

Flash Point



LANE FIRE AUTHORITY

Spring/Summer Edition: 2022

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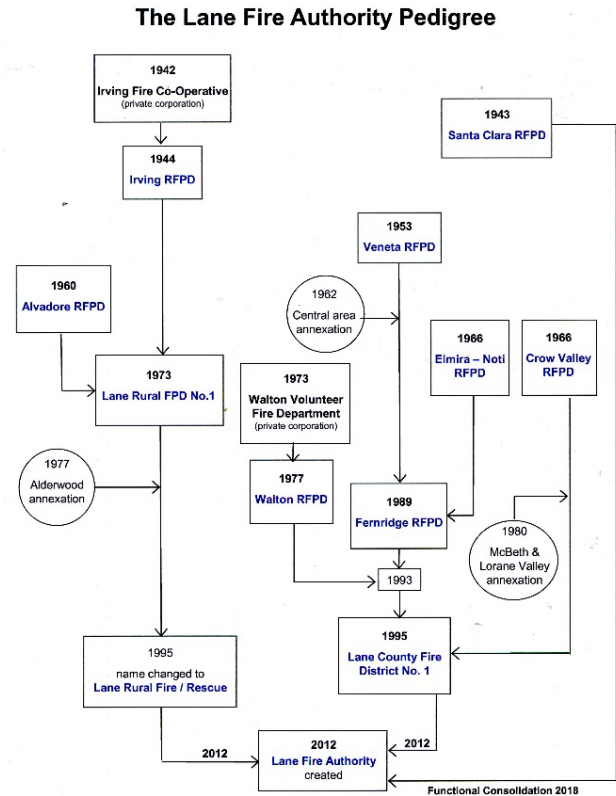
A Message from Chief Dale Borland: *As you can see, Lane Fire Authority's newsletter, **Flash Point**, has become an on-line, digital-only publication. The style of the newsletter has also changed from a three-column newspaper to a single column, making it easier to read on your smart phone, tablet or computer. The decision to move to a digital-only version of **Flash Point**, available on our website and other social media outlets, was driven by the ever-increasing costs for publication and distribution to nearly 18,000 addresses. For those of us raised on print media delivered to our homes, the transition to reading much of our information on a smart phone, tablet or computer has, at times, been difficult. But it's clearly been the path followed by many newspapers, magazines and other media. Plus, there are clearly advantages to an on-line newsletter. We are no longer constrained by the length of articles and the graphics and pictures that are included. As has always been the case, you, the reader, can pick and choose the articles to read, but we now have an opportunity to go into more depth and provide the reader with a greater variety of articles.*

*Through word of mouth and using social media, we want to assure our patrons that **Flash Point** has not gone away. We will continue to publish the district newsletter twice a year -- in the spring to remind our patrons about the end of burn season and feature articles about summer safety and other timely information; and to feature a articles related to winter preparedness, information on safe yard waste burning (for those who live in areas where burning is permitted), a copy of Lane Regional Air Protection Agency's Outdoor Burn Regulations and other seasonal articles.*

*We understand that some of our long-time readers may find the transition to an all on-line newsletter format difficult but we hope that we can still deliver quality, useful information. If you have suggestions for articles that might appear in **Flash Point**, please contact the editor, Stan Turner by email: stanturner@lanefire.org*

On July 1, 2022 Lane Fire Authority will mark its first ten years as a unified organization.

Our heritage dates back nearly eighty years to the formation of the Irving Fire Cooperative in 1942. LFA member Fred Scalise has written an excellent history of the department. The final segment, on the history of the Santa Clara RFPD that appears in this issue of **Flash Point**. To the right is a timeline Fred developed showing when each department was formed as well as the various mergers that have occurred over the years. A complete history of the department will be available in a month or two on LFA's webpage.





LFA in 2021 and 2022 – what the numbers tell us about who we are and What We’ve Done (Data based on reports from the National Fire Incident Reporting System and data taken from Fire Manager):

Lane Fire Authority prides itself on providing quality training and support for a diverse membership made up of paid career staff, out-of-district volunteers (many wanting to pursue careers in the fire service) and neighborhood volunteers who live in Lane Fire Authority’s district and are committed to making contributions to their community.

Who are the members of Lane Fire Authority? About 22% are female and 78% male. The average age of an LFA member is 35.5, with ages ranging from 18 to 77. About 55% of our members are volunteers and 45% are paid staff.

Lane Fire Authority has 5 Support staff, four are paid and one is a volunteer (Business Manager, Executive Secretary, Recruitment and Retention Coordinator, Quartermaster, and Media Production)

Among Lane Fire Authority’s volunteers: four are Resident Volunteers (1 living at Station 101 and 3 living at Station 116), 20 volunteers live out of the fire district s (most planning on careers in Fire/EMS) and 20 in-district volunteers: 7 doing shifts and 13 responding to neighborhood stations.

Ratio: Female to Male Officers in LFA

Lieutenant: 2 women (29%) 5 men (71%)

Captain: 2 women (50%) 4 men (50%)

Note: On July 1, the female to male ratios will change with a female lieutenant moving to a captain’s position.

