



Fire Department Report, October 2016

In September, We responded to 22 calls for service; 10 Medical, 1 Fire, 2 Motor vehicle accidents, 2 Assist Law Enforcement, 2 unauthorized burning, 2 Citizen assists, 1 hazardous materials, 1 animal rescue, and 1 false alarm. The Department completed 259 training and response hours in September. Additionally, I completed 129 admin hours bringing the departments total hours for August in at 388. We are continuing along a trend to once again set a response record in 2016, we are currently 1 month ahead of our busiest year to date, at this pace we will easily hit 200 calls this year.

Fire Chief Hours:

In June, I was able to take a few days off and leave town for a week. I still completed 154 hours. I have been placing required task on a to do list in an attempt to reduce my hours, however I am now having to stop working on required tasks just to stay below 40 hours a week.

Garibaldi Steering Committee:

The Committee had its final meeting Tue 10/04. During this meeting we discussed Chief Marugg's Steering Committee Final report and my Addendum to that report. The recommendation of the committee is to provide these reports to both City Councils and to suggest that the cities convene a committee to move forward with the formation of a fire district.

City Ordinances:

In last month's report, I asked about clarification of roles within the department. My main area of concern is volunteer activity and liability. I currently feel that I as Chief supervise and manage our volunteers. This would place them under the control of the city and covered by the City's insurance. There are however a few gaps in our ordinances and possibly even conflicting language. I request that staff be assigned to address these issues with a workshop or committee. This is of pressing concern, as the association is not planning any outside of normal meeting events until this is addressed.

Road side Conditions and Access:

*) Is there currently a plan for the mitigation of the slide on Portland Ave.? It appears to me to be moving with this recent rain. I have a concern that this slide could severely impact our response to a few residences in the area as it will exacerbate the closure of 9th St.

*) Access to 14th St, North of Spruce St. I have in the past asked about maintenance of Williams between 16th and 14th. This road was closed and gated due to concerns of vehicle traffic and mud. We have placed a frangible gate along the road way to block vehicle access. This road has overgrown to a point that it is impassable for fire apparatus. Would it be possible to clear the road and place some of our ODOT gravel in the roadway? The gate would continue to stop un wanted vehicle traffic, and I would have a secondary access to several residences. This is a concern due to the fact that residences on 14th and 15th our only currently accessible by less than standard roads. 14th is narrow and the initial Apparatus may entirely block this road. We had a structure fire here and experienced this vary issue. Luckily, we were able to mitigate the fire in the vehicle before the exposure of the house was fully involved. Had the house required more water, we would have been hard pressed to supply the required water do to the Hydrant on 14th and no access to secondary hydrants on 16th street. Regarding 15th St, there are two residences that we will have to fight from quite a way away. 15th St is so narrow that it is nearly a tunnel of brush, and we will not be able to approach from within that roadway. Currently, we would have to hand carry hose from Spruce St, and 16th St. this will result in an extreme delay, and the distinct possibility that we will have to fight defensibly and simply protect exposures.

*) Access to Main St. east of 9th, including the Dew point area. In the process of the Patterson creek project, and our near miss of last December, I would like to ask about the possibility of secondary access to this area. Should Main between 7th and 9th experience any issues with trees, and or the adjoining creek, we will have no access to the residences (Approx. 37) that are in this area.

Emergency Preparedness:

As winter approaches, the Fire Department will conduct needs assessment and training to mitigate winter type events and hazards. In the process, I think it is time for the City to re convene it's Emergency Preparedness Committee. The Fire Department would like to be part of such a process, but we cannot be the sole participant.

Fire Conditions:

As of Tue, Oct. 4 ODF has ended fire season. All permitted burning is currently allowed.

The Oregon Department of Forestry, announces that effective at **01:00 am, Tuesday, October 4, 2016**, Fire Season will be terminated in the **Northwest Oregon Forest Protection District**. This area includes all State, private and BLM forest lands included in the Astoria, Tillamook and Forest Grove Districts of the Oregon Department of Forestry. With the end of fire season, logging operations are no longer subject to fire protection laws, such as maintaining fire equipment at logging sites.

Recruiting:

Currently 1/3 of our department is new. This is good as we have new volunteers, and new energy. This also presents a huge burden for myself as I will focus more of my time toward training of these volunteers.

I am designing an online training program with action training. We are optimistic that this web based training will allow for all of our members to increase their knowledge via a self-paced program. Hopefully, this will allow us to focus our drill time on more psychomotor and skill training of critical Fire, EMS, and Rescue skills.

As always, if you know of anyone that would possibly be interested in a position within our volunteer staff, please let them know that we are in need of a couple more members.

Respectfully,

Darrell Griffith

Fire Chief

Bay City Fire Department

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