# THE FDC – FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION

A Quarterly Publication for the Membership of the Silverton Fire District

www.silvertonfire.com

Volume 17

## WELCOME TO THE DISTRICT

Over the last several months, a few new faces have appeared! Let me take a moment and introduce them to you. If you see them around and haven't already, say hi and welcome them to the family!

- Paul Blaser
- Bode Leikem
- Conagher Miller
- Henna Mulkey
- Tirzah Mulkey
- William Nightingale
- Kayley Sullivan

Additionally, we have two new RV's joining the District. Both are enrolled at Chemeketa in the Fire program. We look forward to watching them grow and learn!

- Bryce Kuenzi
- Nathanial Laughton

And. Last but not least. After a long summer working for Oregon Department of Foresty, Cohen Mulick has rejoined the RV's! We are happy to have him back on the structure side!

## UPCOMING:

### OCTOBER

- 5TH Station 2 Open House
- 6th Station 3 Open House
- 7th Station 1 Open House
- 7th Drill Night
- 8th Station 8 Open House
- Civil Service Meeting
- 9th Station 9 Open House
- 12th Columbus Day
- 13th Board Meeting
- 14th Association Meeting
- 17th Chicken Dinner
- 21st Drill Night
- 28th Drill Night
- 31st Halloween

### NOVEMBER

- 4th Drill Night
- 10th Board Meeting
- 11th Veterans Day
- 11th Association Meeting
- 18th Drill Night
- 25th Drill Night
- 26th Thanksgiving Day
- 27th Black Friday

### DECEMBER

- 2nd Drill Night
- 4th Silverton Christmas Tree Lighting
- 8th Board Meeting
- 9th Association Meeting
- 9th Christmas Dinner
- 16th Drill Night
- 21st Winter Solstice
- 23rd Drill Night
- 24th Christmas Eve
- 25th Christmas Day
- 30th Drill Night

# FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

**Bill Miles**

## FALL IS HERE!

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe summer is already winding down and fall is here. With the change of seasons comes cooler weather, changing routines, and a new round of fire and life-safety reminders.

This is the time of year for evening campfires, leaves beginning to fall, furnaces coming back into service, and families settling into school-year routines. It's also a good time to make sure our smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working, our heating systems are serviced, and we remain especially alert for school buses, children, and pedestrians.

## 2026 Fire Season

Eight deployments and counting! The 2026 fire season kept our members and apparatus busy. So far this year, Silverton Fire District has supported eight statewide deployments, sending personnel and equipment to incidents throughout Oregon.

- East Evans Fire: July 11 - 23
- Lower Dry Creek Fire: July 16 - 18
- Akawa Fire: July 18 - August 1
- Brewer/Rowe Complex: July 22 - August 6
- Shingle Fire: July 26 - 31
- Bench Fire: July 26 - 31
- Warm Springs Fire: August 7 - 16
- Grasshopper Fire: August 10 – 21

A huge thank you to everyone who deployed, as well as those who helped backfill shifts here at home so we could maintain our daytime emergency response capabilities.

Wildland deployments take a tremendous amount of coordination, and they are only possible because members are willing to step up, cover shifts, and support one another. That commitment reflects the strength of our organization.

Additionally, a special thank you to Candace for the outstanding work she does processing the billing and documentation required for state reimbursement after our crews return.

With the recent rain and cooler weather, Oregon's conflagration season appears to be winding down – at least for now. Hopefully, the change in weather will give our firefighters a well earned opportunity to slow down, recharge, and spend some time with their families.

## OSFM Up-Staffing Grant

The OSFM Up-Staffing Grant has made a significant difference for the Fire District this year, allowing us to expand staffing during evenings and weekends.

That additional staffing has helped us increase emergency response coverage, maintain staffing during busy periods, improve our ability to handle simultaneous calls, and provide additional resources to our communities.

To everyone that has worked these additional shifts, thank you for your flexibility and willingness to step up. Your extra time and effort have made a real difference in our ability to provide reliable emergency response to the communities we serve.

## Fire Prevention Month – Charge into Fire Safety!

Lithium-ion batteries are now part of everyday life – from cell phones and tablets to power tools, e-bikes, scooters, and other rechargeable equipment. They are incredibly useful, but when batteries are damaged, improperly charged, or overheated, they can create a serious fire hazard.

