



Lane Fire Authority

P.O. Box 398, Veneta, Oregon 97487
541.935.2226
www.lanefire.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 22, 2015
Contact: Chief Terry Ney (541) 935-2226 terryney@lanefire.org

Fire Chief available to speak to community groups

[Veneta, Ore.] Fire Chief Terry Ney of Lane Fire Authority welcomes invitations to provide a 15-minute update to local service organizations and homeowner associations (HOAs) in its service territory. Lane Fire Authority's area covers 276 square miles in the Willamette Valley and was formed by combining two fire districts, Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue, which have operated under a special agreement since 2012.

"Our partnership is working – but it's not official yet," said Chief Ney. "Presenting to our community groups is one more way we can let the people we serve know how working together has improved emergency coverage and services for both fire districts."

Combining two fire districts is more cost-effective and efficient for taxpayers. Many fire agencies are forming regional partnerships to reduce costs and improve emergency services. By joining the fire districts together, Lane Fire Authority has reduced administrative overhead, as well as costs for training, equipment, fuel, and other supplies. The partnership could improve the property and casualty insurance rating for both fire districts, which means many homeowners and businesses would benefit from lower premiums.

Service levels have also improved since the operating agreement began. Now, Lane Fire Authority can respond to nearly all of its own emergencies, whereas before, the fire districts relied more on mutual aid from other agencies, which often took longer. Combining the fire districts enabled Lane Fire Authority to add one more ambulance, staff one more fire station full-time, and have additional emergency response units ready to respond.

Lane Fire Authority will likely ask voters to finalize the merger in 2016. Currently, it must have three boards of directors, pass three budgets, and pay for three insurance policies and audits every year. Voter approval to finalize the merger will reduce bureaucracy and save on expenses. It also will help the fire authority apply for some grants that its current organizational structure sometimes disqualifies it from.



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Chief Ney will provide a general overview of Lane Fire Authority and address the successes of the combined fire districts, as well as future plans in his presentation. To schedule a meeting time with Chief Ney, please contact him directly at (541) 935-2226 or terryney@lanefire.org.

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Lane Fire Authority provides fire, life safety and emergency medical services (EMS) to 36,000 residents over 276 square miles in the Willamette Valley. This new partnership is actually two fire districts – Lane County Fire District 1 and Lane Rural Fire/Rescue – operating under a special agreement since 2012 that saves money and improves emergency services for the community. Our career and volunteer emergency personnel respond to over 4,700 emergency calls per year, 85% of which are for EMS.



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