



THE FDC – FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION

A Quarterly Publication for the Membership of the Silverton Fire District

www.silvertonfire.com

Volume 16



A SPOT OF RECOGNITION

Silverton Fire District has been proud to partner with the Community Transition Program, which helps young adults continue developing the skills, confidence, and independence needed for success after high school. Through the program, participants gain experience in areas such as money management, meal preparation, post-secondary education planning, and workplace skills through community partnerships.

Over the past year, the District has had the privilege of working with two outstanding participants, including Cole Mosteller, who is graduating from the program this year. Cole quickly became more than a familiar face around the station—he became part of the crew. Each Thursday, he arrived with a smile, a positive attitude, and a willingness to help wherever needed. His hard work, enthusiasm, and ability to bring a little extra positivity to the station made a lasting impact on everyone who had the opportunity to work alongside him.

From Lt. Dan: *"I want to thank FF/EMR Ginny Miller for sending us Cole Mosteller this year. Cole has been an inspiration to us every Thursday, when he arrives at the station. He fit in with the crew on Day One and continued to bring up morale and remind us all why we do this, and who we do it for. Cole went on a ride-along on his last day with us, which included taking a hydrant, a Code 3 run, and Hawaiian Pizza (Steph's Special) at Homeplace!! To Cole: You're welcome back at the station any time. We look forward to seeing what your future brings: which Ford pickup you're driving, your latest adventure on that Honda dirtbike, and your Rodeo experiences. We're proud to call you our friend, and you're welcome on my truck any time. ~ Lt. Dan*

UPCOMING:

JULY

- 1ST Drill Night
- 4th of July!
- 8th Annual Picnic
- 9th Civil Service Meeting
- 14th Board Meeting
- 15th Drill Night
- 18th – 19th Renaissance Faire
- 22nd Drill Night
- 25th-26th Renaissance Faire
- 29th Drill Night

AUGUST

- 5th Drill Night
- 7th – 9th Homer Davenport Days
- 11th Board Meeting
- 12th Association Meeting
- 19th Drill Night
- 26th Drill Night

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd Drill Night
- 7th Labor Day
- 8th Board Meeting
- 9th Association Meeting
- 16th Drill Night
- 23rd Drill Night
- 30th Drill Night



FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

Bill Miles



Happy Summer!

As we transition into summer, I want to thank everyone for their continued dedication to the fire district. The summer months bring a significant shift in the types of calls we run, requiring us to be more proactive and sharper than ever. With the seasonal increase in temperatures, fire danger levels rise rapidly. Our early summer focus must remain steadfast on wildland-urban interface (WUI) readiness, equipment checks, and physical endurance. I encourage every crew to utilize our ongoing training modules to refresh on pump operations, hose lays, and evacuation procedures.

As always, safety remains paramount on every call. Please look out for one another, stay hydrated, and ensure your gear is ready to go at a moment's notice. I am incredibly proud of the professionalism and teamwork you display daily. Let's head into this busy season with our standard of excellence.

New Type 6 Brush Trucks

B407 and B427 are progressing with B407 scheduled to go this week for upfitting of console, emergency lighting, siren, and radio. B427 will be picked up in Eugene after having the service body installed, followed by installing pump/tank skid. Upfitting will be scheduled later this summer with bumper and headache rack fabrication to follow harvest season. Stay tuned for more updates as they come!

2026 Oregon Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony

The Oregon Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony was on Tuesday, June 16th, at the Oregon Public Safety Academy in Salem. This annual ceremony honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to others.

The Oregon Fallen Firefighters Memorial stands as a daily reminder of the sacrifices made by brave individuals from diverse backgrounds, who died in the line-of-duty protecting our communities and natural resources around the state. Each year, we gather at the memorial for a ceremony to honor the nearly 200 firefighters who have died in the line-of-duty since the 1880s.

This year, firefighters Brian Robert Wolgamott, Michael R. Merlino, and Paul J (Jim) Bieker Jr. will be added to the memorial and recognized at the ceremony.

