

## Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department/LRFD

### 2017 ANNUAL REP8RT

February 14, 2018

Submitted by Steve Rhodes, Fire Chief

I hereby submit 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 ends, we have 23 volunteers, with 18 actively maintaining certifications and training. 5 volunteers are listed as part time due to job commitments or current residence location. 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 been recertified by the DPSST, and our Department was re-accredited through DPSST for the next 3 years. We currently have 1 paramedic, 3 Emergency Medical Technicians, and 10 Oregon Emergency Medical Responders as medical staff. All personnel, including Explorers, are trained in CPR/AED. Three of our FFs are also NFPA Apparatus Operators, and most of our heavy equipment drivers are commercial licensed.

Our Fire Explorer program continued in 2017, and 8 Explorers are registered and working towards the State FF 1 certification. 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 2018. The program continues to thrive and grow, and this year 1 of the Explorers turned 18 and moved into our Volunteer program. Several more are nearing 18, and are responding with us on incidents to get valuable experience before becoming volunteers this year. I want to thank former Asst. Chief Keith Williams, Captain Tom Johnson, PM Lindsey Chitwood, and FC Rich Chitwood, as well as all of our current members, for their continued assistance with the Explorer program. We continue to believe that this is the future of our Department.

#### **Incidents**

The LVFD responded to 137 calls for service during 2017. As a comparison,

2016 – 161 calls,      2015 – 196 calls,      2014 – 160 calls,      2013 – 133 calls.

We experienced a drop of 24 incidents this year from 2016, and continued a decline from a high in 2015 of 196 calls. Although experiencing an increase in medical aids and motor vehicle accidents, numbers in all other categories were down. Of the total, medical aids accounted for 72 incidents (53%), structure fires numbered 17 (12%), natural cover fires were 17 (12%), public assists were 7 (5%), motor vehicle accidents numbered 20 (15%), alarm system malfunctions numbered 0 (0%), Haz/mat incidents totaled 1 (1%), and other miscellaneous calls totaled 3(2%).

Of the total fires responded to, 17 were mutual or automatic aid into our surrounding jurisdictions. We received mutual or automatic aid on 12 incidents, evenly split between natural cover fires and structure fires. The LRFD experienced a fire loss of approximately \$281,668 in our District, primarily from a residential fire in the Reston area, a recreational vehicle and shop fire in the Dairy Loop area, and a barn fire in the Strickland Canyon area.

There were no fire related human injuries or loss of life. We experienced 1 fatality related to a motor vehicle accident with a post-accident fire.

The LRFD participates in mutual aid and/or automatic aid agreements with all Fire departments in Douglas County. 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. While our wildland fire incidents were down in the LRFD response area this year, our firefighters and equipment were committed to several wildland fires in our surrounding jurisdictions, including the Horse Prairie Fire and the Hiway 138 Fire east of Glide.

We experienced a surge in motor vehicle accidents this year, with several severe injuries and 1 fatality resulting. As the "Greatest Generation" ages and passes in our District, the population is getting younger, more homes are being built, and types of incidents appear to be changing. Significant incidents responded to included: a large barn/shop fire in the Dairy Loop area, a barn fire with the loss of several animals, a residential fire on Coos Bay Wagon Road, a fatality MVA on Lookingglass Road with resulting fire, one house fire in Camas Valley, several house and grass fires in District 2 and Roseburg, a 5 acre grass fire in Happy Valley, a fire at the RFP mill, and two large animal rescue calls with mutual aid agencies.

## Vehicles

The vehicle fleet of the LVFD/LRFD represents the majority of the financial assets of our Department. During 2017, our diesel equipment was again serviced, safety checked, and repaired as needed at Southern Oregon Diesel. This was the fifth year of our maintenance program, and I believe this commitment of both time and finances results in longer service life and safer driving operations.

Engines 1030, 1031, and WT 1061 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 continue to be tested biannually due to less pump activity. Repairs were made to vehicles during 2017, including:

- Significant pump and plumbing repairs to E1031

- New batteries for E1031 and WT 1061

- Minor exhaust repair and air system repair to E1030

Budgeted vehicle operations fund expenses for the rest of fiscal year 17/18 include 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 placed into service in early 2017. This vehicle was designed to satisfy our wildland fire extinguishment needs, while also providing a limited capacity to conduct initial attack operations at structure fires. It was put to use immediately this summer, and helped support region wide response to the long fire season. It continues to be outfitted and improved. The old 1080 was to be surplus and sold, but was used as a second wildland vehicle over the summer. This allowed the LRFD to provide aid to

our cooperating agencies while maintaining fire protection in District. As long as it is mechanically sound and makes financial sense, I believe the Board should consider keeping the old 1080 to increase our options and local fire protection capabilities.

