



Community Events:

First Aid/CPR
January 19, 2019
9 am—4 pm

Martin Luther King Jr
Day
January 21th

Valentine's Day
February 14th

First Aid/CPR
March 9, 2019
9 am—4 pm

First Aid/CPR
May 11, 2019
9 am—4 pm

New Volunteer Leadership



Congratulations to Lindsay Taylor, Maddie Morrell, Ken Corbin, and Justin Brown in their new leadership roles for the Volunteer Fire Association!



Hot off the Press

Winter 2019

Chief Letter

Happy New Year to everyone! It is hard to believe that 2018 has come and gone. This last year brought some unique challenges to the fire department. But as usual, we stepped up, faced them head on and came out better on the other end. Some of our challenges came in the form of manpower shortages and losing experienced firefighters. Last spring, most of our Resident Volunteers either graduated from college or decided to pursue other options. This caused us to step up our recruiting for those positions and conduct a summer fire academy for the first time in four years.

New this fiscal year is the addition of a part-time firefighter, Monday through Friday, 9am to 5 pm. This position gives our personnel more freedom to attend local meetings and continuing education and provides us an additional firefighter for a better response to emergencies. This is working out to be an excellent program and is a fiscally efficient way to provide manpower within our budget.

Other challenges presented themselves in the form of new equipment and the training required to familiarize our personnel with them. This included the addition of the new ladder truck, 251. 251 not only has a 75-foot aluminum ladder, it also contains numerous ground ladders, extrication equipment, firefighting, and heavy

rescue items. This makes 251 the perfect piece of equipment for "over the side" rescues, vehicle accidents, and fire engine responses. It is our most versatile piece of equipment and makes us ready for almost anything.

Large fires were also a big part of 2018. We participated in 9 conflagrations in Oregon and California throughout the summer and fall. When local agencies were overwhelmed, we were able to step in and assist, along with other firefighters throughout the state. That is one of the beautiful parts of the Fire Service: we all work together. This is why it is so important to practice and train together on a regular basis. I believe that building relationships and training together is an essential part of the Fire Service and shows Philomath Fire & Rescue in a good light.

This is just a small part of what we have been doing in the last few months. We will continue to strive to exceed the expectations of our community. I hope that 2019 brings hope and prosperity to you and your family. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. I look forward to seeing you in new year.

- Tom Miller, Fire Chief

2018 - A year in review

Philomath Fire & Rescue just wrapped up another year of serving our community with 700 calls for emergency services. This represents a 5.8% decrease in the number of calls we responded to from the year before, although it is a 41.4% increase over the last 10 years. We can manage this call volume thanks to the six career staff and the 31 men and women volunteers of the District (including three staff Lieutenants and six Resident Volunteers who staff the main station 24/7). A breakdown of our calls for service is as follows:

- **511 Medical calls** (73% of the total call volume, down from than the 588 calls the year before)
- **189 Fire calls** (27% of the call volume, higher than the 181 calls the year before)
- **Aid to other departments** (including conflagrations): **80** (12%, up from 67 calls)

Our District covers the western portion of Benton County for motor vehicle crashes. Because of this, we have responded to Lincoln, Polk, and Lane Counties as well as Blodgett and Kings Valley.

In addition to fire and EMS calls, Philomath Fire & Rescue also manages public education and fire & life safety initiatives. In 2018, we taught CPR/First Aid to **167** people, had **14** participants in the Emergency Medical Responder 10-week course, conducted **74** business inspections, had over **700** children participate in tours and fire safety events, hosted more than **500** people for our October Open House. We also performed Plans Review/ Access and Water Supply evaluations for over **120** residences and businesses. In all, nearly **2,600** people have been directly impacted as a result of our outreach and community involvement.

Philomath Fire & Rescue

1035 Main Street, P.O. Box 247
Philomath, OR 97370
Phone: 541-360-0030

Visit our website: www.philomathfire.com
and like us on Facebook!

Our Mission:

*The preservation of property through the
extinguishment and prevention of fires.*

*The protection and care of human life through
education and treatment.*

*The development of character through
commitment and teamwork.*

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer

Can we find you?

2
4
5
8
3

One of the questions that is asked when you call 9-1-1 for assistance is: "What is your address?" Really the question is, "can we find your house"? Every second counts during an emergency. Valuable time can be lost if your house numbers are not clearly posted where emergency responders can see it. This is especially challenging for our residents who live in the more rural areas of our Fire District. To remedy this, Philomath Fire & Rescue can provide you with a highly-visible address post at no cost to you (pictured left).

Ask yourself:

- Can your house be found easily by passing cars?
- Can it be found quickly in an emergency?
- Can you see your address at night?

Try this: drive or walk up and down your street, put yourself in the position of a rescuer that's responding to your house in a life-or-death situation. Can your house number be seen clearly and easily from the street, especially at night? Rescue personnel will tell you that finding the correct residence is one of the most difficult parts of responding to an emergency. Wasted minutes and seconds can mean the difference between life and death for someone in need of emergency care. Fire, EMS and police officers will not be the only ones to benefit from a visible address sign at the roadside: friends, business acquaintances, and the "Delivery Guy" will all be able to find your house much easier!

If you are one of our rural community members, you can order a new or replacement address post by calling Philomath Fire & Rescue at 541-360-0030.

Thank You to Siletz Tribe

In August 2018, Philomath Fire & Rescue received a grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund in the amount of \$2,838.00. These funds were awarded to go towards new gas detectors for the District. Gas detectors are used to determine if there are any invisible, toxic emissions in the area that could endanger the life and health of our responders and members of the community. The new gas detectors will be able to detect 4 gases; carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, methane, and oxygen. The Siletz Tribal fund is awarded to local organizations with a focus on education, health, public safety, drug & alcohol treatment, housing, and other charitable purposes. Since its inception, the Siletz Tribe has distributed more than \$11.3 million through the charitable fund. Thanks to the hard work of Lieutenant Bryan Crocker, the District was awarded these funds to help better protect the Philomath community.