4 simple ways to charge safely:

1. Use Approved Chargers: Use the charging cord and power adapter supplied with your device or a manufacturer-approved replacement.

2. Charge on a Hard Surface: Charge devices on a desk, table or other hard surfaces. Avoid beds, couches, pillows, or other soft surfaces that can trap heat.
3. Unplug When Charging is Complete: Once a device is fully charged, unplug it when practical. Avoid leaving devices charging unattended or overnight.
4. Know the Warning Signs: Stop using a battery or device if it becomes unusually hot, develops a strange odor, changes shape, begins to swell, shows signs of damage.

When in doubt, stop using it. A few simple charging habits can help reduce the risk of a serious battery fire.

**Smoke Alarm Program**

As we move into the heating season, now is a great time to make sure your home has properly working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. If you have questions about the Silverton Fire District Smoke Alarm Program, please reach out to Matt.

We also encourage our members to participate in Fire Prevention Month activities and help us share these important safety messages throughout our communities.

**Fire Prevention Month – Charge into Fire Safety!**

Our Station open houses are a great opportunity to connect with our communities, educate families about fire and life safety, and showcase the people, equipment, and services that make up the Silverton Fire District.

From 6:00 – 8:00pm:

- October 5 @ Station 2
- October 6 @ Station 3
- October 7 @ Station 1
- October 8 @ Station 8
- October 9 @ Station 9

If you are available, please consider volunteering at a station open house or one of our other public education events. Whether you can help for an hour or stay for the entire event, your participation makes a difference. Interested in helping? Contact Dan or Matt.

**Thank You For What You Do!**

Finally, I want to thank each of you for your continued dedication, service, and commitment to our communities. The time and energy you invest in training, emergency responses, wildland deployments, station coverage, public education, and countless other activities is remarkable – and it does not go unnoticed.

One of the things I am most proud of is the way our members continue to step up for one another and for the communities we serve. Whether you are responding to an emergency, covering a shift, helping at an event, maintaining equipment, or supporting another member, every contribution matters.

As we move into fall, take some time to enjoy the changing season, stay safe, and take care of yourselves and each other.

Thank you for everything you do for the Silverton Fire District.

Bill Miles
Fire Chief
Silverton Fire District

# ASSISTANT CHIEF

**Keith Veit**

## Wrapping Up Fire Season

As we move into fall, another fire season is coming to a close. Thank you to everyone who helped keep the District staffed, prepared, and ready throughout the summer.

Our OSFM-funded upstaffing program will conclude no later than October 31, or sooner if the remaining grant funds are exhausted. Thank you to everyone who participated in the program this year. The additional staffing provided valuable coverage during periods of increased fire danger while also creating more opportunities for training, station projects, and community risk reduction work.

## Grant Updates

We have some good news on the grant front, with two recent awards bringing significant outside funding to the District.

Silverton Fire District was recently awarded approximately $90,000 through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program for a new SCBA air compressor and fill station. This was submitted as a regional AFG application in partnership with Drakes Crossing Fire District. Our current compressor was purchased in 1998 and has served the District for nearly three decades. This award will allow us to finally replace the aging system with new equipment that will serve both departments well into the future.

The District was also awarded approximately $90,000 through Portland General Electric's Drive Change Fund toward the purchase of a new electric vehicle. The vehicle will support a wide range of District activities, including community risk reduction, wildfire prevention and defensible space assessments, smoke alarm instillations, the life jacket loaner program, public education, training, and other day-to-day District needs.

Together, these two grants bring nearly $180,000 in outside funding to the District. We are very fortunate to receive this funding and appreciate the continued support from FEMA and Portland General Electric. These grants will allow us to replace aging equipment and add resources that will benefit the District and our community for years to come.

# TRAINING & RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR

**Lt. Dan Brown**

Training:

We fail “here”, so we can succeed “out there”. Think about that for a sec. How many times do you mess up on the drill grounds? How many times have you made a mistake during EMS training? What have you forgotten to consider while we’re training. On the other hand… how often does it happen “out there”? I don’t really see it. I hardly ever hear about it… What does that say about you, your crew, your “Department”? I’ll tell ya what it says: We’re failing where we’re supposed to fail and SUCCEEDING WHERE WE’RE SUPPOSED TO SUCCEED!! I need to get some gold stars in stick, because everyone deserves one. Even Corey.

