

# The COMMUNIQUE

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2010

A Publication of the Oregon Fire District Directors Association

A close-up photograph of a firefighter wearing a yellow jacket and a black helmet with a face shield. He is looking intently at a woman with blonde hair who is wearing a grey jacket. They appear to be in a vehicle, possibly a fire truck, with a red interior panel visible in the background.

## OREGON TORT CLAIMS ACT REVISION

### Fire Service Remembers Chief Ron **TEGEN**

# The COMMUNIQUE

A publication of the Oregon Fire  
District Directors Association.

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# OFDDA Brings O'Leary to Conference; Recognizes 30 and 40-Year Directors

*By Connie L. Barton*



OFDDA President Connie L. Barton

The 2010 Joint Conference is just around the corner. If you have not yet registered, please go online at [www.ofdda.com](http://www.ofdda.com) or fax in the registration form below.

John O'Leary to be Keynote Speaker This year's keynote speaker is internationally acclaimed motivational speaker John O'Leary. As a nine-year-old boy, John was burned on 100 percent of his body and given less than one percent chance of surviving the first night. Despite the odds, he overcame the challenges to become a college graduate, business

owner, chaplain, the Ambassador for Big Brothers, Big Sisters, the first inductee into the Energizer "Keep Going" Hall of Fame, an international speaker, a husband and father. John's message is to help audiences "Rise Above their challenges."

OFDDA Recognizes 30/40 Year Directors OFDDA has long made a practice of honoring Directors who have served 20 or more years as Fire District Directors, awarding 20 year pins and recognizing these dedicated public servants.

Recently, it has come to the attention of the OFDDA Board of Directors that some Fire District Directors have served as many as 30 or even 40 years. The Board plans to begin recognizing these individuals at the Joint Conference with a special pin designed just for them.

If you or someone you know qualifies for this recognition, please complete the form below and return it to the OFDDA office via fax at 503-364-9919.

I look forward to seeing you at Conference. ♦

## OREGON FIRE DISTRICT DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION FIRE DIRECTOR 20/30/40 YEAR SERVICE AWARD

The Oregon Fire District Directors Association honors fire district directors with 20, 30 and 40+ years of service (as a director) to their fire districts (district must be a current member of OFDDA). During this year's conference in November, eligible directors will be recognized and receive a special commemorative lapel pin (awards will be mailed to those not in attendance at conference).

■ The signature below certifies that \_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME)

Has served \_\_\_\_\_  
(DISTRICT NAME)

as a fire director for \_\_\_\_\_ years. (a period of not less than 20 years).

→ SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME) (TITLE) (DATE)

**Return completed form to:**

**OFDDA, 1284 Court St NE, Salem, OR 97301, Fax: 503-364-9919**



# 2010 OFDDA/OFCA Joint Conference

Registration Form: or register online [www.ofdda.com](http://www.ofdda.com) or [www.ofca.org](http://www.ofca.org)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

## **Pre-Conference**

	<b><u>on or before 10/22</u></b>	<b><u>after 10/22</u></b>
OFDDA/OFCA Member	___ \$109.00	___ \$159.00
OFCA Life Member (active 20+years)	___ \$84.75	___ \$121.75
Non Member	___ \$119.00	___ \$169.00

## **Conference**

OFDDA/OFCA Member	___ \$195.00	___ \$235.00
OFCA Life Member (active 20+years)	___ \$148.75	___ \$178.75
Non Member	___ \$215.00	___ \$275.00

## **Saturday, November 13 - I will be attending:**

\_\_\_ OFDDA Directors Toolbox #3

\_\_\_ OFCA Chiefs Toolbox #8 - Training/Education/Professional Development

Lunch and Carnival Vendor night are included in the cost of registration. Guest meals may be purchased separately:

## **Guest Meals**

I will need \_\_\_\_\_ lunches at \$19.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Registration Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

## **PAYMENT OPTIONS:**

Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Bill agency listed above \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card M/C or Visa \_\_\_\_\_ exp \_\_\_\_\_

ALL CANCELLATIONS MUST BE IN WRITING, FAX, EMAIL OR MAIL  
Cancellations received prior to October 17, 2010 are fully refundable.  
Cancellations after October 22, 2010 shall require Board approval.