Chief officer: 0 women (0%) 2 men (100%)

Total officers: 5 women (33%) 10 men



LFA call volume since the LCFD 1 & Lane Rural Fire/Rescue Merger and the functional consolidation with Santa Clara Fire Department:

2014 – 4,728 (first full year of consolidation)
 2015 – 4,811
 2016 – 5,102
 2017 – 5,276
 2018 – 5,889
 2019 - 6,196 (first full year with Santa Clara added)
 2020 – 5,907 (count down because of “COVID factor”)
 2021 – 6,815

Summary of our calls in 2021 (Source: January 1, 2022 National Fire Incident Reporting System Report):

REPORT CARD
LANE FIRE AUTHORITY

NFIRS SUBMISSION SUMMARY

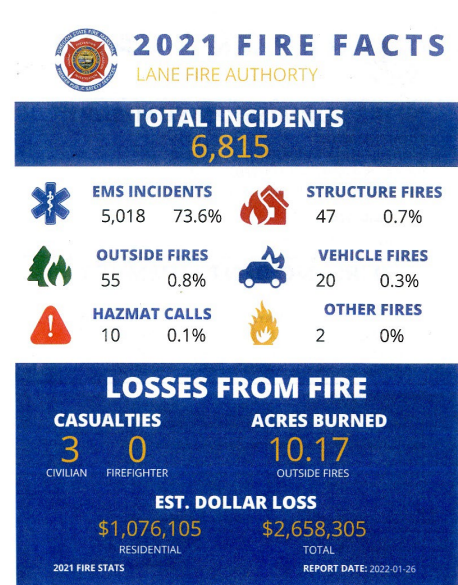
TOTAL INCIDENTS:	6,815
INCIDENTS FULLY VALIDATED:	6,800
INCIDENTS PARTIALLY VALIDATED:	15
INCIDENTS NO VALIDATION SCORE:	0
PCT. VALIDATED:	99.8%
AVERAGE DAYS TO SUBMIT TO OSFM:	17

NFIRS INCIDENT SUMMARY
TOTAL INCIDENTS BY MONTH

JANUARY: 478	MAY: 525	SEPTEMBER: 585
FEBRUARY: 447	JUNE: 608	OCTOBER: 602
MARCH: 494	JULY: 643	NOVEMBER: 565
APRIL: 562	AUGUST: 703	DECEMBER: 603

OSFM COMMENTS:
This newly created agency-specific tool is a quick at-a-glance status check of your agency's fire incident reporting, based solely on what has been received from your agency. This tool is still under development. If you notice a discrepancy or have any suggestions for improvements, please do not hesitate to contact us at 1-877-588-8787 or OSFMData@osp.oregon.gov

GLOSSARY:
 Structure Fire: Incident Type Code starts with 11 or 12
 Hazardous: Incident Type Code starts with 41, 42, 43, or 45
 Outside Fire: Incident Type Code starts with 14, 15, 16, or 17
 Other Fire: Incident Type Code starts with 10
 EMS: Incident Type Code starts with 3
 Residential: Property Use Code starts with 4
 N/A: No Runs Submitted. Agency reported no runs for the month.
 MD: Missing data. Please submit incidents or N/A.
 REPORT DATE: 2022-01-26





End of Burn Season/Start of Fire Season

On or before June 15, 2022, burn season will end for the summer and fall. To determine when and whether you can legally burn yard waste, please first always call the Lane Regional Air Protection Agency, Residential Outdoor Burning Advisory Line, 541-726-3976.

Important information from Western Lane County, Oregon Department of Forestry:



2022 Fire Season Updates

Each year, Western Lane District is responsible for providing wildland fire fighting in Western Lane County and Northern Douglas County from I-5 to the coast. This includes the regulation of spark emitting activities and open fires during fire season. These regulations affect activities performed by the general-public on private and public land throughout the district and within 1/8 of a mile there of. The regulations provided during fire season are referred to as the “Public Use Restrictions.” We use the Regulated Use Proclamation system to alert the public of these changes. Always use the chart below to make sure it is legal to operate during such closures and research the daily fire danger by contacting Oregon Department of Forestry’s hotline, at 541-935-2222 to listen to the daily fire danger. This is different than the IFPL levels for industrial activities as seen later in this publication.



Color Code meanings (see the chart on page 9):

Low = Green (Most activities are allowed all day- (see public use restrictions chart)

Moderate = Blue (Most activities are allowed until 1 PM- (see public use restrictions chart)

High= Yellow (Most activities are allowed until 10 AM- (see public use restrictions chart)

Extreme = Red (All spark emitting activities are prohibited during this time- (see public use restrictions chart)

- ❖ These levels are updated daily by the Oregon Department of Forestry based on current and expected weather conditions, available resources and neighboring assistance availability.