United States (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service Fire Planner Brian R. Wolgamott passed away after a two-year battle with cancer on November 28, 2024. Fire Planner Wolgamott began his wildland firefighting career in 2012, and in 2022 he accepted a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the Klamath Basin. Unfortunately, shortly after he learned he had cancer.

Sutherlin Fire Department Battalion Chief Michael Merlino passed away from thyroid cancer on August 9, 2025. Chief Merlino spent 30 years serving his community at departments across Douglas County where he was regarded for his work ethic and skillset. His contributions and legacy were solidified when community showed an outpouring of support during his battle with cancer as well as after his passing.

Portland Fire & Rescue Retired Captain Paul James "Jim" Bieker also passed away from thyroid cancer on April 14, 2023. Captain Bieker joined Portland Fire & Rescue in 1981 and retired in 2018 after spending 38 years in the fire service. He left behind his wife, four children, and four grandchildren at the time of his passing. I had the honor of knowing and working with Jim at Portland for more than 20 years. His business, Advanced Design Systems, provided IT service to the fire district for many years up to the time of his passing.

A special thank you to BC Buck Pilmore, Kyle Miller, and River Savage from Ladder 408, who joined Stayton Fire Ladder 80 to present a stunning flag display during the ceremony.

Just a few years ago, in 2022, the name of Captain Harry Klopfenstein of Silverton Fire District Station 2 was added to the Oregon Fallen Firefighter Memorial. On September 25, 2021, less than 24 hours after responding to a motor vehicle crash, Captain Klopfenstein suffered a cardiac arrest at a neighbor's farm. Since his death was heart related and occurred less than 24 hours after Harry had responded to a motor vehicle crash, his death was classified as Line of Duty.

2026-2027 Budget Adopted

The Board has officially adopted the 2026-2027 Budget, which has been filed with both Marion and Clackamas as Counties. We're wrapping up final accounting tasks for the 2025-2026 fiscal year this last week of June, and work is already underway to prepare for our annual audit. Our auditors are scheduled to begin onsite work July 27th.

Please continue to stay safe and take care of yourselves this summer. As always, I'm incredibly proud of our members – volunteers and staff alike – for the outstanding work you do every day.

Thank you for all that you do.

Bill Miles, Fire Chief

ASSISTANT CHIEF

Keith Veit



Fire Season Preparedness

As we move into the heart of summer, now is the time to ensure we are ready for what promises to be another busy fire season. Wildfire activity across the Pacific Northwest can develop rapidly, and our ability to respond effectively depends on our preparation.

Members interested in participating in statewide conflagration deployments need to submit the required paperwork as soon as possible. Please also ensure your annual RT-130 Wildland Fire Refresher training has been completed and is current.

Locally, the Oregon State Fire Marshal grant-funded upstaffing program is scheduled to begin on July 3. This program allows us to increase staffing levels during periods of elevated fire danger, helping us keep small fires small and improve response capabilities throughout our district. Members interested in participating in the upstaffing program are encouraged to reach out for more information.

As always, our goal is to be prepared for fire season both here at home and wherever we may be called to assist across the state.

Grant Update

The district continues to actively pursue grant funding opportunities to improve emergency response capabilities while reducing the financial burden on local taxpayers.

Currently under review is a U.S. Department of the Interior grant application requesting approximately \$14,000 to purchase a slip-in firefighting unit for the district's new Can-Am utility vehicle.

We have also submitted several Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) applications:

- A request for approximately \$57,000 to replace 17 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) throughout the district
- A regional AFG application in partnership with Drakes Crossing Fire District requesting approximately \$91,000 to replace our SCBA breathing air compressor and fill station
- A second regional AFG application submitted by Marion County Fire District #1 on behalf of the North Marion County fire agencies. This application requests approximately \$1.9 million to purchase radios and communications equipment needed for the new Marion County radio system project.

In addition, the district submitted an application to the PGE Drive Change Fund requesting funding to purchase an electric vehicle for district operations.

We are grateful for the partnerships and funding opportunities that help strengthen emergency services in our community. We anticipate hearing the outcomes of these grant applications during the late summer and fall and will continue to keep the membership informed as updates become available.