I have to say that what I hear from our community members and partners when we’re in training, engaging in community events, and everything in between, is incredibly positive! We are shining stars in our communities’ eyes. We’re doing the right things! Again… Gold star!

Annual training planning TAG meeting is scheduled for Nov. 7th! If you have training needs or requests, please send them my way!

Recruiting:

We have a solid list of recruits this year, the majority of which are North Battalion! I’m hoping to recruit a few more folks soon: Open Houses Oct. 5-9; Chicken Dinner Oct. 17. Be ready for Interview Panel and Physical Ability Testing proctor needs, they’re coming! Also, be sure to keep sending me names/contact info for your neighbors who seem interested in what we do here… that’s the first sing of a good volunteer! Almost every current Fire District member has been referred by another member. Even Corey!

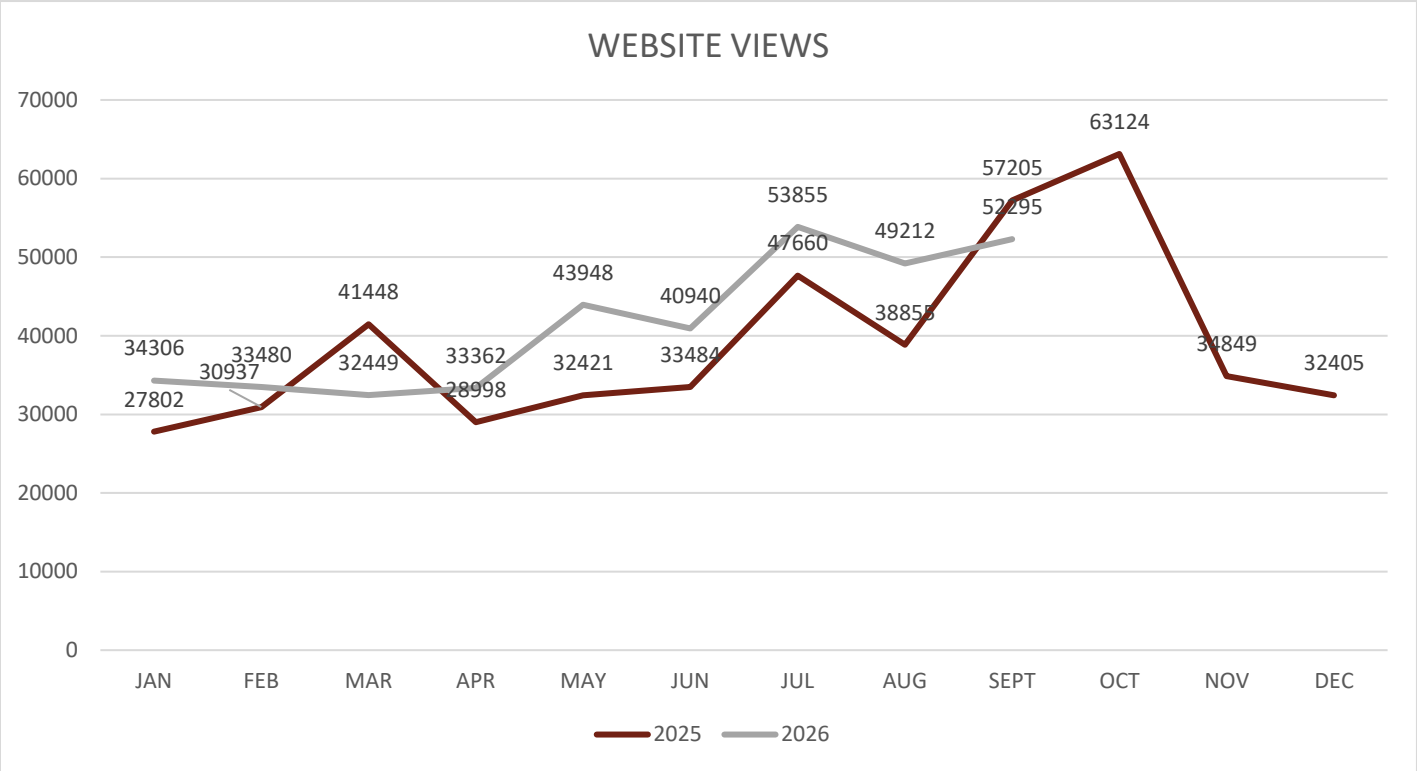
We’ve got some new RV’s! Diego and Dr. Breitbach have left the clubhouse, on to greener pastures and FAT PAYCHECKS! Congratulate them on their success, and please make sure you introduce yourself to the new RV’s, and show them “The Way”.