FINDING CURRENT FIRE DANGER DURING FIRE SEASON

FOR WESTERN LANE DISTRICT

www.facebook.com/ODFwesternlane

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/restricions.aspx>

Oregon Department of Forestry Hotline

541-935-2222

ODF Western Lane - Public Use Restrictions

Updated: May 22, 2020



<p><u>Western Lane Closure Line (541) 935-2222</u> <u>Facebook: ODF Western Lane</u></p>		FIRE DANGER LEVEL			
		Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
<p>Debris Burning is <u>Prohibited</u>. Debris burning is not allowed during fire season.</p>		Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
<p>Smoking is <u>Prohibited</u>. Smoking is prohibited at all times in forestlands, <u>except</u> inside vehicles on improved roads, in boats on the water, and other designated areas.</p>		Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
<p>Use of Fireworks is <u>Prohibited</u>.</p>		Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
<p>Sky Lanterns and Target Practice with tracer rounds or exploding targets are <u>Prohibited</u>.</p>		Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
The Following Activities Have Various Restrictions					
<p>Campfires, including charcoal fires, cooking fires, and warming fires are <u>Restricted</u>. When allowed, a shovel and water source or 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher must be readily available. Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuels are allowed at all times.</p>		Allowed at Designated Locations	Allowed at Designated Locations	Allowed at Designated Locations	Not Allowed
<p>Chainsaw use is <u>Restricted</u>. When allowed, each saw being used must have one shovel and one fire extinguisher of at least 8 ounce capacity. A firewatch of at least one hour is required following saw use.</p>		Allowed All Day	Allowed Before 1pm and after 8pm	Allowed Before 10am and after 8pm	Not Allowed
<p>Cutting, Grinding, and Welding of Metal is <u>Restricted</u>. When allowed, the work area must be cleared of flammable materials and have either a charged hose or 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher available.</p>		Allowed All Day	Allowed Before 1pm and after 8pm	Allowed Before 10am and after 8pm	Not Allowed
<p>Mowing/Cutting of Dried, Cured Grass is <u>Restricted</u>. The cultivation and harvest of agricultural crops is exempt from this requirement.</p>		Allowed All Day	Allowed Before 1pm and after 8pm	Allowed Before 10am and after 8pm	Not Allowed
<p>Off-road Motorized Vehicle use is <u>Restricted</u>. All vehicles, including motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles, operating on unimproved roads and areas that contain flammable vegetation are restricted to the listed times. Motorized Vehicle use on <u>improved</u> roads, free of flammable vegetation, is allowed at all times.</p>		Allowed All Day	Allowed Before 1pm and after 8pm	Allowed Before 10am and after 8pm	Not Allowed
<p>Any other spark-emitting internal combustion engine is <u>Restricted</u>. When allowed, area must be cleared of flammable materials and have either a charged hose or 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher available.</p>		Allowed All Day	Allowed Before 1pm and after 8pm	Allowed Before 10am and after 8pm	Not Allowed



2019-2021 - The leading causes for wildfires in Western Lane District the past 3 years include:

- Carbon sparks from vehicles – (bad exhaust)
- Equipment use –(lawn mower, weed eater, chain saw, weed torch, tractor)
- Burning without a permit/ Burning during poor conditions
- Arson

Here are a few activities that affect the public during regulated use closures:

Lawn Mowing

- Mowing green well-watered grass directly around your home is allowed all hours on all days.
- Mowing of dried and cured grass on or around your home you must follow the restriction as detailed below:
 - During **Low or green** fire danger days you can mow all day
 - During **Moderate or Blue** fire danger days you must shut down by 1:00PM or you may start after 8:00 PM
 - During **High or Yellow** fire danger days you must shut down by 10:00AM or you may start after 8:00 PM
 - During **Extreme or Red** fire danger days mowing is shut down all day

Equipment Use & Spark emitting activities

- All activities must adhere to shut down times as shown on the regulated use proclamation/Public Use Restriction matrix
- Weed eating, tractor work, chain saws, welders, grinding of metal, off road vehicles and other spark emitting internal combustion engines are all included in this group.



- Several activities require a firewatch, fire tools, a charged garden hose or fire extinguisher to operate. Refer to the Public Use restrictions base on daily fire danger level for your specific requirements.

Camp Fires

- Campfires including charcoal fires, cooking fires and warming fires are restricted during fire season.
- When allowed in (designated areas only) you must have the following: a shovel, water source or a 2 ½ pound or larger fire extinguisher readily available to suppress a fire.
- When having a campfire at a designated location, you should always check the daily fire danger, and follow all posted regulations at designated sites, attend and fully extinguish the campfire prior to departure.
- **Designated locations** in Western Lane District include: Whittaker Creek Camp ground, Clay Creek campground, Archie Knowles campground, Camp Lane, Harbor Vista campground, Smith River Falls campground, Vincent Creek camp ground, and Honeyman State Park, Richardson Park and Carl Washburn State Park.
- Portable cooking stoves using liquefied or bottled fuel are allowed at all times as long as they are operated in an area clear of all flammable vegetation. **Fire cause statistics For Western Lane District:**

Note: Most pre-fire season fires are caused by escaped debris burns.



Industrial logging & Industrial work during fire season - (IFPL LEVELS)

These jobs are regulated using what is called the IFPL levels. Also referred to as **Level 1, 2, 3, or 4**

Industrial Fire Precaution Levels (**IFPLs**) are different than the Regulated Use/Public Use Restrictions. IFPLs deal with industrial activities including logging, land clearing, field mowing, and road building.

- A permit (Notification of Operation) must be filed with the Oregon Department of Forestry prior to working
- Operators are required to have hand tools, fire equipment, a fire truck or water wagon, and do a 1 or 2 hour fire watch after shutting down for the day.
- Operation work hours fluctuate during fire season based on current conditions as outlined by the Oregon Department of Forestry for areas WT-1 and SL-2.
- Level 1 can operate all day
- Level 2 can operate until 1 -subject to permit guidance from ODF
- Level 3 can operate until 1 -subject to permit guidance from ODF with increased restrictions
- Level 4 activities are shut down completely

Operators must call the forestry hotline daily to hear the fire level for industrial activities based on Weather zones WT-1 or SL-2.

Fire Weather Zones:

Western Lane District has two weather zones. These are broken into **Coastal Zone 612 (SL-2)** that sits on the west side of the coast range. This area tends to have weather influenced by the ocean, resulting in a few degrees of cooling, wind and a reduced fire danger level because of it.

On the opposite side of the district, we have **Interior Zone 603 (WT-1)**. Interior Zone 603 resides in the valley area. It sits east of the coast range and has higher temperatures, lower humidity and minimal wind during the day. This area does not normally have the ocean influence.

Keep in mind ...Fire danger will fluctuate based on fire danger and weather zone.

What to do with yard debris you can't burn



Lane Fire Authority encourages you to consider alternative ways to dispose of your yard debris throughout the year. Recycling is a great way to help keep you and your neighbors safe from the dangers of fire and reduce the amount of air pollution.

