

## **2013 Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Department/LRFD**

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

January 8, 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 2013, 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 2014 starts, we have 17 active volunteers. Three long time volunteers retired during 2013, and we lost over 63 years of combined experience. We have three FF trainees undergoing NFPA FF1 training as provided by our State certified instructors. We have 2 Emergency Medical Technicians, 5 Oregon first responders, and all personnel are trained in CPR/AED. 7 of the Firefighters are also NFPA Apparatus Operators, and our heavy vehicle operators are commercial licensed.

#### **Incidents**

The LVFD responded to 133 calls during 2013. As a comparison,

2012 – 102 calls,            2011 – 106 calls,            2010 – 133 calls.

Of the total, medical aids accounted for 78 incidents (58.6%), fires numbered 29 (22%), public assists were 15 (11.3%), motor vehicle accidents numbered 10 (7.5%), and Haz/mat was 1 (1%).

Of the fires, 21 were structure responses and 8 were natural cover or wildland responses. 6 of the working fires were in Winston on mutual aid (RFP mostly) and 1 was in Tenmile. We responded to 2 fires in the Melrose area for DFPD#2. We experienced minimal fire loss, and no loss of life or reported injuries due to fire in our jurisdiction in 2013.

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 13 incidents, while receiving aid in return 29 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.

## **Vehicles**

The vehicle fleet of the LVFD/LRFD represents the majority of the 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. 1060, our oldest water tender, was the only vehicle that needed repair at that time (brakes).

Engines 1030 and 1031 passed the annual NFPA Standard 1911 pump tests in March of 2013. 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. E1031 is starting to show rust damage from age (22 years), but is operational at this point.

Some minor repairs were made to vehicles during 2013, including:

- New batteries for Engine 1030 (4 each)

- Hose/piping repair on E1031 (rust due to age)

- Flat tire on Water Tender 1061 (Rear dual)

- Brakes on two axles on Water Tender 1060

- Pressure governor and clearance lights on Water Tender 1061

I have budgeted for maintenance and repair for Brush 1080, and will have that completed early in 2014. Potential repairs include the transmission (2<sup>nd</sup> Gear), front end looseness, and tires. Bids will be secured and approval sought before any major repairs are undertaken.

Budgeted vehicle operations fund expenses for the rest of fiscal year 13/14 include front tires for 1030 and 1060, annual pump tests of the engines, maintenance again for 1030,1031,and 1061,and 1070. Near future (5year) vehicle needs include a replacement of Brush 1080 and Engine 1031. I will begin the process of spec'ing out units and searching for satisfactory replacements this year according to the vehicle replacement plan completed in 2013. 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 must meet the standards of our mutual aid commitment.

## **Equipment**

The LVFD/LRFD was successful in securing an ODF/VFA matching grant that was submitted in April of 2013. Total value of that grant was \$17,754 with a match of \$8,877 from the USFS through the State of Oregon. A complete list of equipment has been provided to the Board. The grant allowed us to offset future capital equipment PPE costs, finish outfitting E1030,complete our 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 are being updated and ODF tracking for all grant related equipment is being prepared. Future needs for the remainder of this fiscal year include outfitting one new firefighter with safety gear (approximately \$3500), performing annual maintenance and testing of our breathing air supply system, maintenance of our generators and air compressors, and replacement of expendable equipment as it is worn out or damaged.

### **Fire Prevention/Public Education**

The Lookingglass Rural Fire District falls under adopted Douglas County fire prevention codes. The current codes and standards are the 2010 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. In the spring of 2014, the newest edition of the Oregon Fire Code will be adopted. With this adoption, fire prevention will be consolidated statewide, and counties including Douglas County will be administered under one law. 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.

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 have undertaken 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.) There are other options available, 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.

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 August. 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 2013:

May 4, 2013	Lookingglass Parade and Cleanup Day (All Units)
October 8,9 2013	Douglas County Fire prevention expo at Home Depot (E1031)
October 11, 2013	Veterans Day Parade, Roseburg (1030,1070)
December 14, 2013	Timber Truckers Parade(1031)
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 mailable or deliverable 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 will 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 Defibrillator (4 hours), Haz Mat First Responder (4 hours), and Wildland Safety(2 hours) annually.

We offered 108 hours of instruction this year, including 24.5 hours of driver safety/vehicle operations and 22 hours of medical training. 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, and numerous “wet” structural fire drills.

Future budgeted expenses include live fire training with propane in the WDFD simulator/trailer, a mass casualty drill hosted by the LVFD, and a FF1 academy stretching into 2015.

### **Facilities**

Facility maintenance was an issue identified while preparing our 25 year planning document in 2012. During 2013 and the 13/14 fiscal year, maintenance started 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. Our current plan is to coordinate with the Board and County to jointly finish a slurry coat of our asphalt as good weather returns. There are County road department employees living in our area, and we will again attempt to coordinate with them. A private bid of approximately \$8,000 was secured for the work, and we hope to complete this job at a much lower expense.

Exterior paint has been purchased for the station, and again we are awaiting good weather. This maintenance will again be coordinated between the Board and community volunteers as first option. Existing FD graphics will be restored by FFs.

Maintenance repairs to the facility were minimal last year. One garage door failed and was repaired in September. I am recommending and will get bids on maintenance for all of the doors as recommended by the repairman (as done in the past). Extinguishers were recharged as required, building heating fuel was purchased, and any other expenses or occurrences were minor in nature.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> of 2013, the first annual (I hope) Fire Station cleanup day was undertaken by community volunteers including Carol Heard, Jim Hooten, Bill Bowlin, George Kuntz, Bob Russell, Liz Akin, Kathy Howly, Nicki Buckley, Mark Briggs, Bruce Epperson, John Russell, Yvonne Russell, David Hatch, Charlotte Hatch, Mary McCright, Dennis Young, and Elizabeth Young (and possibly others). The Station and grounds never looked better. During the year Gary Conn has continued to mow the grass and weeds. Jim Hooten and Ford Swauger spent a long day sandblasting out the pavement cracks prior to sealing. And I can't forget the pressure washing crew cleaning the walls as a prep for painting. Several residents of the District have made anonymous cash or time donations to both the LRFD and the Lookingglass Volunteer Fire Fighters Association. These donations were used to fund benefits for our community and our firefighters. The community has stepped up and we are grateful.

As part of the previously mentioned FireCorps program, I have taken the first steps to create an organized citizen volunteer group to undertake identified projects to benefit our District operations, facilities, and equipment. More on this subject will follow this year.

Future FY 13/14 maintenance needs include finishing the painting and paving projects, and evaluating roof condition for future maintenance.

### **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 new 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. Two 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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