

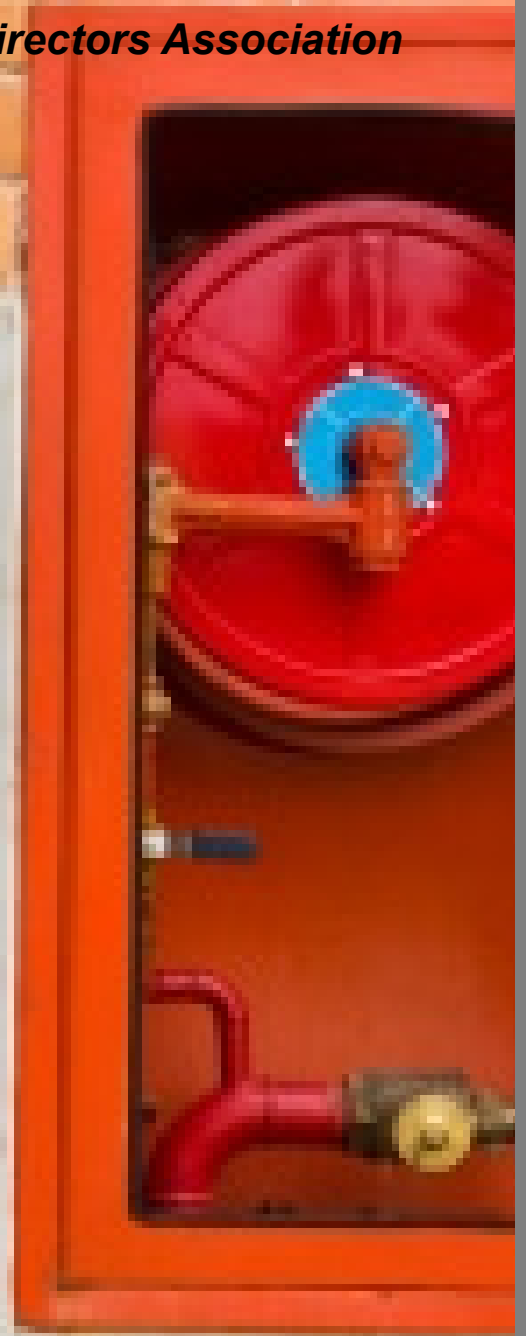
Winter 2014

The COMMUNIQUÉ

A Publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association

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Winter 2014

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Mission Statement

To serve and strengthen through the provision and coordination of timely information, education, and legislation.

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OFDDA President's Message



It was great to see all of you who attended our 2014 Oregon Fire Service Conference in Sunriver. I hope you agree with me that it was a very successful conference. Thank you to the OFDDA Staff and Conference Committee whose hard work before and during the event was an essential element in the successful conference.

At the conference, those of you attending elected Mark Kreutzer to be President of the OFDDA Board of Directors. Mark takes office in January and at that time his current position as a Board member becomes vacant. According to the OFDDA Constitution and Bylaws, that vacant position will be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the Board. If you are interested in being considered for that appointment, please complete an application and submit it by January 14. Application forms are available on our website (www.ofdda.com) under the "Documents & Resources/Forms" tab. Individuals who apply will be considered for appointment at our January 24 Board meeting. If you have any questions regarding the position or the process, please contact me. My contact information is available on the OFDDA website.

It has been my honor to serve as the Board President this year. I look forward to continuing on the Board as Past President, during this coming year. Under the leadership of Mark Kreutzer, we will continue to work together in striving to reach our Association Goals.

Thanks to everyone who attended this year's conference. I hope to see all of you again, as well as other members and guests, at the 2015 Oregon Fire Service Conference we will be hosting in Seaside.

2015 OFDDA Board Takes Office in January

In accordance with Article V of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association's Bylaws, the election of the OFDDA Board of Directors was conducted at the 2014 annual meeting (held in conjunction with the Oregon Fire Service Conference). Following procedures outlined in the Bylaws, the OFDDA Nominations Committee (led by Past President Roy Palmer) proposed a slate of candidates and then called for nominations from the floor. No subsequent nominations were made from the floor and the proposed slate of candidates were elected *en bloc* by a voice vote of the membership in attendance.