So, what can one do to get rid of yard debris as an alternative to burning?

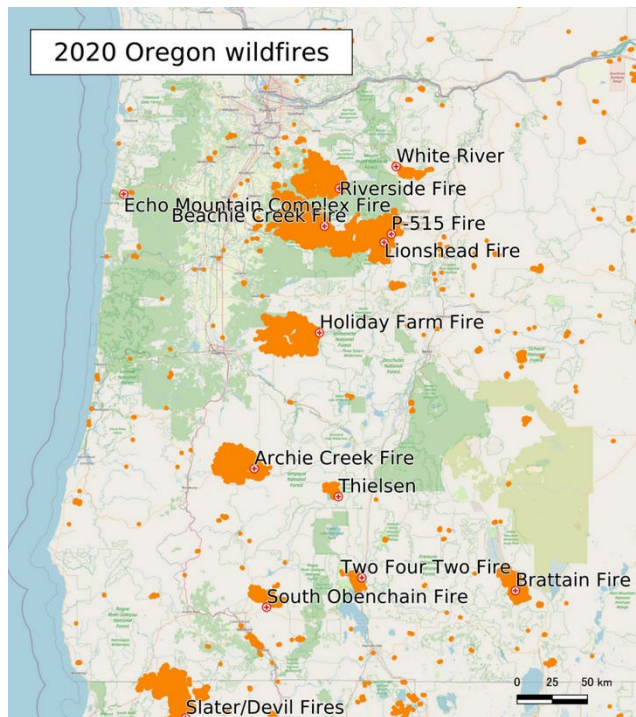
Mulching your yard debris to place around plants is a great way to retain the moisture in soil surrounding the plants. It also helps slow the growth of weeds in your plant beds.



Composting is a great way to recycle yard debris year-around. Leaves, grass, wood chips and other organic material can provide nutrients to the plants in your yard without costing a lot of money. Contact the OSU Extension Service in Lane County for more information, or go to their website at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/lane/gardens>.

Protecting Your Home and Property from Wildland and Urban Fires

With the arrival of summer, it is once again time for everyone living within the boundaries of Lane Fire Authority to review the precautions that need to be taken to protect lives, homes and property from wildland and home fires. The devastating fires last summer and fall in western Oregon and northern California are a reminder that no one is immune from fire no matter whether you live in an urban or rural setting.



To the right is a map of the major wildland fires in Oregon in 2020. Though the map is two years old, the fire patterns have not appreciably changed. It is important to note that these fires burned through residential urban areas. Thousands of homes and forested areas and thousands of homes were lost. The fires were often related to dry and windy conditions compounded by lack of access and/or the presence of defensible spaces.

While you can never totally eliminate the threat of fire, there are steps that you can take to reduce the danger and the associated catastrophic loss that others have experienced. The following items are prevention and protection ideas gleaned from a variety of local, state and national firefighting and fire-prevention agencies including the Oregon



Department of Forestry and Cal-Fire. The key? Can your house survive a wildfire until or without the fire department?

- First and foremost, develop a plan of escape from your home in the event of any type of fire.

- Do you have working smoke detectors in all the key areas in your home?

- Have you identified escape routes from your home and a safe place away from the fire for all family members to meet once outside?

- Are your windows no more than four feet above floor level and when open, is the opening no less than 22 inches by 22 inches?

- Do you have at least two exits out of your house? If your home is two-story, is there a way for your to escape from the second floor other than the interior stairway (if not, consider purchasing an escape ladder).

- Make sure your address is clearly visible from the road.** Weeds, brush and tree limbs should be trimmed away, so that the address marker can be easily seen. If your address marker is missing or damaged, please call LFA at (541) 935-2226, to arrange for an installation or repair. There is no charge for this service.

- The driveway to your home and structures must be at least 12 feet wide with 2-foot margins on each side. Private roads must be at least 20 feet wide. Overhanging limbs and other vegetation should be cleared away.

- Vegetation and trees around your house and other buildings can be a quick and devastating way for fire to spread to your home. The key to dealing with vegetation around your home and creating a “defensible space” is to remember the “Three R’s: Removal (elimination of entire plants, trees and shrubs), Reduction (removal of limbs, leaves and

debris), and Replacement (replacing removed plants and trees with less flammable, well-spaced vegetation, such as a flower bed.)





To create a barrier of protection or a “Defensible Space:”

- Trim tree branches so they don’t hang over any portion of your home.
- Evergreens in particular should have their branches trimmed at least 15 feet above the ground.
- Any portion of a tree or other vegetation within ten feet of any chimney or stove pipe should be removed.
- Remove brush and other things that burn easily from at least 30 feet around your house and other buildings and at least 100 feet on the down hill side (Note: The steeper the slope, the greater the distance that should be cleared beyond 100 feet.).
- Make sure that vegetation around power lines has been cleared. (Note: This must be done with extreme caution. Consult your local power company. They may provide this service and can also give important advice.)
- Clean your roof and rain gutters, removing all accumulated debris including needles, leaves, moss, and other flammable material.
- Stack and store your firewood at least 30 to 100 feet from your home and if applicable, on the upslope side.
- Remove combustible materials and debris that have accumulated under decks and terraces.
- Block off all open spaces under your deck with solid sheeting or fine-mesh wire (no larger than 1/8th inch). In the event of a wildland fire, this will prevent embers from blowing under the deck.



