



# Siletz Valley Fire District

## Volume II – Issue III

November / December 2023

### FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK

We continue to have good fortune in receiving grants. We received a Siletz Tribe Charitable Contribution Foundation (STCCF) and a Consumer Power Inc. grant for an **EMILY** (EMergency Integrated Lifesaving LanYard). <https://www.hydronalix.com/swift-water> This is a robotic water rescue boat that one person can deploy to rescue a person in distress. With delays in production, we finally received it in late August. The crew has been training with it at Olalla Lake and will continue training in the river when the water level is high enough.

Additionally last month STCCF awarded the Fire District funds to purchase a patient lifting device. We received it on August 9<sup>th</sup>, trained on it August 10<sup>th</sup>, and used it at Pow Wow on August 11<sup>th</sup> to help a person who took a bad fall.



This lifting device not only prevents responder back injury but is also a much easier process for the patient, and MUCH more dignified. We cannot thank STCCF enough for their generosity and CPI for this and previous grant awards. THANK YOU!!

But wait, there's more. While we are still partnering with the Red Cross for Smoke Alarms, we also received a *Fire Prevention and Safety* grant from FEMA for Smoke Alarms and funding to assist in printing this newsletter. Part of the Smoke Alarm grant also included Smoke Alarms for the Hard of Hearing. If you have trouble hearing your smoke alarm, these new devices have a bed shaker feature and a strobe light. **PLEASE** contact the Fire District office to schedule an installation.

During the last week of August, the Governor declared a conflagration, resulting in the mobilization of fire equipment from around the state going to help at the Tye Complex fires by Roseburg. Lincoln County assembled and sent Task Force 38. Siletz Fire District was able to participate by having Captain Daniel Morford, a volunteer with Siletz and a paid Captain with Toledo FD, to take our Tender 52, along with Christian Deyoe who volunteers with both agencies to deploy for seven days. Their primary function was protecting homes and hardening them to be more defensible should the fire get close to them. Clearing limbs and undergrowth away from your home is the best way to stop your home from catching fire.

And this brings us to our grant.....

### COMMUNITY WILDLAND FIRE RISK REDUCTION (CWRR)

The Office of the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Defensible Space Program was created in 2021 through Senate Bill 762, Oregon's wildfire omnibus bill. The law instituted wildfire prevention, community risk reduction, and proactive emergency response tools for the OSFM. Preparing homes and communities for wildfire impact creates resiliency and fire adapted communities. A fire adapted community acknowledges its wildfire risk and takes action to improve safety for homes, neighborhoods, businesses and infrastructure, forests, parks, and open spaces.

To boost capacity within the Oregon fire service, the OSFM has awarded \$6 million dollars in various grants to the Oregon fire service for the upcoming wildland fire season.

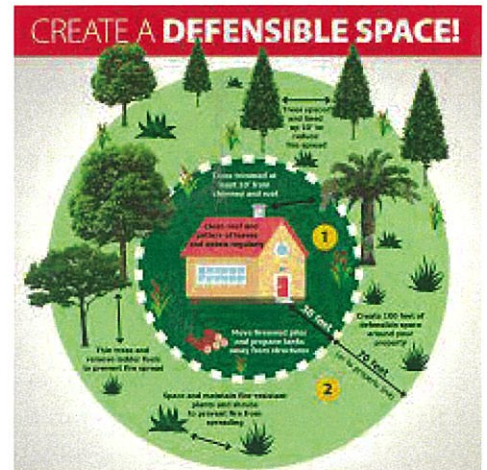
The Siletz Fire District was extremely fortunate to receive over \$162,000 from this new program.

**The funding we receive will allow us to accomplish several projects:**

- A 3-year plan to create defensible spaces on several homes in our Logsdon Firewise community
- Perform a pilot project to treat homes on Steer Creek Rd
- Provide for other defensible space projects throughout our district
- Hold preparedness event to promote Firewise Communities and education on wildfire preparation and prevention
- Hire part-time-temporary seasonal firefighters through October

If you want more information or to schedule a survey of your home and gain insight into maintaining defensible space, or begin a defensible space plan, Oregonians can find resources on [OregonDefensibleSpace.org](http://OregonDefensibleSpace.org) or contact the fire station.

Thank you for your support!



**FALL PREVENTION** Along with taking care of the outside of your home, you also need to look inside and see how you can make your home safer to walk around. Fall is the perfect time to do this.

**A simple accident like tripping on a rug or slipping on a wet floor can change your life.**

No matter what your age, being aware of your surroundings and setting up your home to protect yourself from a fall is important. If you are over 65 years old, this can impact your life dramatically.

**Six Tips To Help Prevent Falls**

More than one in four people age 65 years or older fall each year, yet many falls can be prevented.



Learn more about reducing your risk of falling at [www.nia.nih.gov/falls-prevention](http://www.nia.nih.gov/falls-prevention).



**What can you do to prevent falls?**

1. *Take care of yourself:* Take to your doctor about your medications and their side effects, get a yearly vision exam, keep up with a regular exercise.
2. *Keep pathways clear:* Keep walking areas clear of loose rugs, cords, shoes, clothing, books, magazines, and other clutter. Wipe up spilled liquids immediately. Watch out for pets and children.
3. *Slow down:* When standing, get your balance before walking, get out of chairs slowly, sit up a moment before getting out of bed, don't rush to answer the phone or doorbell.