The newly elected OFDDA Board Members will officially take office on January 1, 2015, and will include: Mark Kreutzer (Columbia River Fire & Rescue), President; Dennis Rogers (Sheridan Fire District), First Vice President; Don Thompson (North Bay RFPD), Second Vice President; Eldon Marcum (Stanfield RFPD), re-elected as Director Position 2; and Gary Endicott (Jackson County Fire District #4), Director Position 3. Continuing their current terms of service to the Board are Roger Edwards (Hoodland Fire District #74), Director Position 5, and Carol Smith (North Lincoln Fire & Rescue), Director Position 6. Having completed his term as the 2014 Board President, Don Trotter (Clackamas Fire District #1) will assume the Board position of Immediate Past President and Director Position 1.

Leaving the Board after many years of service and leadership are Roy Palmer (Calapooia RFPD) and Darrell King (Charleston Fire District). Their valuable contributions to the oversight and governance of the association will be missed.

The election of Mark Kreutzer as Association President has created a vacancy in Director Position 4. As outlined in the Association's Bylaws, the position will be filled by appointment by a majority vote of the Board at its upcoming meeting (scheduled for January 24, 2015). The appointee will be expected to fill the position through December 2015; the position's current term will be up for election at the 2015 annual meeting. Current OFDDA members interested in being considered for this appointment should complete and return the Board Application Form (available at www.ofdda.com) by January 14, 2015. Please contact the OFDDA office if you have any questions about this process.

OFDDA: Your Membership Makes A Difference

OFDDA Membership renewal begins in January 2015. Currently, the association is proud to represent 162 active member districts from around the state. We hope that you will consider renewing your district's membership for 2015. If you aren't currently a member, we hope you will consider joining the OFDDA in the coming year. It is through the generous support of its members that OFDDA is able to provide several programs and services specifically designed for fire districts. While some programs are member-exclusive, others benefit the Oregon Fire Service in general.

Representation on public safety issues before the legislature, including:

- a. Protection of funds for public safety, the ability for fire district to charge fees to recoup costs, protection of 911 and FIPT monies, as well as DPSST's budget;
- b. Ethics issues--unlike cities, counties & other local governments, fire district Board members do not have to file the invasive SEI forms that triggered so many resignations last year. OFDDA secured an exemption for all fire and other special districts.
- c. Urban renewal revisions--when projects start seeing a return, those returns must be shared with fire districts. Additionally, all taxing districts must be consulted regarding extensions or other major changes.

The Communique. OFDDA's quarterly newsletter provides information on legal and legislative issues and other hot topics. We also welcome articles about individual districts regarding new stations, new chief, a volunteer or career firefighter who has gone above and beyond, and any other topics of interest.

The Oregon Fire Service Conference as hosted by OFDDA each November is a major benefit. We hope Board members will attend regardless of membership to take advantage of the excellent training and networking opportunities. OFDDA Members receive a significant reduction in their registration fees. Scholarships are also available to cover the cost of registration.

Assistance with public meeting laws, statute searches, ethics questions, budgets, district formation, elections, etc. On a daily basis, the OFDDA staff receives calls from districts across the state seeking help on a variety of issues. While we don't provide legal advice, we can point callers to the correct statutes and resources that are responsive to our member needs. Our toll free number provides easy access to our helpful staff.

Recognition of Districts and Board Members. OFDDA has in place a number of ways to recognize and honor member Boards.

Training. OFDDA listens to its members and provides training in areas most requested. OFDDA, in conjunction with SDAO, also sponsors regional training opportunities around the state throughout year. Please contact the OFDDA staff if you are interested in hosting a training or if you would like to develop a customized training event for your area.

LOSAP. When the Length of Service Awards Program was in danger of being scuttled, OFDDA quickly picked up the program so it would not be lost as a volunteer incentive. If you are not currently participating in LOSAP and would like an overview of the program, please contact OFDDA staff.

Board Member Support. If you read the papers, you see issues cropping up all across the state where directors face tough issues and need the support of other Board members. OFDDA's Board of Directors makes every effort to support their fellow Board members across the state and assist them wherever possible.