- Also use fine-mesh wire to cover exterior attic and under-floor vents. If possible, do the same with barns, implement buildings and other structures on your property.
- If you live in a manufactured home, make sure that the skirting around the base is totally intact, with no openings.
- If your home is on stilts or there are open spaces under your home, encase all of this area using sheeting.
- Place a flue-cap or mesh screen (not to exceed ½ inch) on your chimney or stove pipe. This precaution will reduce the chances that a fire in your own fireplace or stove will send hot embers onto your roof.
- Clean your chimney or stovepipe at least once a year to remove creosote buildup. Do it more frequently if you have to burn wet wood. This will reduce the chances of having a flue fire.
- Install nonflammable shutters that can be closed over your windows in the event of a wildland fire.
- When replacing or installing drapes, consider using fire-resistant materials. An approaching wildland fire puts out a tremendous amount of radiant heat. Pulled drapes or curtains can reduce the amount of heat transferred to the interior of a home.
- If you have a wooden shingle or shake roof, consider replacing it with metal, lightweight cement, tile, or Class-A asphalt shingles.
- Install spark arresters on small engines and equipment. Every year we get calls to extinguish brush fires started by machinery.



- Don't attach a wooden fence to your home. Instead, if a fence must be attached to the house, use some type of metal or decorative iron for the last 10 to 20 feet.
- If you have a large-volume source of water on your property, such as a pond or swimming pool, is it accessible to fire apparatus? Fire vehicles with pumps often have the capability to "draft" (draw) water, but the source must be close to a road and no lower than 15 feet in elevation.
- Maintain a cache of tools that can be used to fight a small brush fire, including shovels, rakes and at least 100 feet of garden hose that is attached to a working water source.
- Consider setting up a sprinkler system around the outside of your house that can be used to wet the surrounding area. Also consider setting up a sprinkler system on your roof.
- Once you have cleared a defensible space around your home and other buildings, landscape with vegetation that is spaced so that fire cannot be carried to the structures. Consider plantings that are drought and fire resistant. Local nurseries and the Oregon Extension Service (<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/>) can be helpful in making suggestions on what to plant.
- Dispose of stove and fireplace ashes and charcoal briquettes only after soaking them in a metal pail of water.
- Store gasoline and other flammable liquids in approved containers and place them away from occupied buildings.



- Propane tanks should be far enough away from buildings so that the supply valves can be shut off in case of fire. Keep the area around the tank cleared of combustible vegetation.



Lane Fire Authority's Community Involvement Activities for 2021 & 2022

Lane Fire Authority believes an important part of our commitment to our greater community is supporting its major events and activities, From the fall of 2021 to the summer of 2022, members and apparatus from Lane Fire Authority has (or will have) participated in the following events:

Jerry's Fire and Life Safety Day: Each year in October, Lane Fire Authority joins with a variety of emergency and rescue agencies, including the Lane County Sheriff's Office and the United States Coast Guard. The annual event at the Highway 99 Jerry's offers the public an opportunity to visit with first responders, ask questions and watch live demonstrations of rescue techniques and fire suppressions.



Veneta Harvest Festival

At Veneta's annual Harvest Festival we promote bicycle safety, acquaint the public with our equipment and apparatus and answer questions. The Harvest Festival has been a fundraiser to support the programs housed in the new Fern Ridge Service Center. Harvest Festival activities have included live music, farm, food and artisan booths, a pie baking contest, chili cook off, kid zone, and pancake breakfast.



Stuff the Truck: Annually in late November and early December, Lane Fire Authority works with the Kiwanis of Fern Ridge, collecting non-perishable food, toys and cash used to fill holiday gift boxes for the needy who live locally. The food collected, the cash raised, and the money donated by the Volunteer Firefighters Association, collectively helped the Kiwanis of Fern Ridge assemble Holiday Food Boxes which were distributed on Saturday, December 15 to local families in need.



Veneta Light Parade: On Thursday, December 6th, 2019, Lane Fire Authority's 1952 Mack fire engine, piloted by Lt. Tressa Miller, once again ferried Santa and led the Veneta Light Parade. A variety of LFA apparatus followed at the end of the parade along with six LFA members who walked the parade distributing candy.



Spencer Creek Neighborhood Light Parade: This event was first held in December of 2021, organized by neighbors living in the Spencer Creek valley. Personnel and apparatus from LFA's South Battalion have participated.



Veneta's Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Veneta Elementary School on Sunday, April 20th: LFA once again participated in Veneta's annual Easter Egg Hunt by bringing several pieces of apparatus, personnel and the Easter Bunny. This year Ms. Bunny was joined by quite a cast of characters, including a carrot.



Classroom visits: Fire Authority members have made presentations in classrooms and demonstrated the use of equipment and apparatus on local school grounds.



Harrisburg 4th of July Parade: After a two-year hiatus, Lane Fire Authority will be sending apparatus to Harrisburg to participate in the community's annual 4th of July Parade. LFA is often called to assist the Harrisburg Fire Department on incidents (and they do likewise on some of our calls), and LFA's participation demonstrates our support for our surrounding communities.



Eugene Rodeo: LFA frequently provides medical standby at the annual Eugene Rodeo.



Lane Fire Authority's Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment Program

The application process for our Fall 2022 Volunteer Firefighter Academy is currently open. Please make an appointment with our Recruitment/Retention Coordinator, Mark Boren prior to 11:00am on August 4th to pick up an application packet and do a 3 minute scripted video interview. The last day/time to turn in an application will be 3:30pm on August 8th. The best way to get ahold of Mark is by email: markboren@lanefire.org Scan the QR codes below to go directly to our website for more information on our Volunteer Program and to follow Lane Fire on Instagram.





Lane Fire Authority Honors the Accomplishments of Its Members Over the Past Eight Months

Promotions:

Barry Nelson – Captain – August 4, 2021.