Thank you for your continued commitment, professionalism, and dedication to serving our community.

TRAINING & RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR

Lt. Dan Brown

Greetings from Training Land!



Great news: 6 Engine Boss trainees and 11 Type 1 Firefighter trainees are out there this Wildland Season looking for task book signoffs! Be sure to pay attention to these folks, keep an eye on what they're doing and what you assign them to do, so we can continue to progress, not only with their leadership skills/abilities, but also their/our success in continued higher certification levels for our Firefighters!

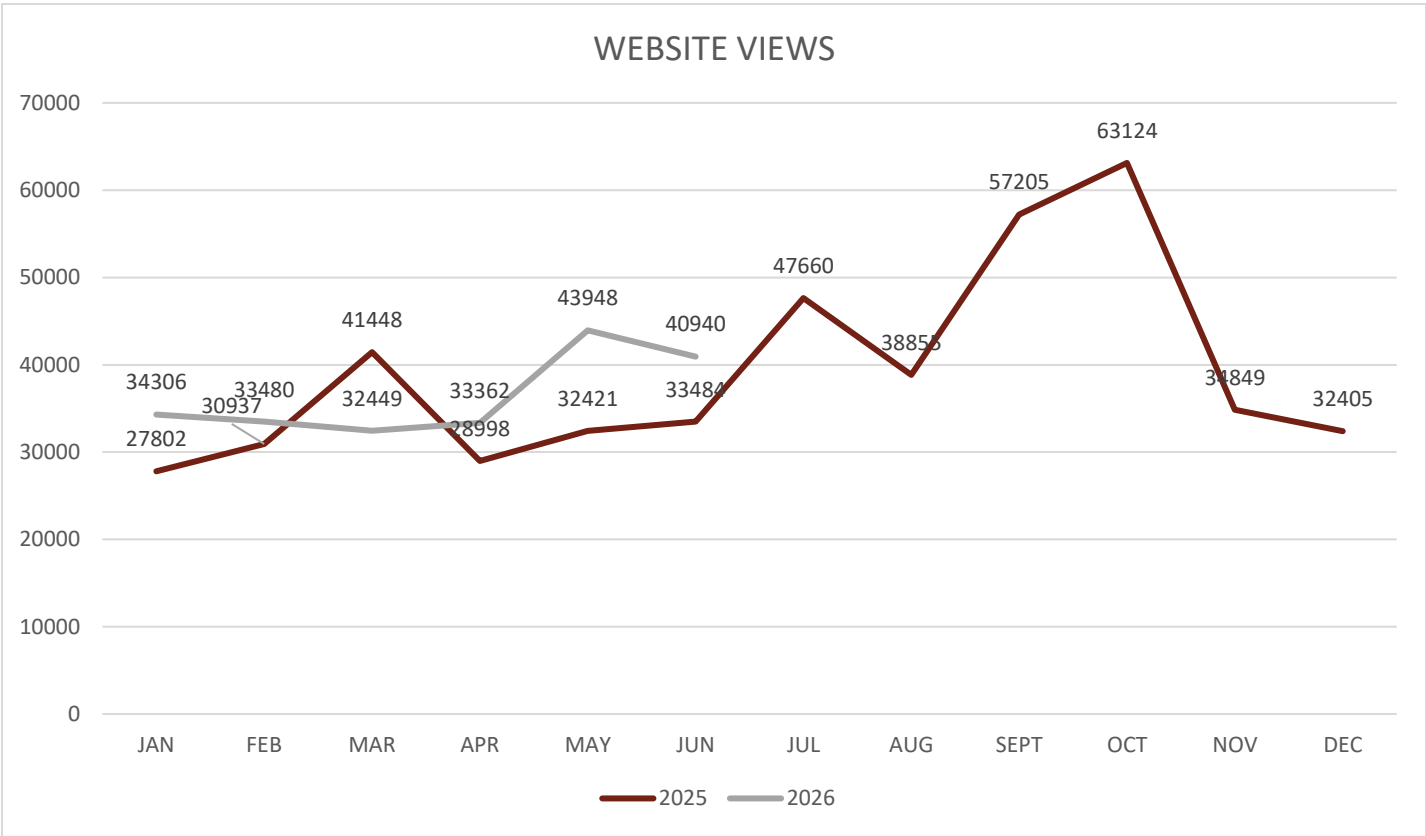
Academy is done, and those folks are all certified at the Wildland Firefighter Type 2 level! Give them a round of applause and a Pulaski and get 'em out there to work! Those of us who have been around for a while owe it to the new folks to pass down what we've learned over the years. Don't necessarily make it "easy" for them but make