Governor's Appointments. OFDDA is granted statutory standing for gubernatorial appointments to serve in a number of capacities such as the Governor's Fire Policy Council, BPSST, and other entities. Your membership in OFDDA allows you to bid for these positions. If you would like to serve in such a capacity, please feel free to contact the OFDDA staff

OFDDA Board of Directors/SDAO Committees. Member Districts are encouraged to have their members run for election on the State Board to help OFDDA shape its services to meet the needs of the membership. This includes helping to shape legislative priorities, its policies, and the governing documents of the Association such as the Strategic Plan. There are also powerful positions within SDAO that are reserved solely for OFDDA appointments, including the SDAO's Board, the Legislative Committee, and the Trust. Only Board members who belong to OFDDA are eligible.

Are there overlaps in the services and programs provided by OFDDA with other fire service or local government associations? Most likely, yes. However, the Oregon Fire District Directors Association is **your** Association. Its programs and services are tailored just for you and we hope you'll make use of them. If there are other programs you'd like to see offered, please let us know. If you have questions about how membership dues are calculated or would like information about joining the OFDDA, please contact the OFDDA staff at 1-800-223-9708.

Walker Installed as Tenth Oregon State Fire Marshal



On Tuesday, November 18, Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber officiated at the oath of office ceremony for James Walker, officially installing him as the tenth Oregon State Fire Marshal. Walker joined the office as chief deputy state fire marshal in 2009 and has been serving as interim state fire marshal since March 2014. Before joining the Office of State Fire Marshal, Walker was the fire operations director for the Oregon Department of Forestry.

In his newly officiated role, Walker will direct the agency's fire programs, which includes fire investigation, data collection and analysis, safety education and the regulations on the fireworks, explosives, propane and non-retail gasoline industries, among other responsibilities.



Governor Kitzhaber also administered the oath of office to Mariana Ruiz-Temple as the state's new Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal. Mariana has served in the fire marshal's office in a variety of roles for nearly 20 years, most recently as the assistant chief deputy of the Emergency Response Branch, a post she had held since 2006.

Legal Beagle



*By Russ Williamson
Local Government Law Group, PC*

Is your district considering a new station or the major renovation of an existing station? If so, you need to consider whether state law requires the inclusion of green energy technologies in your building project.

Oregon law requires public entities, including fire districts, to spend 1.5 percent of the total contract price of a public improvement contract for new construction or major renovation of a public building on green energy technology. This requirement was originally established in 2007, but was amended in both 2012 and 2013. The requirements are found in ORS 279C.527 - 279C.528 and administrative rules adopted by the Oregon Department of Energy.

So what is "green energy"? It is more than just solar panels. Green energy includes solar technologies (photovoltaic, solar hot water, passive solar and day lighting) and certain geothermal systems.

The requirement for adding green energy technology to a building applies to any new public building with construction costs of more than \$1,000,000 and any building renovations with construction costs of more than \$1,000,000 and 50 percent of the insured value of the building. Generally, this would include any new fire station or administrative building where construction costs will be more than \$1 million.

The law also includes reporting requirements. If you have a building project subject to the requirements, you must report the project to the Department of Energy. An electronic form is available on the Department's website. You will need to make the report before construction of the green energy system begins.

Even if the construction project fits within the dollar values requiring the green technology, there are some exceptions. For example, a public body can consider whether green energy technology would be inappropriate for the building site. But the exceptions come with other requirements that the public entity must follow.

The take-away I want to leave you with is this: If you have a construction project that is projected to cost over \$1 million in your future, please make sure you investigate the green energy requirements. These requirements have been in place for several years now, but we have found that many public entities are not familiar with all the requirements. Before you start a new project, you should contact your legal counsel or the Department of Energy to help you understand all the ins and outs of the green energy requirements.

2015 Save The Dates

Dates	Event	Location	Add'l Info
Statewide Events			
March 4-6	Northwest Leadership Seminar	Red Lion—Jantzen Beach Portland, OR	ofca.org
March 17-20	Oregon Fire Marshals Association Business Meeting	Riverhouse Bend, OR	ofma.net
April 16-17	Oregon Fire Service Office Administrators Spring Workshop	Newberg, OR	ofsoa.com
May 6-8	Oregon Fire Chiefs Association Spring Conference	Eaglecrest Resort Redmond, OR	ofca.org
May 15-16	Northwest Fire & Rescue Expo	Expo Center Portland, OR	northwestfirerescue.com
June 17-20	Oregon Volunteer Firefighters Association Conference	Pendleton, OR	ovfa.org
Regional & National Events			
March 21-25	Fire-Rescue Med Conference	Henderson, NV	www.iafc.org
March 24-26	Wildland Urban Interface Conference	Reno, NV	www.iafc.org