Hope Taylor and Katherine Leavengood -
Firefighter - Wednesday, October 6,
2021.



Josh Reynolds & Mikah Reed – Engineer
Wednesday, June 1, 2022.



LFA Members Recognized at the annual LFA Awards Banquet



On Saturday, February 26th, LFA's annual Awards Banquet was held at Shadow Hills Country Club in Junction City. A special thank you to everyone who was able to attend and show support for the achievements of their fellow firefighters.

The following members of Lane Fire Authority were recognized at the Recognition Banquet:

Three Years of Service in LFA Award:

Ryan Holmes, Matt Trabosh, Katherine Leavengood, Mark Peabody, Josh Renolds, and Justin Troup.

(Pictured l to r: Chief Dale Borland, Josh Renolds, Ryan Holmes, Matt Trabosh, Katherine Leavengood, Mark Peabody, Assist. Chief Randy Wood. Not pictured: Justin Troop.)



Five Years of Service Award: Mikah Reed, Ashley Delamater & Justin Ferguson

(Pictured l to r: Mikah Reed, Ashley Delamater, Assist. Chief Randy Wood. Not pictured: Justin Ferguson.)



Ten Years of Service Award:

Jeremy Howland

(Pictured l to r: Assist. Chief Randy Wood, Jeremy Howland, Chief Dale Borland.)



Fifteen Years of Service Award: Tim Bohn, Brian Sayles & Lauri Heppel

(Pictured l to r: Chief Dale Borland, Tim Bohn, Brian Sayles, Assist. Chief Randy Wood. Not pictured, Laurie Heppel)



Twenty Years of Service: Bill Potterf

(Pictured l to r: Chief Borland, Bill Potterf, Assist. Chief Randy Wood)



Thirty-Five Years of Service Award:
Chris Staniak

(Pictured l to r: Chief Borland, Chris Staniak, Assist. Chief Randy Wood)



Rookie of the Year: Berea Brush

(Pictured l to r: Chief Dale Borland, Berea Brush & Lt. Jesse West)



Firefighter of the Year: Thomas Gish

(Pictured l to r: Lt. Tressa Miller, Thomas Gish, Chief Dale Borland)



Officer of the Year: Megan Gray

(Pictured l to r: Chief Dale Borland, Lt. Megan Gray, Assist. Chief Randy Wood)



Provider of the Year: Bill Potterf

(l to r: Lt. Jesse West, Bill Potterf, Jennifer Potterf & Chief Dale Borland)



Unit Citation: *In January of 2021, responders from Lane Fire Authority were able to rapidly extricate a patient from a badly damaged vehicle and provide life-saving treatment which directly contributed to the patient's survival. The following members of Lane Fire Authority were recognized for their contributions.*

Recipients included: Hayley Evans, Brandon Hart, Katy Garcia, Ryan Holmes, Katy Johnson, John Maxwell, Mark Peabody and Tim Welch. *(Pictured l to r: Assist. Chief Randy Wood, John Maxwell, Brandon Hart, Tim Welch, Ryan Holmes, Katy Garcia, Mark Peabody, Chief Dale Borland. Not pictured: Hayley Evans, Katy Johnson).*



Bob Colwell to Retire: Bob began his fire service career in 1994 as a volunteer with Lane Rural Fire/Rescue. Simultaneously he enrolled in the Fire Service program at Chemekata Community College where he earned a Fire Science degree in 1995 and was hired by Lane Fire/Rescue as a firefighter two weeks later. Bob was promoted to lieutenant in 1997 and to captain two years later. For seven years he was the primary Fire Skills instructor for LRFR. Bob made a major contribution to Lane Rural when he spent countless hours over a two year period helping secure an ambulance ASA for the district. When the ASA was awarded in May 2002, Lane Rural was sanctioned to provide area ambulance transportation and Bob began to pull twenty-four hour ambulance shifts. A year later he was one of the key leaders in unionizing Lane Rural firefighters and EMS personnel, with the help of IAAF, and has been on the Executive Committee for ten years. From 2003 to the present, Bob has been on the bargaining team for every labor contract.





History of the Santa Clara Rural Fire Protection District



By Fred Scalise

(Editor's Note: This is the seventh in a series of articles written by Lane Fire Authority's firefighter and historian Fred Scalise. Fred's history of Santa Clara's Rural Fire Protection District completes his incredible effort to document the history of each of the departments that make up Lane Fire Authority. He spent literally several hundred hours conducting interviews, reading documents and compiling information that has become the history of Lane Fire Authority. Starting in the fall of 2013 with a history of the Irving Rural Fire Protection District, each chapter has appeared separately in issues of Nozzle News. The full history will now be available on LFA's website.)



In 1888, Colonel J.A. Straight, and his wife Mary, filed a plat for a new land subdivision in the L. Poindexter Donation Land Claim, located approximately halfway between Eugene and Junction City. They named this subdivision *Santa Clara*, after their former hometown in California. The boundaries for the original Santa Clara plat started at the intersection of River Road and Irving Road, ran north along River Road to Irvington Road, and then from both north and south points on River Road, east to the Willamette River. By the early 20th Century, additions to Santa Clara had also been platted on the west side of River Road between Irving and Irvington Roads.

In its early days, Santa Clara was a sparsely-populated but more-or-less self-sufficient farming community, abundant with orchards. But the one thing the community didn't have was a fire department. Prior to the early 1940s, if something caught fire, Santa Clara residents would have to wait a minimum of 30 – 50 minutes for firemen from either Junction City, or downtown Eugene, to show up and extinguish the flames *. And that's of course assuming that these fire departments even chose to respond to an out-of-jurisdiction area at all. In most cases, buildings that caught fire in Santa Clara pretty much burned to the ground long before a fire department arrived on-scene.