Academy Orientation December 15. 2027 Academy begins Friday, January 8!

It is an absolute honor and privilege to serve at your side, even when we fail, and especially when we succeed because of those failures. Thank you. Love you. Keep doin’ what you’re doin’… IT’S WORKING!!

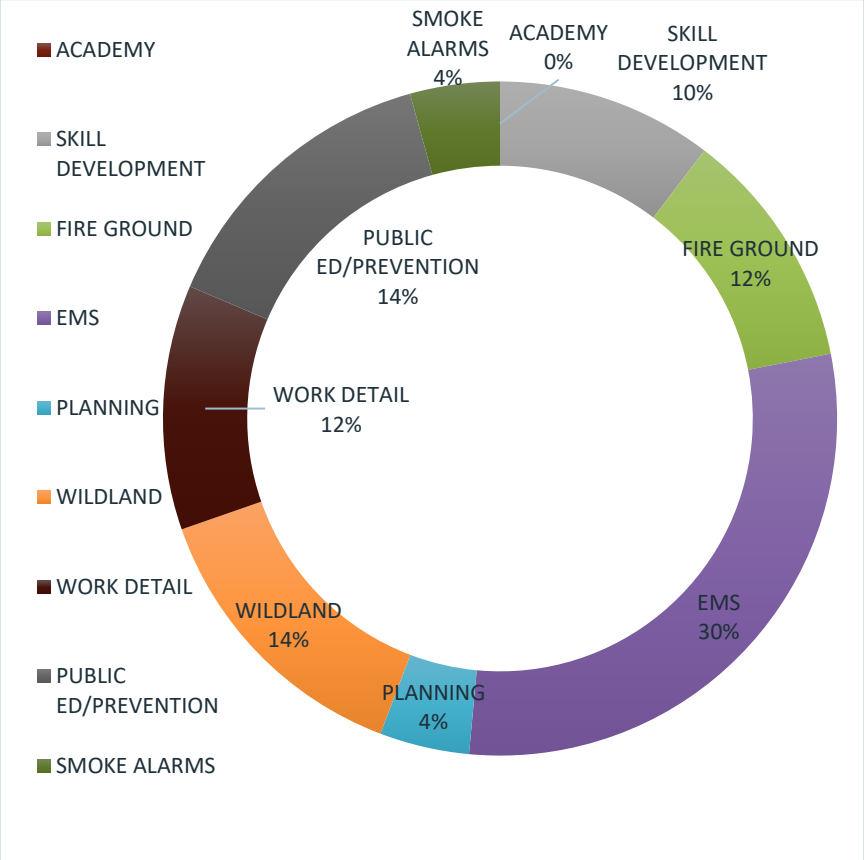
# DATA

## 2026 WEBSITE VIEWS




## ACTIVITY HOURS

**Quarter 3**




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

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

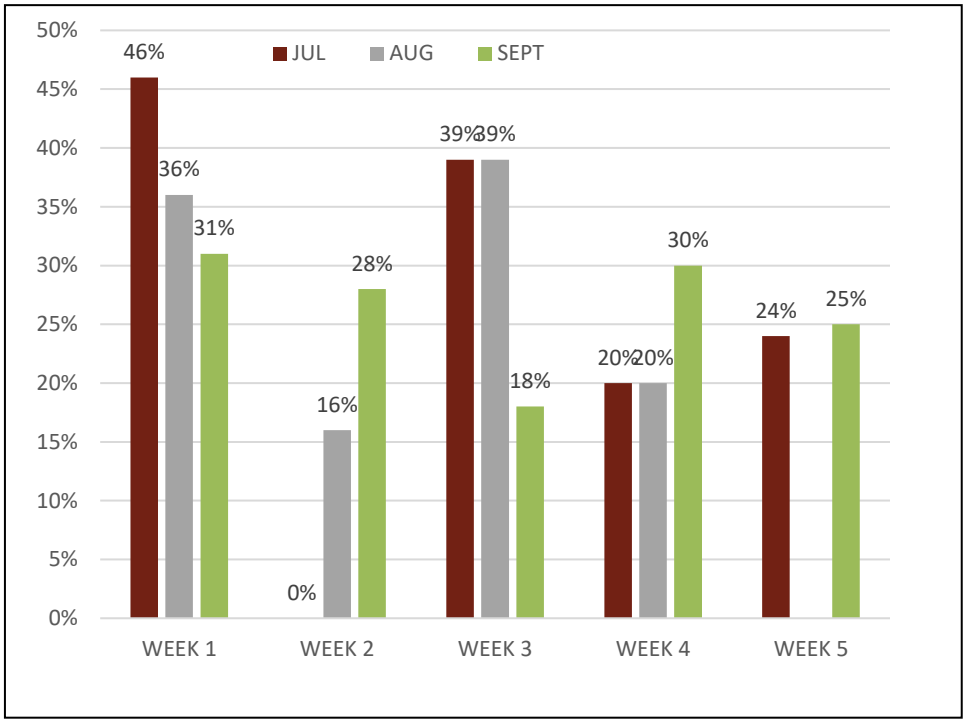
**2nd Wednesday**
Officer's Meeting, Apparatus Inspections, Association Meetings

