

2014 Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department/LRFD

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

February 11, 2014

Submitted by Steve Rhodes, Fire Chief

I am hereby submitting an annual review of fire department operations as required by our LRFD Bylaws. In 2014, I participated in the new Bylaw process and am starting this review with our current Mission Statement:

The Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department meets the needs of our community by providing well-trained firefighters for response to fire, rescue, medical and public service incidents. We protect lives, property, and the environment with compassion and a dedication to excellence. We meet or exceed the requirements of local, State and National statutes and standards related to the Fire Service. Our conduct will reflect our commitment to safety, honesty, personal responsibility, fairness, respectfulness and integrity. We recognize that the most effective way to protect lives and property is to prevent fires from occurring through fire prevention and education.

Staffing

As 2015 starts, we have 16 active volunteers. One volunteer resigned during 2014, resulting in a loss of 5 years of experience and a commercial truck driver. We have two FF trainees undergoing NFPA FF1 training as provided by our State certified instructors. Two FFs completed FF 1 training in 2014, and are certified with the State. All FFs, Driver Operators, and Chief Officers/Instructors have just been recertified by the DPSST for 2015. We have two Emergency Medical Technicians, 5 Oregon First Responders, and all personnel are trained in CPR/AED. 7 FFs are currently enrolled in Oregon Emergency First responder Training through UCC. Six of our FFs are also NFPA Apparatus Operators, and our heavy equipment drivers are commercial licensed. Three FFs are training to be Driver Operators.

Incidents

The LVFD responded to 160 calls during 2014. As a comparison,

2013 - 133 calls, 2012 - 102 calls, 2011 - 106 calls, 2010 - 133 calls.

Of the total, medical aids accounted for 92 incidents (57.5%), structure fires numbered 25 (15.6%), natural cover fires were 15 (9.4%), public assists were 14 (9.3%), motor vehicle accidents numbered 11 (6.8%), alarm system malfunctions numbered 2 (1%), and Haz/mat was 1 (1%).

Of the total fires (40), 25 were structure responses and 15 were natural cover or wildland responses. 29 of the fires were mutual aid or automatic aid in our surrounding jurisdictions. We experienced a combined fire loss of \$80,000 in our District, with no loss of life or reported injuries.

The LVFD participates in mutual aid and/or automatic aid agreements with all Fire departments in Douglas County. This year, we provided response outside of our District on 29 incidents, while receiving aid in return 19 times. The current aid system benefits our District, and continues to provide paid fire engines from DFPA, Douglas FPD#2, and Winston Fire for any fire in our District.

During the month of July, Douglas FPD #2 provided automatic aid for the LRFD. They responded to 15 additional incidents, including 9 medical calls, 1 public assist, 1 MVA, and 4 natural cover fires, For planning purposes, these calls added to our totals result in a combined 175 incidents responded to in 2014, and increase of 42 calls from 2013.

Vehicles

The vehicle fleet of the LVFD/LRFD represents the majority of the financial assets of our Department. I made a commitment to maintain these assets, ensuring they last the expected service life and be ready to respond when needed. During this year, our diesel equipment was serviced, safety checked, and repaired as needed at Southern Oregon Diesel. 1031, our number two engine, was the only vehicle that needed repair at that time (brakes).

Engines 1030, 1031, and water tender 1061 passed the annual NFPA Standard 1911 pump tests in October. This is a test required by ISO (Insurance Service Office) to maintain our insurance rating, as well as the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training to maintain our accreditation as a Fire Department in Oregon. Each pumper was reported to be in safe and good operating condition. Some minor repairs were made to vehicles during 2014, including:

New batteries for Tender 1060

Brake can on Engine 1031

Budgeted vehicle operations fund expenses for fiscal year 14/15 included front tires for 1030 and 1060, annual pump tests of the engines, and maintenance for all units. Near future (5 year) vehicle needs include a replacement of Brush 1080, and planning for the replacement of Engine 1031. I have begun the spec'ing out of a wildland unit, and have submitted for a FEMA grant to cover the cost. I have also initiated a Federal Excess Property request for the same type of vehicle. A priority is to locate or design a vehicle with off road capability and a sufficient water supply for structural fire attack to reach all areas of our District as a replacement for 1080. This vehicle also must meet the standards of our mutual aid commitments.

Future vehicle needs were identified in our 2013 strategic plan and will be addressed in the next few fiscal years. Engine 1031 and Tender 1061 will be evaluated, with a replacement plan being brought to the Board.

Equipment

The LVFD/LRFD was unsuccessful in securing an ODF/VFA matching grant for fiscal year 14/15. Funds for budgeted equipment purchase were \$4902 from the equipment fund. Identified equipment purchases were reduced by ½ for this FY, and I will again submit for a VFA grant for FY 15/16. The previous grant and purchases made this year have allowed us to offset future capital PPE costs, finish outfitting Engine 1030, complete our structural fire hose inventory, finish outfitting our firefighters with wildland protective gear and fire shelters, and purchase numerous small pieces of equipment related to the safe and efficient operation of this Department.