# Is Your Volunteer Organization in Compliance with the IRS?

By J. Kenneth Jones,  
Local Government Law Group, PC, a member of Speer Hoyt, LLC.



Over the years, I've noticed that many of your volunteer organizations have established themselves as 501(c)(3) corporations. This has the effect of making donations to the Volunteer Association IRS deductible for charitable purposes. For your information, the same type of deduction is allowed for donations to a local government entity, such as a fire district (IRC §170(c)(1)).

The IRS, in a 2006 law change, now requires non-profit organizations with receipts of less than \$25,000 to file tax returns. The first return was to be filed for fiscal/calendar year 2007. The original deadline for compliance was May of 2010. The IRS has extended the deadline until October 15, 2010.



As of a few weeks ago, the IRS has identified over 325,000 organizations that did not file. This is important because if tax returns are not filed by October 15, 2010, including any back-due reports, organizations will lose their 501(c)(3) status.

The IRS has posted a website listing various charities. You may want to check the website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). This new law specifically applies to charities whose

annual revenues are \$25,000 or less. The document, Form 990-N or "E-postcard" is available online. Somewhat larger groups are eligible to file a Form 990-EZ.

Please pass this information on to your volunteer or auxiliary organizations who rely upon their 501(c)(3) status. This may also be a time to review your relationships with such organizations. I have found many districts have no, or outdated, agreements. Liability issues, proper expenditure of public funds, and the relationship of the Association to the District are all areas for review.

If there are questions, please contact your accountant, auditor, or attorney, so your specific organization's status is not in jeopardy. ♦

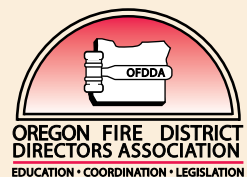
**website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).**

## John O'Neil Remembered

A memorial service honoring the life and fire career of Captain John O'Neil, who passed away on September 2, was held on Sunday, September 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Jefferson High School gymnasium in Jefferson. He was 43. John was a member of the Jefferson Fire Department, a Jefferson school board member, treasurer of the volunteer association of JRFPD, assistant Jefferson High School football coach, 555 bowling classic fundraiser Oregon Burn Center, and a T-ball coach. He volunteered at the Oregon Burn Center

and at St. Jude.

John is survived by his wife, Cindy Louise (Foht) O'Neil of Jefferson.. He is also survived by his sons, Tyler Marc O'Neil and Kolby James O'Neil of Jefferson; daughter Karli Jean O'Neil of Jefferson; stepdaughter Brandy Gale Foht-Taylor of Silverton; parents Pat and Sharon (Emerson) O'Neil of Salem; sister Tina (O'Neil) and husband Jason Smith of Salem; brother Patrick and wife Morgan (Fair) O'Neil of Salem; three stepgrandsons; and 16 nieces and nephews. ♦



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# Oregon Tort Claims Act Revision

By Dave Campbell – WHA Insurance, Retired

The last session of the legislature approved Senate Bill 311 revising the Oregon Public Entity Liability Limits for claims under Oregon law. This may affect some private contractors as well because some public entities require contractors to carry limits of liability equal to or greater than the public entity carries.

The following Oregon Liability Limits information are excerpts from the State of Oregon Insurance Administrator's Spring/Summer 2010 newsletter:

The new limits for local public bodies – including Fire and other Special Districts – effective July 1, 2010 are a minimum of \$533,300 for a single claimant for Bodily Injury per occurrence and this will increase by \$33,333 each year through June 30th 2015 for a total then of \$666,632.

The limit for any greater number of claimants in one event is now \$1,066,700 per occurrence for Bodily Injury and that will increase \$66,666 each year through June 30th 2015 for a total then of \$1,333,364.

The July 1, 2010 new limit of Property Damage for a single claimant is now \$100,000 and for all claimants the limit will be \$500,000 per occurrence. These limits will be reviewed each year by a state court administrator and adjusted as deemed appropriate. This will apply to ALL Public Bodies.

- The State of Oregon will be liable for greater limits for claims made against
- The State for Bodily Injury - \$1.6 million for a single claimant and \$3.2 million
- Aggregate for all claimants. There will be annual adjustments of \$100,000 and \$200,000 respectively through 2015



Oregon State Capitol.