sure that we're passing on lessons we've learned. This doesn't just help them in their career, it helps us help you, and that trickles down to John and Jane Q. Taxpayer.

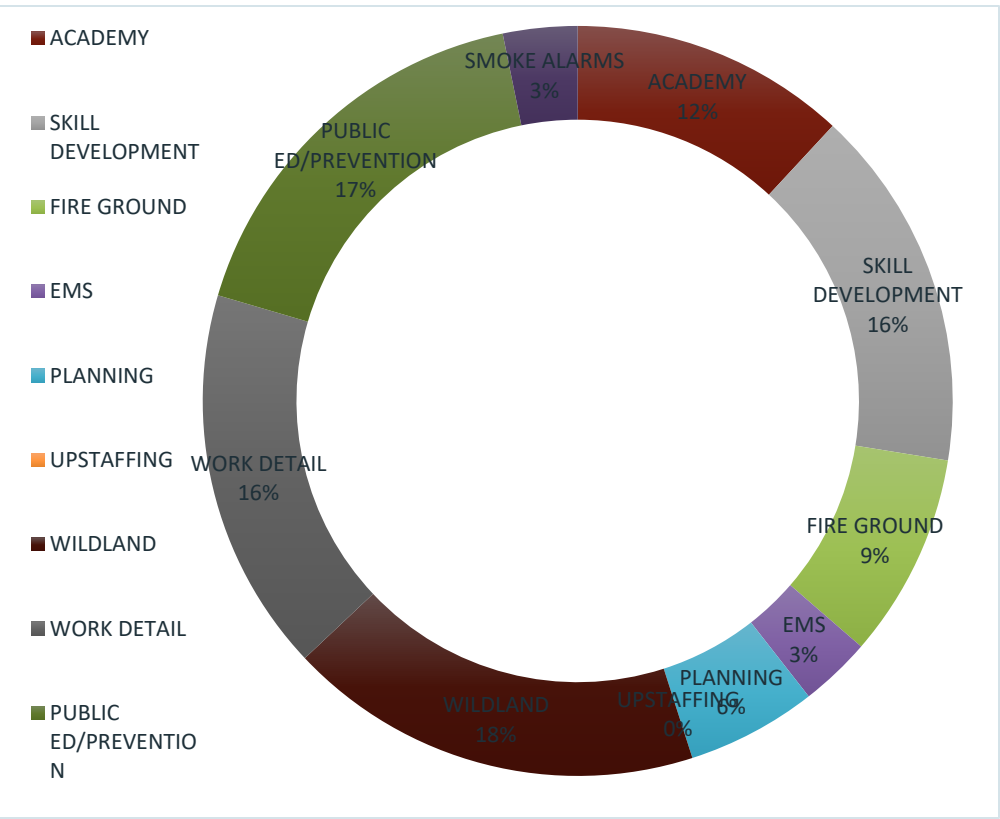
And, finally, my quarterly quote. You all are doing a fantastic job out there. Owning it. Doing the right thing. Rising up when things are down. You've had the training. Your leaders have the experience. Go to work. Get it done. This quote is awesome, it's boosting, and whoever said it has a great sense of humor.... But it's so true! You got this, we got this, so let's go out there and DO IT!! "Whatever you do today, do it with the confidence of a 4-year-old in a batman t-shirt."



2026 WEBSITE VIEWS



ACTIVITY HOURS
Quarter 2



Activities by members are hours beyond regular Wednesday night drills. These include Academy training and other training completed by members on their own accord. Public education and public assistance events can include many different functions; school assemblies, first Fridays, installing smoke alarms and batteries. Work Detail is when a volunteer(s) help with maintenance, cleaning, EMS Standby for sports etc.