At this time, inventories have been updated and are in a maintenance mode. Written tracking for all ODF grant equipment is due in 2015, and is being prepared. Future needs for the remainder of this fiscal year include outfitting two new firefighters with safety gear (approximately \$4400), finishing annual maintenance and testing of our breathing air supply system, and replacement of expendable equipment as it is worn out or damaged.

Fire Prevention/Public Education

The Lookingglass Rural Fire District falls under adopted Oregon State fire prevention codes. The current codes and standards are the 2014 edition of the Oregon Fire Code and the 2012 edition of the International Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Code. These codes outline requirements for new construction, as well as maintenance of existing occupancies and infrastructure. The State Fire Marshall office in Medford currently administers our District until a new Roseburg area Fire Marshall is in place. At this time, only large assemblies, schools, and board and care facilities are being inspected due to personnel limitations.

DFPA enforces ORS 277 and any wildland codes in our area. They continue to permit and monitor control burns during and outside of fire season.

One of our biggest concerns in our jurisdiction is access. The current 2012 WUI code requires a 12' wide driveway to within 150' of any structure (all weather surface), lower than 18% grade, 13'5" vertical clearance, and bridges or culverts rated for 30 tons (60,000 lbs). We continue a survey of access problems in the District, and will be seeking voluntary compliance while providing education and what limited services we can (limbing trees,etc.) We have accessed other options, including the DFPA sponsored FIREWISE program, for clearing and maintenance of access and fire breaks. All new construction will be required to meet current codes. Residences beyond bridges not meeting weight requirements have been identified, and our response to those dwellings has been changed and trained for.

Our other fire prevention efforts this year included annual refresher training and education at Lookingglass School. We conducted extinguisher training and fire prevention training for the teachers, staff, and principal of the School in September. We also conducted our annual fire prevention training for all students at the school in October. Our Department has been a statewide leader in this type of training the past few years, and I am proud of our volunteer's efforts and commitment to the safety of our School.

Other public education and fire prevention activities in 2014:

- May 2, 2014 Lookingglass Parade and Cleanup Day (All Units), Grange Public information
- October 7, 8,9 2014 Douglas County Fire prevention expo at Home Depot (E1031) 800 students reached
- December 13, 2014 Timber Truckers Parade (E1031)
- Multiple Days 1070 w/crew and/or Board member at Farmer's Market

Future expectations for fire prevention through June include our annual wildland/summer visit to Lookingglass School with the DFPA and Smokey/Sparky. I am also planning website available links and voluntary fire prevention compliance materials for all businesses in our District until such time as the State Fire Marshall or our District reinstates annual fire prevention visits. We have secured a small grant from FireCorps (a national volunteer association) and First Alert for smoke detectors. These continue to be available to the public for replacement or new installations during the year.

Training

The Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department is required by State law (DPSST) to provide training in a variety of fire department related subjects. We are fortunate to have two State certified Fire Instructors on our roster, and also provide required medical training through a paramedic from the Winston Dillard Fire department. New firefighters are required to complete a 90 hour course before FF1 certification, and existing firefighters are required to complete 60 hours of maintenance training each year. In addition, apparatus operators are required to complete 40 hours of supervised driver training after FF1 completion, and pass a performance test for each type of apparatus (engine,tender,wildland). Each additional certification requires 4 hours of maintenance training each year.

Our firefighters are also certified in CPR/Automatic External Defibulator (4 hours), Haz Mat First Responder (4 hours), and Wildland Safety(2 hours) annually.

We offered 130 hours of instruction this year. State and County EMS standards require 12 hours per year of continuing education for EMTs and First Responders. Training highlights have included live fire propane exercises, vehicle extrication, a live burn in TenMile, and numerous "wet" structural fire drills.

Future budgeted expenses include live fire training with propane as a finish to our FF1 training, and a FF1 academy stretching into 2016. Our Emergency Medical Responder training started in 2014 will finish in March of this year.

Facilities

Facility maintenance was an issue identified while preparing our 25 year planning document in 2012. During 2014 and the 14/15 fiscal year, maintenance started and /or planned include paving repair of the station grounds, cleaning and painting of the station exterior, and general maintenance of the grounds. At this time, cracks in the pavement have been sealed, preventing further damage.

Exterior paint has been purchased for the station, and the station exterior will be painted in the spring of 2015 by a local contractor. Existing FD graphics will be restored by FFs.

Maintenance repairs to the facility were minimal last year. Repair for roll up door maintenance was budgeted for but was not needed. Extinguishers were recharged as required, building heating fuel was purchased, and any other expenses or occurrences were minor in nature.

Future facility maintenance and projects include a station drainage system across the front of the apparatus room to prevent flooding, a training prop/building for ladder and above ground training, and a laundry room or area for PPE care.

Capital Expense Outlook

A 25 year plan for capital expenses was completed and published on our website in 2012/2013. Those capital expenses continue to approach, and the plan should be revisited by the Board in the near future to evaluate the fiscal impacts coming. There are options available for how to fund these expenses and what kind of equipment is needed. Three years have now passed with only small reductions in future needs through our ODF/VFA grant.

For further information about the operation of our community Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department and the Lookingglass Rural Fire District, please contact me, the Board of Directors, or the Fire Station at 541 679-5555.

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