**What if you fall?**

1. *If you fall at home:* Stay quiet for a moment – don't panic. Decide if you want to try to get up.
  2. *If you decide to try to get up:* Use strong, stable furniture for support. After you get up, take time to recover. Tell someone you had a fall. Get medical help, if necessary.
- If you cannot get up or decide not to try:* Slide or crawl to get help if you can. Tell someone you need help. After calling for help, remain calm until help arrives. Keep warm and comfortable. Get medical help, if necessary.



**FROM THE SILETZ VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION (SVFA)**

Our Fire Chief has challenged us to find more members. All of the current volunteers will be asking everyone we know if they are ready to help their community. Along with responding to emergencies we have lots of exciting projects on the horizon. The Volunteer Association Business meeting is on the First Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Please come on down to learn more!

## YES!!! WE OFFER CPR CLASSES



The fire district offers community CPR & First Aid classes. We are going to be scheduling these classes every other month. The cost will be \$25 and includes a card from the American Heart Association CPR card if needed. All ages are welcome.

If you want to get your name on the list, or if you have any questions or want to learn more about these and other prevention programs, please email us at [office@siletzfire.com](mailto:office@siletzfire.com) or call the station at 541-444-2043.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD-



The Fire District Board of Directors wants to thank the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Foundation and Consumer Power Inc. for their donations for our new EMILY and Patient Lifting Device. We continue to put service to our community first.

With this mindset the Board has made a decision that purchasing a new rescue vehicle is one of our top priorities. Our existing vehicle is 23 years old and is our most used vehicle responding to almost every

call for service we receive. We have secured some funding from the USDA and are still applying for grants and donations. Our volunteer association will be holding fund raisers to help contribute to this project.

Our Board meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Siletz Station at 6:00 PM and the public is welcome.

## HOME ADDRESS MARKERS

**YES!** We still have address markers and are more than happy to make one for you. All you need to do is call the station at 541-444-2043 or email us at [office@siletzfire.com](mailto:office@siletzfire.com) and we'll get one set up for you. The cost is FREE, and the value is priceless when we are responding to your emergency.

Here is a test to know if you or a neighbor need an address marker. The next time you are driving home in the evening look and see if you can spot your or your neighbor's address. Is it clearly visible? Can you see it at night from a distance? Is it visible as well during the day? If you answered no to any of these questions you need to contact us to obtain an Address Marker. Reflective address markers out by the road are truly a life saver. We can't begin to describe what a sickening feeling it is to be responding to your medical emergency and not seeing house numbers to get us there quicker and render the care you need. *Please, your life may depend on it.*



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

We know about being prepared to evacuate during a wildfire, but are you ready for the upcoming winter? Power outages, blocked roads, snow, and icy conditions? One of the best ways to prepare is to make a Emergency Kit for your home and car. In our community it's too easy for you or your neighbor to get stranded and have to be self-sufficient. FEMA and your local emergency management used to say be prepared for 72 hours but now, with the threat of earthquakes and tsunamis everyone is recommending being prepared for five (5) days before outside resources will be available. Included in this issue is a list of items you will want to include in your emergency supplies.

## WISHING YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY

With the holidays approaching we urge you to be extra safe with your Christmas tree by keeping it watered and making sure your lights are in good condition. Also, if you have candles in your home, keep them safety secured. We urge you to use LED Flameless Candles as the safest choice. Make sure you remember this is a season when friends and family travel, so allow extra time for unfavorable weather. Plan ahead and enjoy your holiday season safely.



**OUR NEWSLETTER—PRINT VS. ELECTRONIC?**

*Please send your email to the Fire District at [office@siletzfire.com](mailto:office@siletzfire.com) so we can add your email to the private list that will not be shared. Thank you—Dave Lapof*

**SMOKE ALARMS** – The Siletz Valley Fire District has partnered with the American Red Cross to distribute free smoke alarms to our community. Did you know all smoke alarms are to be replaced every 10 years? Oregon also requires all smoke alarms to be equipped with a tamper proof-10-year battery with a hush feature upon replacement. If you need one or would like us to check to make sure yours is working properly schedule an appointment by contacting the fire station at 541-444-2043 or [office@siletzfire.com](mailto:office@siletzfire.com). We also have access to specialized devices for those that are hard of hearing.

*It's a sound (or light) that will save your life*

## Emergency Kit Checklist

An emergency kit is a collection of food, water and supplies that can sustain you and your family for multiple days. When building a kit, choose a waterproof container with a secure lid, such as a storage bin. An emergency kit could be one bin or several, depending on the number of people in your household.

This list is broken into basic items to start a kit and additional recommendations provided by the United States Department of Homeland Security.

At a minimum, your emergency kit should include the following items:

- Bottled water (1 gallon per person per day for several days).
- Nonperishable food.
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association weather radio with tone alert.
- Flashlight.
- First-aid kit.
- Extra batteries
- Whistle to signal for help.
- Dust mask to help filter contaminated air.
- Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter in place.
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation.
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities.
- Manual can opener.
- Local maps.
- Cellphone with chargers and a backup battery.

### PET CARE ITEMS

- Pet food and water.
- Proper identification.
- A carrier or portable kennel.
- Collar and leash.
- Food and water bowls.



For additional recommended items to add to an emergency kit, visit [ready.gov/kit](http://ready.gov/kit).