As Europe and the Far East descended into war in the late 1930s, the United States government quietly prepared for the likelihood that we too would eventually be drawn into the conflict. Part of those preparations was the organization of a civil defense apparatus, whose role would be to assure the continuation of essential services if our country was attacked. December 7, 1941, the attack on Pearl Harbor, brought both a declaration of war and the deployment of civil defense in the U.S.



At the end of 1941, there was significant concern about the likely loss of policemen and firemen to wartime military service. And on the West Coast, there was genuine fear of the possibility of invasion or aerial bombardment by the Imperial Japanese armed forces. To ensure that there continued to be adequate emergency response capabilities, auxiliary police and firefighting units were formed and trained as part of the civil defense program. In the greater Eugene area, formation of reserve and auxiliary police and firefighter units began, as part of the Lane County civil defense system, in mid-January 1942.

On May 7, 1942, newly-designated auxiliary firemen from the Irving and Santa Clara communities, together with volunteers from other areas north and west of Eugene, met at the Eugene fire station (in downtown Eugene) for instruction and training in fire prevention, first aid, firefighting, and controlling fires started by incendiary bombs.

Having locally-based fire response capability apparently sat well with the citizens of the Santa Clara community, as a petition calling for the formation of a formal fire district was circulated by local residents throughout the summer of 1943. A public hearing to discuss the matter was held on September 27, 1943, and Santa Clara residents approved the creation of a tax-base supported fire district at the November 1943 election. The Santa Clara Rural Fire Protection District (SCRFPD) was officially recognized and chartered by Lane County shortly thereafter. The original fire district was centered on River Road: It started at Luckey Lane (1/2 mile north of Beacon Drive) on the north, ran to just south of Howard Avenue on the south, and covered much of the area between the Willamette River and Prairie Road (excepting the area around the town of Irving).



Harold Overgard was selected to be the first fire chief, and guided the new district through the World War II and early post-war years. Fire apparatus was originally garaged at a small station house located at 2683 River Road, just south of the former Santa Clara Elementary School (southeast quadrant of the intersection of River Road and Irving Road).

As a result of the post-war Baby Boom, and the benefits available through the G.I. Bill, the population within the Santa Clara Fire District began rapidly expanding in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The farm and orchard lands that had comprised most of the Santa Clara community were now suddenly sprouting housing subdivisions. And as the population increased, so did the demands on the fire district.

Henry Mortensen led the District as fire chief throughout most of the 1950s. A fire station was constructed at 2619 River Road (northeast corner of River Road and Green Lane) in the early 1950s, but by 1959, was already inadequate for the needs of the rapidly-growing fire district. Construction of a new station at 2600 River Road, across the street from the earlier one, was started in 1960. The new Station 1, large enough to house two fire engines and a rescue truck, opened for service in 1961.

Like most rural fire departments, Santa Clara RFPD was never flush with money; the tax base was never quite enough to keep up with operating expenses. And again, like many districts, the Santa Clara fire department used fund-raising events, such as auctions and garage sales, to make up the shortfall. The most successful fund-raiser for Santa Clara Fire District was its annual chicken barbeque. Started in 1957, it was a late summer event, much anticipated by the entire community, for almost 60 years (the last Chicken BBQ was held in August 2016).

Post-war growth within the District brought changes to the way the fire department was managed. From the District's inception in 1943, all of the Santa Clara fire chiefs were part-time, unpaid, volunteers. But by the late 1950s, it was close to impossible to manage the business of the



fire department on a part-time basis, and no one seemed particularly excited about doing the job for free. So in 1960, the Board of Directors hired Jack Lamb to be the District's first paid, full-time fire chief.

Population growth continued throughout the 1960s, and during Chief Lamb's tenure, the Santa Clara Fire District transformed from a small rural fire department, to a modern suburban protection district. In 1964, the District bought its first new, modern apparatus, a 1964 Ford fire engine that could pump 1,000 gallons of water per minute (2 -3 times more flow than the District's older engines), and carried 800 gallons of water in its tank (about twice the capacity of each of the two original fire engines). The new Ford fire engine was specifically designed for responses to the large, hard-to-control grass and field fires that were common within the District in the summer months in those days.

The District's call volume continued to increase in the 1970s, brought on by a number of new, large housing developments and significant commercial growth along River Road.

In 1971, Santa Clara RFPD, like many other fire departments, assumed the role of medical first responders. To provide emergency medical services, many of the District's volunteer firefighters became trained as emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and a Ford rescue van was acquired. And the District's first two fire engines, now very well worn, were finally retired after a new engine was purchased in 1972.

To accommodate the need for more equipment, and to help minimize response times in the growing northern portion of the District, a second fire station (3939 River Road), funded by federal Community Development Block Grant money, was opened in 1978. This allowed for the acquisition of two additional fire engines. By 1986, when Skip Smith took the reins as fire chief, the Santa Clara Fire District had a fleet



of four fire engines, two rescue trucks, one utility pickup, one fire prevention vehicle, and one Chief's staff vehicle divided between the two fire stations.

But the 1980s and 1990s brought two major challenges to the Santa Clara Fire District.

The first challenge had to do with jurisdiction and response area. The City of Eugene had long-coveted the Santa Clara area for future expansion space, and when state-wide land use planning laws were adopted in 1973, the City's "urban growth boundary" (the Willamette River on the east, Beacon Drive on the north, and Highway 99N on the west) came to include most of the Santa Clara community.