Most Oregon Fire Districts already insure for local public body higher limits than we have recited above, however if your district has liability limits less than the ones stated, we urge you to contact your insurance agent as soon as possible and increase to at least the new amounts. These changes may result in higher liability costs in the future.

If you are insuring for higher limits, we urge you to stay with, or consider increasing those limits as there is no limitation of liability damages under Federal law! Some examples of possible claims under Federal law are Civil Rights, Employment Practices and Pollution. ♦

## Advertise in the COMMUNIQUÉ!

The Communiqué Reaches More Than 1300 Fire Service Professionals Including Board Members, Chiefs, and Volunteers.

You can reach them all at these affordable rates

AD SPECIFICATIONS	Sizes	Width X Depth	Sizes	Width X Depth	Sizes	Width X Depth
	Full page .....	7" x 10"	Half page Vertical .....	4.75" x 7.50"	Quarter page .....	4.75" x 3.50"
	Price: \$250.00		Price: \$160.00		Price: \$85.00	
	Half page Horizontal ...	7.50" x 4.75"	Quarter page .....	3.50" x 4.75"	Business Card .....	3.50" x 2.25"
	Price: \$160.00		Price: \$85.00		Price: \$35.00	

FILE SPECIFICATIONS: PRESS QUALITY PDF FILES ARE PREFERRED

Please submit your ads to [info@ofdda.com](mailto:info@ofdda.com)

All advertisements shall be relevant to the fire service and to the needs of our membership.

# Fire Service Pays Tribute to Retired Chief Ron Tegen

Former fire chief who spent 42 years serving Stayton Fire District and was a fixture in the Stayton community has died.

Ron Tegen died of natural causes Sept. 5 at his Stayton home, according to the fire district. He was 70.

Tegen was Stayton's first paid fire chief, taking the post in 1974 and retiring in 2002. He had started volunteering with the department in 1968.

People close to the fire service spoke highly of Tegen.

"He was very much admired," said Dick Morley, vice president of the fire board. "He was dedicated to this community and the fire service."

Tegen was a fixture in the community even after his retirement from the fire district.

"You'd see him around town," said Don Eubank, the Stayton city administrator. "He was always pleasant and would stop and talk to you, no matter who you are. That's something you need in a community this size."

"There's hardly anybody that you talk to that did business in this town or Sublimity that didn't know him; everybody knew Ron Tegen. He is going to be missed."

Tegen was born in Portland. He was in the U.S. Navy from 1958 to 1961, and later earned his degree in fire science from Chemeketa Community College, according to an obituary.

Tegen has served on the Oregon Fire Chief's Association board and Marion County Fire Defense board.

He enjoyed hunting, camping, wood cutting and cooking. Tegen's ashes will be spread over one of his favorite hunting spots, his daughter, Ronda Lehman, said. Lehman works for the Statesman Journal's

advertising department.

"He really liked the outdoors," she said. "He's known for his roses. At one time he had over 100 rose bushes."

Tegen was a history buff, especially when it came to Stayton.

"If you wanted to know something about this town, you'd ask Ron," Eubank said.

As fire chief, Tegen oversaw construction of a new fire station, joined rural and city fire departments to create Stayton Fire District, advocated for tax levies to buy new equipment and recruited firefighters to the mostly volunteer district.

"He had a lot of credibility in the community and got things done when they needed to be done," Eubank said. "He was the kind of guy that if he set his mind to something, he'd do it."

Tegen also created the current district motto: volunteer service with pride.



Chief Ron Tegen

He will remain an important piece in the district's history.

The morning of Tegen's death, 20 firefighters showed up to help his wife, Rose, at their Stayton home, Lehman said.

They carried the body of their friend, boss and mentor on fire trucks past the fire station one last time, Lehman said.

"It was very moving," she said. "He mentored a lot of guys that are in the fire service. We've had a lot of people come up and say they wouldn't be firefighters if it wasn't for Dad." ♦

## Smoke Inhalation Facts:

According to news accounts, between April 1 and June 1, 69 firefighters were reported as transported for treatment of smoke inhalation. Since January 1, firefighters have transported or treated 1,609 civilians for smoke inhalation; 415 civilians have died from smoke inhalation and 123 firefighters have been transported for smoke inhalation.

Did You Know?

\* Information provided by the Cyanide Poisoning Treatment Coalition – <http://firesmoke.org>





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