Data used for this report is rendered from the number of current active firefighters on our roll sheets divided by the number of personnel that attended drill night.

Additionally, drill nights typically follow a consistent training activity schedule as listed below:

1st Wednesday

Safety Committee, Apparatus Inspections, EMS Related Topic

2nd Wednesday

Officer's Meeting, Apparatus Inspections, Association Meetings

3rd Wednesday

Apparatus Inspections, Fire Related Topic

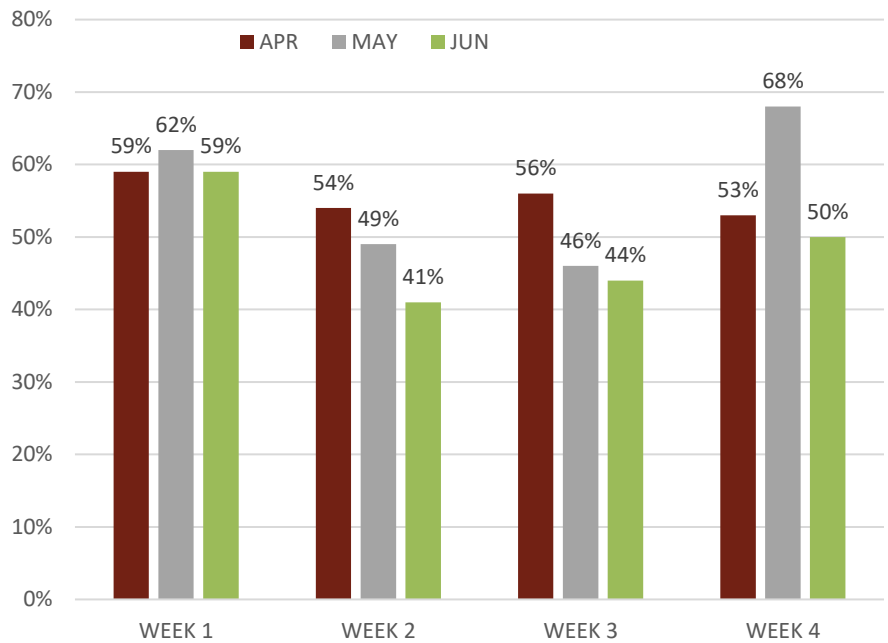
4th Wednesday

Apparatus Inspections, Fire Related Topic

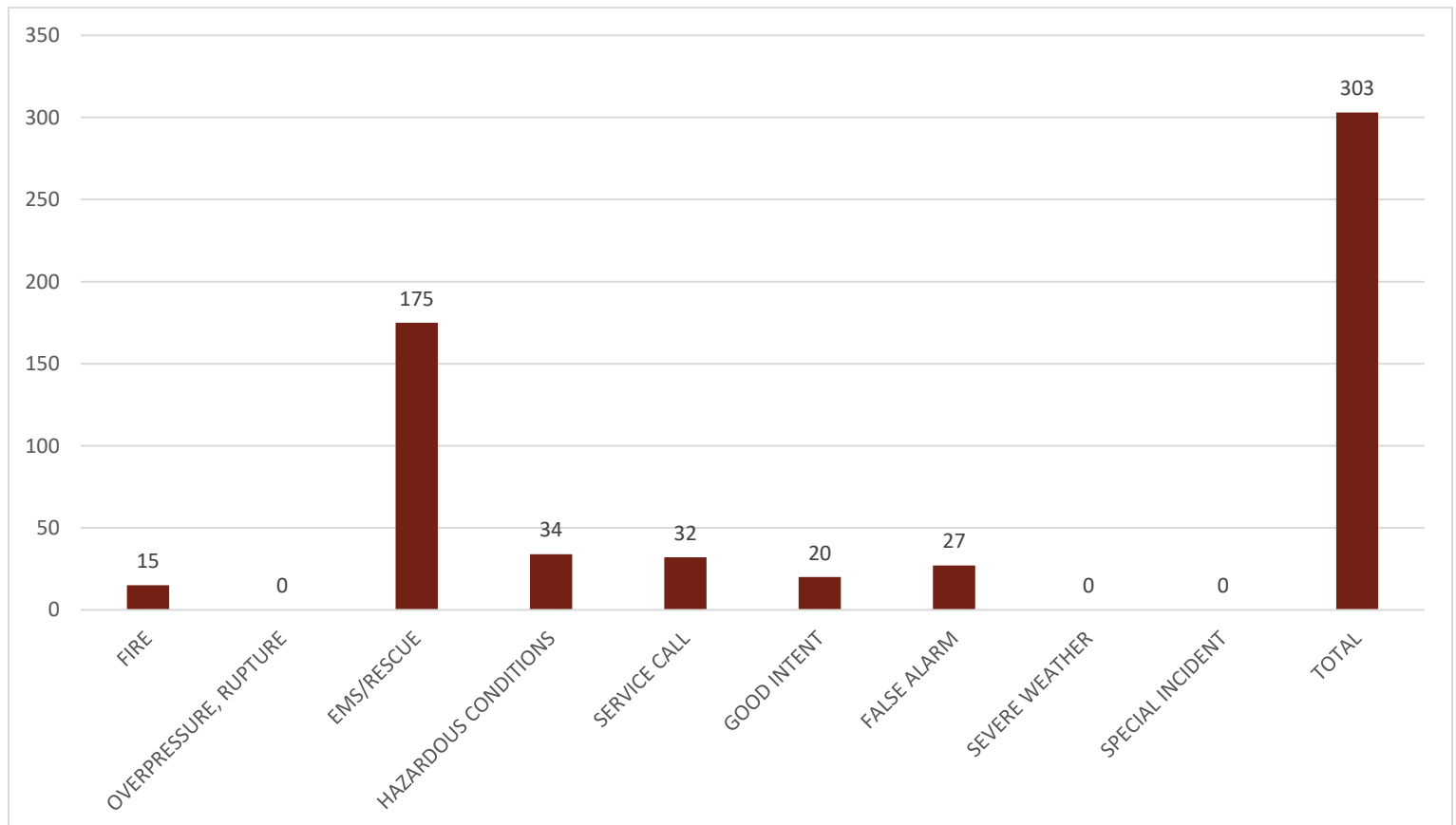
5th Wednesday

When fifth Wednesdays are present in the month, Officer or specialty training is given

DRILL PARTICIPATION Quarter 2



CALL DATA Quarter 2





New for EMS on Squad 423 is the Fast Splint! This device comes in three inflatable sizes for multiple different fractures, primarily broken bones on lower and upper extremities. It creates a pillow-like wrap around the affected extremity, above and below the break. This device is semi-disposable (very reusable) and user friendly. Please feel free to reach out to me for any training or questions!



How to Use:

1. Wrap the extremity and hold in place.
2. Open valve and connect pump.
3. Evacuate air using pump.
4. Close valve and remove pump.
5. Secure splint with tape if needed.
- 6.



Fire season is officially underway, and we all know things can pick up quickly this time of year. Before the next wildland call comes in, take a few minutes to make sure your PPE is complete, serviceable, and ready to go.

Give your gear a thorough once-over:

- Nomex Clothing – Check for rips, tears, excessive wear, UV damage, or contamination from oil, fuel, or chemicals. Make sure all zippers, snaps, and Velcro closures are working properly.
- Helmet & Shroud – Inspect for cracks, damaged suspension components, and proper fit. Verify your shroud is clean and ready for use.
- Gloves – Look for holes, worn areas, stiffness, shrinkage, or heat damage that could affect protection or dexterity.
- Boots – Check soles for wear or separation, inspect stitching, and make sure your boots continue to provide proper support and protection.
- Eye Protection – Ensure lenses are clean, clear, and free from excessive scratches.

A few minutes spent inspecting your gear now can prevent problems on the fire line later. If you find damaged, missing, or unserviceable PPE, please submit a Uniform/PPE Request Form as soon as possible so we can get replacements ordered and issued.