As the year ended, Fire District 2 donated a utility vehicle to our Department. We are in the process of preparing it for use as an incident command/safety/rehab vehicle, and will integrate it into our responses as it is outfitted with a radio, lighting, and District markings.

Future vehicle needs were identified in our 2013 strategic plan and will be addressed in the next few fiscal years. Engine 1031 and Tender 1060 will be evaluated, with a replacement plan being brought to the Board. I intend to continue submitting for a FEMA Grant for the new 1031 each year, and will seek Board approval for any purchase if grant monies are awarded.

### **Equipment**

The LVFD/LRFD was successful in securing an ODF/VFA matching grant for fiscal year 17/18. Funds for budgeted equipment purchase were \$17,150, with a matching return of \$8,575 from the Oregon Dept. of Forestry. We continue to offset future capital PPE costs, increase our firefighting capability, provide for future training, and this year covered a large share of vehicle repair costs with the Grant monies.

At this time, inventories have been updated and are in a maintenance mode. Written tracking for all ODF grant equipment is due in 2018, and is being prepared. Future needs for the remainder of this fiscal year are minimal –mostly replacement of expendable equipment as it is used, worn out or damaged. We completed the 5 year testing of our pressurized air bottles, the biannual testing of our SCBAs, and quarterly testing of our breathing air supply in 2017.

Future equipment needs to be addressed before 2022 include our SCBA units and bottles. The bottles underwent 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 \$95,000. I included this need in FEMA Grant applications, and will continue to do so as 2022 approaches.

### **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. 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. A contract was signed and approved by the Board in 2017, establishing a cooperative agreement with the State Fire Marshall and outlining their responsibilities.

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.

In the fall of 2017, the LRFD conducted fire prevention and education classes for Lookingglass School students. The program we presented included a physical agility for students, fire extinguisher and hose training, smoke detector education, a simulated motor vehicle accident/rescue, and a meet the firefighter/tour of equipment. We had 9 volunteers and explorers facilitate this program.

The LRFD participated in the annual Clean Up day in May of 2017. Vehicles paraded with the rest of the participants, and the Firefighter Association provided an ice cream social in the Grange. Funds raised were applied to our Association fund. Our personnel and equipment also were present at the Winston Melon Festival Parade, and the Roseburg Veterans parade. Our firefighter association also made a donation and provided for a family in Camas Valley who tragically lost their home to fire on Christmas Eve.

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. A Firewise program has formed in the Diamond Heights area, and we will work to support it as it grows. We have identified home heating and cooking as common causes of fires in our area, and will 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 two 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 145 + 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, driver training, haz mat training with Roseburg FD, wildland training with DFPA, large animal rescue, safety and operations classes with local utilities (Avista, Northwest Pipeline, Douglas Electric, Umpqua Basin Water), SDAO governance and ethics training, and numerous "wet" structural fire drills.

Our Firefighter 1 Academy has again stretched into 2018, as we gained new trainees and new Explorers. Future budgeted expenses include live fire training with propane as a finish to our FF1 program, incident command training, and certified wildland fire training for FF 1, FF 2, crew boss, and engine boss.

### **Facilities**

Facility maintenance was an issue identified while preparing our 25 year planning document in 2012. During 2017 and the 17/18 fiscal year, maintenance and improvements completed include the repair of fire hydrant underground supply in our parking lot, PPE drying equipment, more storage in the loft, and the start of conversion to LED lighting. Remaining improvements and maintenance for this year include finishing the bid process for asphalt repair, more PPE lockers, air system maintenance, overhead door maintenance, and continuing ADA improvements.

Extinguishers and safety equipment were maintained as required, building heating fuel was refilled, 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, and it may be cost effective to go outside for grant help and preparation. Financially, the District is sound and able to operate and maintain existing equipment and programs with our current budget. Any major new expenses or future capital projects will have to be funded by grant or other financial means.

As we begin 2018, the LRFD is seeking to upgrade our ISO rating and increase fire protection for our District. The Coos Bay Wagon Road/Flournoy Valley areas of our District are outside of a 5 mile radius recognized by the Insurance Service Office as a maximum travel distance for credit for our Class 6 rating. A satellite station with a redistribution of our equipment can address this issue while reducing response time, increasing fire protection District wide, and reducing insurance costs for many residents. The LRFD has a short term goal of creating a plan to identify funding sources and grant opportunities for the locating and purchase/leasing of a fire station site in the Flournoy Valley/Coos Bay Wagon area. This will include the type of building required, equipment to be stationed at the site, utility concerns, and a projected milestone/project timeline. I am committing to having a plan in place during the Fiscal Year 18/19, with a goal of being operational within 5 years with District and taxpayer approval.

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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