothing, and toys to a family identified by the Lookingglass School. Our personnel and equipment also were present at the Winston Melon Festival Parade, the Christmas Parade, and the Roseburg Veterans parade. Explorers also participate in the 911 flag program at the VA.

Our fire prevention material on the LRFD website is now easily accessible and extensive (thanks to our Webmaster). We still have smoke detectors available for installation from a small grant we received in 2014: we have installed several and more are still available for the public. Future prevention efforts will involve programs relating to Wildland/Urban interface fire prevention and extinguishment. There is a Firewise program forming in the Diamond Heights area, and we will work to support it as it grows. We have identified home heating as a common cause of fires in our area, and will

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work to provide training and education to the public concerning these types of fires.

### **Training**

The Lookingglass Rural Fire District is required by State law (DPSST) to provide training in a variety of fire department related subjects. We are fortunate to now have three State certified Fire Instructors on our roster, and also provide required medical training through our paramedic trainee approved by our physician advisor.

New firefighters are required to complete a 90 hour course before FF1 certification, and existing firefighters are required to complete 60 hours of maintenance training each year. In addition, apparatus operators are required to complete 40 hours of supervised driver training after FF1 completion, and pass a performance test for each type of apparatus (engine,tender,wildland). Each additional certification requires 4 hours of maintenance training each year.

Our firefighters and Explorers are also certified in CPR/Automatic External Defibulator (4 hours), Haz Mat First Responder (4 hours), and Wildland Safety (2 hours) annually.

We offered 160 + hours of instruction this year. State and County EMS standards require 12 hours per year of continuing education for EMTs and First Responders. Training highlights have included live fire burn exercises with the UCC Burn Trailer, vehicle extrication, "Skid Pan" driver training, haz mat training with Roseburg FD, wildland training with DFPA, large animal rescue, Reach helicopter safety training, SDAO and State Budget and ethics training, and numerous "wet" structural fire drills.

Our Firefighter 1 Academy has again stretched into 2017, as we gained new trainees and new Explorers. Future budgeted expenses include live fire training with propane as a finish to our FF1 program, and incident command training.

### **Facilities**

Facility maintenance was an issue identified while preparing our 25 year planning document in 2012. During 2016 and the 16/17 fiscal year, maintenance and improvements completed include the installation of a fire hydrant in our parking lot, electric reels for power to each vehicle, PPE washer and drying equipment, and storage cabinets in the loft. Remaining improvements and maintenance for this year include finishing the bid process for asphalt repair, more storage cabinets, air system maintenance, overhead door maintenance, and ADA improvements.

Extinguishers and safety equipment were maintained as required, building heating fuel quantity was good for this season, and any other expenses or repairs were minor in nature.

### **Capital Expense Outlook**

A 25 year plan for capital expenses was completed and published on our website in 2012/2013. Those capital expenses continue to approach, and the plan should be revisited by the Board each year to evaluate the fiscal impacts coming. There are options available for how to fund these expenses and what kind of equipment is needed. I will continue to search for grant opportunities to offset the major projected costs.

For further information about the operation of our community Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department and the Lookingglass Rural Fire District, please contact me, the Board of Directors, or the Fire Station at 541 679-5555.

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