**3rd Wednesday**
Apparatus Inspections, Fire Related Topic

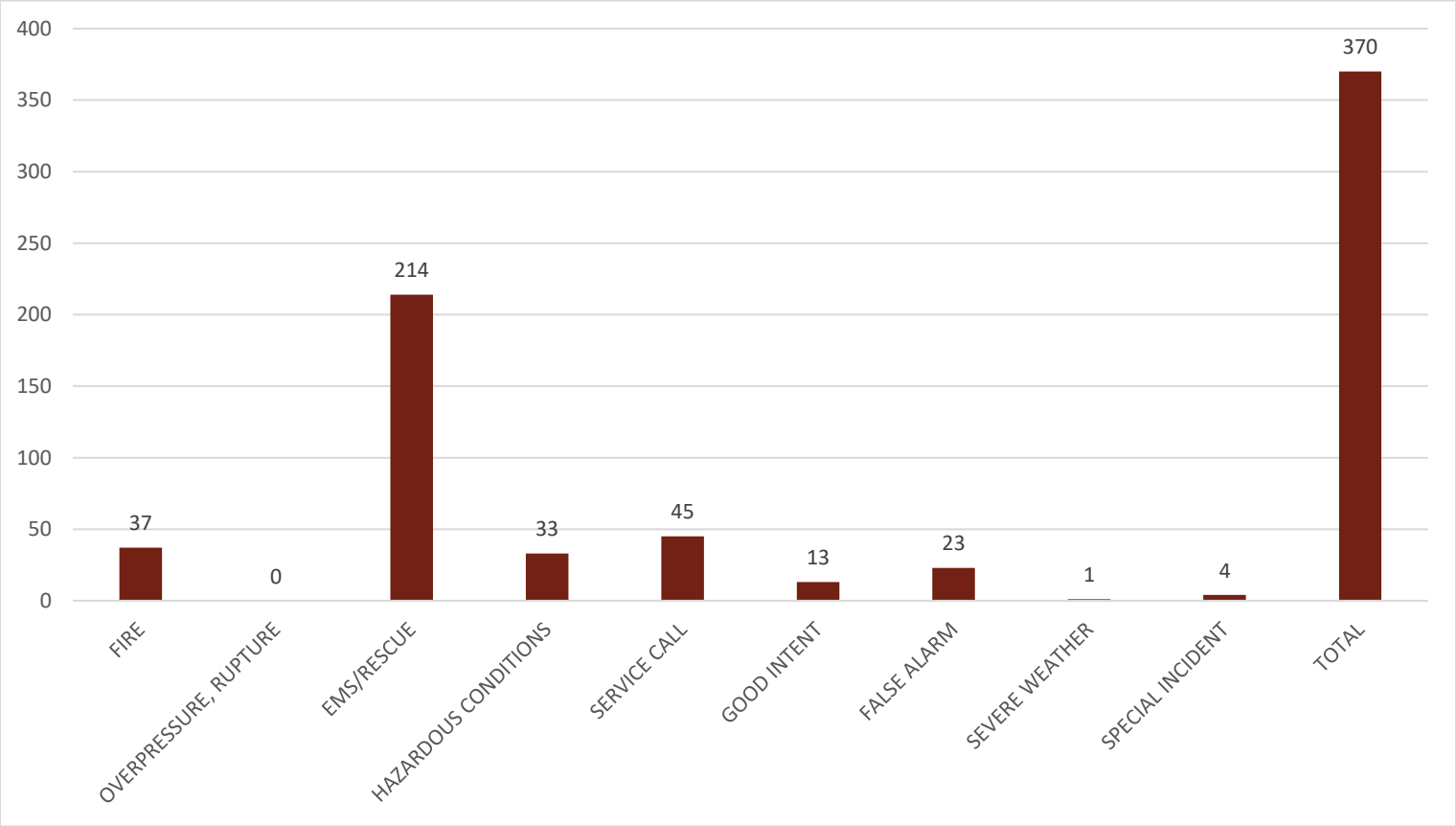
**4th Wednesday**
Apparatus Inspections, Fire Related Topic