In the 1970s, studies conducted by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) concluded that failing septic systems in the River Road and Santa Clara areas were contaminating groundwater. This led to a moratorium on installation of new septic tanks in the River Road / Santa Clara area in 1972, followed by a complete moratorium on new building construction in 1978. Another groundwater study, issued in 1980, led DEQ to declare that a "public health hazard" existed in the River Road / Santa Clara communities.

Santa Clara residents, increasingly wary of Eugene's intentions and not at all excited about annexation and loss of community identity, went so far as to submit a proposal to the Lane County Boundary Commission, in 1983, for the creation of the City of Santa Clara. The proposal failed, in part, because of the lack of sewers in the area.

The City of Eugene obtained a grant from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in 1984, to extend sanitary sewer services into the River Road and Santa Clara areas. Sewer installation began in the mid-1980s, and continued well into the 1990s.



The City initially began annexing affected Santa Clara properties by City Council resolution, without the consent of property owners or any type of public vote, but this process was overturned by the Oregon Court of Appeals in 1986. In 1990, the City of Eugene adopted an ordinance that required River Road / Santa Clara property owners to abandon their septic tanks and connect to the new sewer system, but without forced annexation into the City. Instead, properties with existing septic tanks would only be annexed when the property was subsequently sold. Additionally, all new construction in the Santa Clara area would automatically become part of the City of Eugene.

For many years, this process had no significant impact on the Santa Clara Rural Fire Protection District. The City of Eugene and SCRFPD had entered into an inter-governmental agreement in 1983, stipulating that the Santa Clara fire department would continue to provide response coverage for the annexed properties, and would receive an in-lieu-of-tax payment from the City for doing so. But in 2002, the City surprised everyone by terminating the coverage contract and payments, and deploying Eugene Fire Department units to respond to annexed properties located in the Santa Clara area. This immediately resulted in a jurisdictional checkerboard, with different properties within the Santa Clara community receiving services from different agencies: One property might be served by Santa Clara Fire District, while the next door neighbor might be served by the Eugene Fire Department.

But a more ominous consequence was the financial impact to the Santa Clara Rural Fire Protection District. By 2002, more than a third of the properties within District boundaries had already been annexed into Eugene. Annexed property owners paid taxes to Eugene, not the fire district. With the loss of the in-lieu-of-tax payments from the City, the District now found itself with a tax base that was barely adequate to cover operational costs, including the costs of purchasing new apparatus,

and maintaining and repairing existing equipment. And with time, things just got worse; by 2015, over fifty percent of the properties in Santa Clara had been annexed and were no longer paying taxes to the District.

The second challenge was personnel. While calls for service (especially requests for emergency medical services) started increasing dramatically around 2010, like most other volunteer departments in the United States at that time, the Santa Clara Fire District was experiencing a significant decline in the number of people willing and able to serve as volunteer firefighters. New people just weren't coming into the organization to backfill the vacancies being created as experienced volunteers retired. This meant that the burden of the additional call volume had to be borne by a tiny paid staff, and a very dedicated but small corps of volunteers. However, even with automatic aid from neighboring Lane Fire Authority as backup, by 2016, the Santa Clara responders were being run ragged. It was simply not a sustainable situation.



A number of options, to assure that the quality response services in Santa Clara remained high, were explored by Chief Randal Wood and the District Board of Directors in 2017. These included hiring additional paid firefighters, or contracting with the City of Eugene for response services. However, either of these options would have come with a hefty price tag that would require substantial increases in local taxes, something that was neither politically nor economically feasible. In the end, the best option available was a “functional consolidation” with neighboring Lane Fire

Authority. The SCRFPD Board of Directors entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Lane Fire Authority in May 2018, and consolidated operations began July 1, 2018.

In a functional consolidation, Santa Clara Rural Fire Protection District continues to: (a) operate under its pre-existing tax base, (b) own its District assets, including fire apparatus, equipment, and fire stations, and (c) be governed by its own Board of Directors. The advantages of this type of consolidation are



that the District now operates under the umbrella of Lane Fire Authority, with full access to Lane Fire Authority training, maintenance, and response resources. This includes having an engine company that is staffed fulltime (24/7/365: dispatched from LFA's fire station in Irving) available for medical, fire, and rescue responses within the Santa Clara Fire District.

Santa Clara is slowly being absorbed into the City of Eugene. But the legacy of this once fiercely independent community will live on with the fire department that residents created, and have supported for almost 80 years.

* 30 – 50 minutes is a very optimistic response time estimate. Early motorized fire engines rarely traveled faster than 25 – 30 mph. And response time was very much contingent upon the fire engine not breaking down en route, and River Road not being covered by



floodwaters. Responses from Eugene were also often delayed by trains that blocked access to the south end of River Road.

Santa Clara RFPD Fire Chiefs:

Harold Overgard	1943 – 1950
Paul Wilson	1950
Henry Mortensen	1951 – 1959
Jack Lamb	1959 – 1986
Skip Smith	1986 – 2007
Randal Wood	2007 – 2018 (currently assistant chief with Lane Fire Authority)

Historical information was provided by the Santa Clara Fire District Website (www.santaclarafire.net/history), and following individuals: Randal Wood, Skip Smith, and Chris Staniak

*See something we got wrong? Have information or photographs that you would be willing to share? Let us know. Contact **Fred Scalise** at omnicon_envir@hotmail.com*



The Importance of Readable Address Markers

Please make sure your address is visible from the road. Our patrons who live in rural areas need to take a special look to make sure that the address marker is not overgrown with foliage, knocked over or missing. If a rural address marker has been damaged or is missing, please call our main station phone number and leave information related to the location and problem with the marker. Being able to find and read address markers is critical to a rapid response during an emergency.

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