SPECIAL DISTRICTS INSURANCE SERVICES

Special Districts Insurance Services (SDIS) was established specifically for Oregon's special districts. As a not-for-profit, self-insured group, our main objective is to provide reasonable, stable rates and broad coverage to participants. Insurance programs available include:

- General Liability
- Automobile Liability
- Property
- Boiler and Machinery
- Crime
- Workers' Compensation
- Health Insurance
- Life and Disability
- Section 125 Plan

Our partnership with Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) allows us to offer additional services to participants including:

- Pre-loss legal assistance on issues that may lead to a covered claim
- Onsite risk management consultations with a dedicated fire consultant
- Management consulting services

For decades, fire districts insured with SDIS have experienced a superior level of service and value which is unmatched in the industry. We invite you to contact us today to see the difference SDIS can make for you.

ADMINISTERED BY SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION OF OREGON
 PO Box 12613 | Salem OR 97309-0613
 TOLL-FREE: 800-285-5461 | PHONE: 503-371-8667
 E-MAIL: underwriting@sdao.com | WEB: www.sdao.com

Online Training: A Free SDAO Member Benefit that Pays

SDAO Member Services Department

As part of SDAO's suite of benefits, SafePersonnel online training proves to be one of the most valuable resources offered. Since implementing the program in January, we have had over 3,000 individuals at member districts complete various courses with very positive feedback.

SafePersonnel offers a wide variety of courses (see below) to help your district train your employees and volunteers on everyday issues. Courses can be accessed online at any time of the day and at any location. This can be especially helpful for volunteers who may have a less flexible schedule.

In addition to utilizing your personalized training website as an educational tool, SafePersonnel can help your district obtain a 2 percent credit on its SDIS property/casualty insurance contribution for 2016. The 2015 SDIS Best Practices Program offers a 2 percent credit opportunity to any insured district that has at least one individual complete one of three specified courses. These courses include Public Meetings and Public Records (*available Spring 2015*), Emergency & Disaster Preparedness, and Workplace Bullying: Awareness & Prevention. Depending on your total premium, using this program could help your district receive a substantial credit for 2016.

If your district does not have a personalized training website, please contact SDAO Member Services to get started. We will send your contact information to SafePersonnel and they will send you the information necessary to begin taking courses. You can contact us at 800-285-5461 or MemberServices@sdao.com.

A sample of training courses that may be pertinent to your district is provided below:

<p>Emergency Management Emergency & Disaster Preparedness</p> <p>Employment Practices/Supervisory Discrimination: Avoiding Discriminatory Practices Sexual Harassment: Policy & Prevention</p> <p>Environmental Accident Investigation Training Asbestos Awareness Back Injury & Lifting Compressed Gas Safety Confined Spaces Electrical Safety Eye & Face Protection Fall Protection Forklift Safety General Safety Orientation Hand & Power Tool Safety Hazard Communications: Right to Understand Hearing Loss Prevention Heat Illness Prevention Ladder Safety Lockout/Tagout: Energy Release Office Ergonomics Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)</p>	<p>Environmental (<i>continued</i>) Respiratory Protection Safety Committee Operations Safety Data Sheets (SDS) Slips, Trips, & Falls Trenching & Excavation Safety</p> <p>Health Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Prevention: Complete Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Prevention: Refresher Stress Management</p> <p>Human Resources Customer Service Overview Discrimination Awareness in the Workplace Diversity Awareness: Staff-to-Staff Drug Free Workplace Training General Ethics in the Workplace Sexual Harassment: Staff-to-Staff Workplace Bullying: Awareness & Prevention Workplace Violence: Awareness & Prevention</p> <p>Transportation Defensive Driving Winter Driving</p>
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Interested in submitting an article or advertising in The Communiqué?

Contact the OFDDA office at info@ofdda.com or 1-800-223-9708.

Thank you to
Special Districts
Association,

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SPECIAL DISTRICTS
ASSOCIATION OF OREGON

the 2014 Conference
Title Sponsor

SAVE THE DATE!

2015 Oregon Fire Service Conference

November 5-7 at the

Seaside Convention Center

Oregon Fire District Directors Association
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