**5th Wednesday**
When fifth Wednesdays are present in the month, Officer or specialty training is given

## DRILL PARTICIPATION
**Quarter 3**



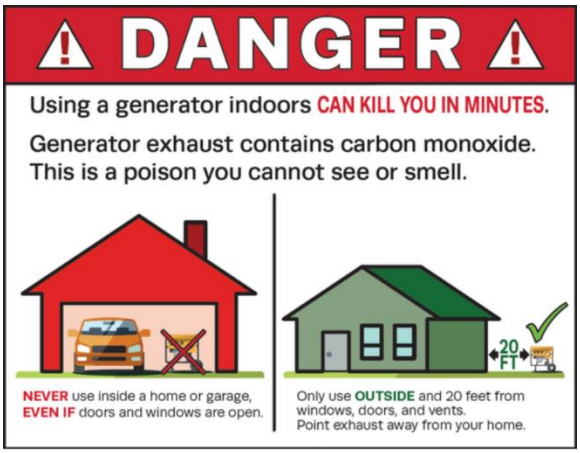

## CALL DATA
**Quarter 3**



## EMS
**Kyle Miller**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I will have pink gloves in S423 to show support.

With the cold weather coming, I want to remind you to be aware of the hazards of carbon monoxide. With power outages on the horizon, homeowners may move generators or other implements into their homes to stay warm. Unfortunately, this leads to carbon monoxide poisoning. Additionally, carbon monoxide can give false readings on a pulse oximeter.




What is carbon monoxide poisoning? High levels of gas quickly replace the oxygen in your blood, leading to collapse, coma, or life-threatening complications before mild symptoms even register.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include: headaches, dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath, weakness and confusion.

## QUARTER MASTER
**River Savage**

As fire season begins to wind down, this is a good opportunity to take a few minutes to inspect your assigned PPE and identify any equipment that may need repair, replacement, or updating. Throughout the season, our equipment is exposed to heat, smoke, dirt, contaminants, and general wear. Addressing these issues now allows us to take care of them during the off-season and helps ensure everyone has properly functioning equipment when they next season begins.

Please take a few minutes to look over your wildland PPE for any rips, tears, excessive wear, UV damage, contamination, damaged closures, worn gloves or boots, helmet or suspension damage, damaged eye protection, or missing equipment. If you find anything that needs attention, please submit a PPE/Uniform Service Request Form so we can address it during the off-season.

For structural PPE, the District is currently transitioning to Globe turnout gear through LN Curtis. Please inspect your turnout gear following use and report any damage, contamination, or equipment concerns. Pay particular attention to areas that receive increased wear, including closures, reflective trim, knees, elbows, suspenders, pockets, and other high-use areas. If you have concerns about the condition or fit of your turnout gear, please submit a request rather than waiting until the equipment is needed again.

The PPE/Uniform Service Request Form is available online through the Members Only section of the district website. Hard copy forms are also available at Station 1 and Station 8. The form can be used for PPE damage or replacement, uniform replacements or size changes, repairs or alterations, missing equipment, new PPE requests, and other uniform or PPE concerns.

Please also continue to properly clean PPE following use and utilize the UniMac washers and dryers when appropriate. Proper cleaning and maintenance helps remove contaminants and can help extend the service life of our equipment. Before storing gear for an extended period, make sure it is clean, dry, and inspected.