As a reminder, Uniform/PPE Request Forms are available online through the Members Only Section of the website, as well as in hard copy at Station 1 and Station 8.

Thank you for taking the time to ensure your gear is ready for the season. Stay safe out there, and let's have a good fire season.

FIRE PREVENTION

Matt Guenther



Hello everyone! Welcome to summer.... And fire season! Things are heating up and drying out quickly. Let's all work together to prevent fires by being responsible while enjoying all the fun summer activities our community has to offer.

A few important reminders as we head into fire season:

1. Remember to call before you burn!
 - Marion County: 877-982-0011
 - Clackamas County: 503-742-2945
2. Dispose of fireworks properly.

Always make sure fireworks are completely submerged in water before throwing them away. It is also a good idea to keep a water source nearby whenever fireworks are being used.
3. Make sure campfires are fully extinguished.

If campfires are allowed, ensure they are contained and completely out before leaving. Remember: no smoke and no heat before you leave it unattended.
4. Have fun and stay safe!



What's Happened in District:

With school wrapping up for the summer, Silverton Fire District has been busy making visits throughout the community – including cooling off students at several elementary schools with some well-timed hose-downs. It's always a fun way to celebrate the end of the school year!

Robert Frost Elementary School brought approximately 50 second-grade students to the station for a visit. Students toured the building, explored the fire engines, learned about fire safety and prevention, and even had the chance to get hands-on by spraying water and rolling hose.

The Fire District also visited Community Roots to provide fire safety education and talk about what to do during an emergency.

In addition to these visits, Silverton Fire had the opportunity to connect with several other schools throughout the district as they wrapped up the school year. We always enjoy spending time with students, sharing fire safety messages, and showing them what we do. We appreciate the opportunity to be part of these events and look forward to doing it all again next year!

Coming Up

The Silverton Renaissance Faire is returning for two weekends in July, and Silverton Fire will once again be providing standby coverage for the event. All are encouraged to sign up for a shift – it's a great opportunity to support the community while being part of one of Silverton's biggest events!

Homer Davenport Days is coming up in August! Silverton Fire will be attending with a public education booth. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the event.

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MAINTENANCE

Ian Peterson



It's fire season! Lets make sure we:

- Wildland Equipment – hoses, fittings, tools, and packs
- Brush up on pumping and drafting on apparatus. If you have questions, please reach out!

Projects in the District:

- The new B407 skid unit has been installed. We're continuing to move forward with this project. Next step is Wire Works!
- Pump testing is an ongoing project.

As always, if you see something, say something. It's fire season, so we're going to be all hands on deck! Many hands make light work.

Additionally, we are now able to repair hoses in house! As always, if you see a hose that is damaged, please tag it out and pass that information along, so we can get the repair process started. Being able to repair hose in house will allow us to get hose back in service in a timely manner.



OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Candace Cantu

OSFM Upstaffing Timesheets

As we continue through the OSFM Upstaffing season, timely and accurate timesheet submissions are essential to ensure payroll is processed correctly and grant reporting requirements are met.

Please be sure to:

- Submit your OSFM Upstaffing timesheet by the established due date.
- Complete all required fields, including dates, hours worked, and appropriate signatures.
- Submit your timesheet to the Office Administrator using the instructions provided on the Members Only section of our website.

Upstaffing timesheet due dates, submission instructions, and copies of the timesheet are available anytime on the Members Only page of [Silverton Fire District's website](#). If you have questions about completing or submitting your timesheet, please don't hesitate to contact the administrative office.

Thank you for helping us keep payroll accurate and maintain compliance with our OSFM grant requirements. Your prompt submissions are greatly appreciated.

A BIT OF INFO:

To keep pace with the rising cost of materials and supplies, the Silverton Fire District has adjusted the price of rural address signs from \$30 to \$45. This change reflects the actual cost of producing these signs, with the District charging only what it costs us (and in some cases absorbing a small portion of the expense).

We understand that any price increase impacts our community, and this decision was not made lightly. However, the cost of materials needed to create these signs has continued to rise, and maintaining the previous price was no longer sustainable.