The end of fire season is a great time to take care of equipment needs while there is time to order, repair, and replace items. If you find an issue with your PPE, please report it. Even if you are unsure whether something needs to be repaired or replaced, submit a request and we can take a look at it.

Thank you for taking the time to properly maintain your equipment and for everything you have done throughout another fire season.

# FIRE PREVENTION

**Matt Guenther**

July:
July was full to the brim with all the summer activities! Right off the bat, we attended Community Day at the Oregon Gardens to educate about defensible space and evacuation procedure, as well as what we recommend doing in the event of an evacuation. Right after that, we provided apparatus and manpower to the Oregon Gardens Fire Work show. Luckily, there were no flames on the ground this year, thanks to the Gardens' hard work in preparation.

Over the next couple of weekends, the Silverton Fire Volunteers provided exceptional EMS standby service to the Renaissance Faire. Thanks to their preparedness and skills, multiple medical emergencies were handled, and everyone is ok!

While all of that was happening, we also attended OCDC's open house alongside several county car seat technicians, where we talked about the importance of choosing the right car seat and using it properly to help keep your most precious cargo safe!

August:
More summer activities came and went in August including National Night Out! NNO was a huge success with a crew at the City Hall event engaging with the public. Additionally, there was a crew out attending block parties.

Right after wrapping that up, we started gearing up for Homer Davenport Days! After sending multiple apparatus through the parade, we headed down to the park to man our Pub Ed and Recruitment tent. Three fun and educational days were spent in the park.

August also brought a whole lot of smokies! Lots of new smoke detectors have been installed around town, as well as new batteries. Keeping homes prepared one battery at a time!

September:
September's highlight is a day care visit with a fire engine to talk about fire safety and how to handle emergencies if or when they arise. Get dressed up in our "costume" to prove that we are still nice guys even when we look like bugs!

Lot's of new smokies in September as well!

Looking forward into October:

Coming into October, we are preparing for fire prevention month which brings open houses the week of the 5th. Come down for a free hot dog and see the stations!

Later in the month, Silverton Fire is partnering with Red Cross to put on a smoke detector campaign at Silverton Mobile Estates to ensure that residents have working smoke detectors in case of a fire.

At the end of the month, we have the Goblin Walk. If you would like to participate, please reach out.

Additionally, December will bring the annual Tree Lighting in both Silverton and Scotts Mills. Be ready with holiday cheer to help bring the spirit of the holidays to our communities.

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# MAINTENANCE

**Ian Peterson**

**Apparatus & Equipment Updates**

Hose and ground ladder testing is scheduled for October 12, with SCBA testing planned for December.

Projects on the brush trucks are also moving forward. Engine 427 is currently at Wire Works, while 407 is finishing up plumbing work. We're looking forward to getting these projects wrapped up and the trucks back where they belong.

As temperatures begin to change, battery issues can become more common. If you notice any battery-related concerns with an apparatus, please let your officer know so they can get it addressed. Keeping our trucks ready to respond at a moment's notice is important, and reliable batteries are a big part of that.

## OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
**Candace Cantu**

**A Little Thank You!**

As we head into the last few months of the year, I wanted to take a minute to say **thank you**. I know filling out timesheets and keeping up with paperwork probably isn't the reason any of you joined the fire service, but I truly appreciate the effort everyone has made to get timesheets turned in on time. You may not realize how much of a difference it makes on this side of the office! Timely and accurate timesheets make payroll run much more smoothly, help us properly account for grant and conflagration activity, and – most importantly – mean I spend a lot less time hunting people down. 😊

With year-end and tax season right around the corner, now is also a great time to make sure we have your current information on file. Please let me know if you've had any changes to your address, contact information, direct deposit, or other important information.

We're also getting excited for the holidays! Our **Annual Christmas Dinner is coming up on December 9th**, and we're looking forward to having everyone together for an evening of good food, good company, and a chance to celebrate another year as a District family.

And, if you're looking for some *really exciting* holiday reading, our **2025-2026 Annual Audit** will be uploaded to the District website following Board approval in November. Nothing says cozy holiday evening quite like audited financial statements!

As we get ready to wrap up 2026, thank you for making my job a little easier and, more importantly, for everything you do for the District and our community. Your time, commitment, and willingness to show up when you're needed are genuinely appreciated.

Here's to finishing the year strong – and enjoying the holiday season together!

## A REMINDER FROM THE NORTH!