

Fire Connection

OFFICE OF THE IDAHO STATE
FIRE MARSHAL
A Division of the Idaho
Department of Insurance

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Recipe for Building the Lowman Volunteer Fire District

The Lowman Volunteer Fire District was created in May of 2000 as a non-profit corporation. Station #84 was open in 2001 and Station #80 in 2004. March 1, 2009 Station #72 was accredited by the Idaho Surveying and Rating Bureau. The challenge of fire protection of the Lowman Fire District is because it is 20 miles long and 1 mile wide with 95% of the property owners having an ISO rating of "8" and 5% a rating of "9".

The following ingredients mixed with patience and goal-oriented direction made the fire department happen:

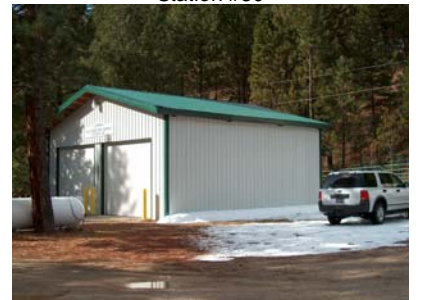
- Seventy-six percent of the property owners support the fire department by purchasing memberships and making donations.
- Three fire districts have donated vehicles.
- Idaho Department of Lands provided two ex-military fuel tankers that have been converted to water tenders for the fire department's use.
- Firefighting equipment has been funded by five FEMA grant awards.
- The income from the fire department charter membership and an all-volunteer crew built Station #84.
- Boise County Commissioners sponsored the fire department for an Idaho Department of Commerce Block Grant providing 40% of the funds to build Station #80.
- The USDA Rural Development loaned the fire department a large part of the cost for Station #80.
- USDA Forest Service granted the fire department the use of three acres on Highway 21 as a special use permit.
- Lowman Volunteer Fire Department and talented community volunteers built the interior rooms of the station.
- The East Boise County Ambulance in Lowman needed a new home and signed lease for use of a two-vehicle bay and joint use of the training room and rest rooms.



Station #72



Station #80



Station #82

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State Fire Marshal's Message

By Mark Larson
State Fire Marshal



Annual Report

You have recently received your copy of the 2008 annual report. We have again this year included excerpts of statistics from various wildland fire agencies. A copy of our Fire Department Survey has been included with your copy of the report. We maintain our information about your agency by this primary means. Please take the time to update your responses or just let us know that nothing has changed. If changes occur anytime during the year, we appreciate your letting us know. You can call, email or use the form from our website.

HB 218

By now, I am sure you are all aware of the legislative changes that went into effect July 1, 2009 related to the ability to use the "codes" to require automatic fire sprinklers in one- and two- family dwellings. I have been asked several times if "local governments" could still place a sprinkler requirement on that type of construction...without referring to the codes listed in the law. I am not an attorney and cannot give you legal guidance, but I can tell you that an amendment to the law was offered in the committee that would have allowed cities and counties to use their authority to require sprinklers...and it was defeated.

Dick Hahn

Dick Hahn retired as Chief Deputy for Investigation in mid May of this year. He decided to spend his time doing something other than working for the great state of Idaho. He joined our office as the investiga-

tor out of the Idaho Falls office in June of 1998... after retiring as Chief with the Idaho Falls Fire Department. When Don Dillard retired in 2004, Dick moved to Boise to take the position of Chief Deputy for Investigation. We enjoyed having him here almost as much as he enjoyed not spending "winter" in Idaho Falls.

I have reconfigured our Boise office staff by moving Jim Macklin to fill the vacancy left by Dick's retirement. Through our departmental promotion process, I have placed Deputy Knute Sandahl in Jim's former position as Chief Deputy/Prevention. This leaves me with a vacant position that, because of budget restrictions, I am unable to fill for the foreseeable future. I know many of you are facing similar circumstances, of having to do more with less.

Surplus Equipment

Our office will soon have access to 19 computer hard drives that will be surplus by our agency as we upgrade our equipment. Our fiscal people tell me that we will not be continuing (for the time being) on our usual policy of changing out one third of our agency computers every year. If you are in need of a hard drive upgrade, please let Cheryl Karnowski know as soon as possible.

If you have other equipment needs or things, from hoses to apparatus, you no longer need, please share that with us. We frequently get calls from departments looking for a little assistance and we are always happy to try to facilitate an exchange.

Photographs

We are always looking for photographs of interesting events from our customers for use in our annual report or for display in our

office. Please feel free to share electronic pictures of fires, rescues, extrication events, EMS situations, fire stations, antique or unique equipment or electronic copies of historical pictures you might have. Include as much information as you can to describe the photograph so we can provide you with the proper credit for your efforts.

Fireworks Survey

As of July 24, 2009, I have had 28 departments send in the fireworks survey. The reports collected to date show 42 calls, 26 fires, 0 injuries, \$20,000 in property damage and \$22,100.75 in fire department expenses related to fireworks.

Thank you very much to those who took the time to complete the forms.

2009 International Fire Code (IFC) adoption

Actions taken at the August meeting of the Idaho Building Code (IBC) Board keep them on track to meet the legislative mandate of a January 1, 2011 adoption date for the 2009 edition of the International Building Code (IBC). I will draft an administrative rule after the adjournment of the 2010 legislative session to match the effective date of the IFC to that of the IBC.

International Green Construction Code (ICGC)

The International Code Council (ICC), in conjunction with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the American Society for Testing and Materials-International (ASTM), is working to develop a "model" code to be used for the construction of "green" buildings. It will focus on construction elements of commercial

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People Helping People Build a Safer World™

Dear ICC Member:

An important piece of federal legislation directly impacting you and the ability to better enforce codes across the country has been introduced in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. Entitled the "Community Building Code Administration Grant Act," this bill authorizes \$20 million annually from 2010 to 2014 for a grant program to support the administration of building and fire codes at the local level. Currently, there are no dedicated federal funds for building code administration.

There are several benefits to this legislation.

- Economic benefits of building to the latest codes can include energy savings, reduced maintenance costs, lower insurance premiums and fewer safety concerns.
- This program will not infringe upon local and state authority to adopt and implement building and safety codes.
- It provides much needed resources for:
 - Hiring and training code officials to save lives, protect property and reduce the consumption of energy in the built environment
 - Funding to government code enforcement offices to start or boost the capacity of local building code administration offices
 - Capital needs such as computers and vehicles, as well as for training and professional certification for code enforcement offices

The Act, referred to as HR 2246 in the House and S. 970 in the Senate, was introduced by Representatives Dennis Moore (D-KS), Judy Biggert (R-IL) and Dina Titus (D-NV) on the House side and by Senators Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Mel Martinez (R-FL), Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and Tim Johnson (D-SD) in the Senate on May 5, 2009. Additional sponsors in the House are: Representatives Betty McCollum (D-Minn), Keith Ellison (D-Minn), James Oberstar (D-Minn), Christopher Murphy (D-Conn), Ed Pastor (D-AZ), Collin Peterson (D-Minn), Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Tim Walz (D-Minn). Senators who are cosponsoring are: Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), John Tester (D-Mont.) and Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ).

Please consider sending in a letter supporting this legislation, and/or asking others you know who share an interest in getting support for building departments and other entities with authority to adopt and enforce codes, to contact their representative and senators. This link, <http://capwiz.com/iccsafe/issues/?style=D&> will take you to the Code Council's Government Relations web page where if you put in your ZIP code it will provide you with a letter that you can customize to your needs, and send to your Congressional members.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard P. Weiland".

Richard P. Weiland, Chief Executive Officer

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=h111-2246> (this is the link for the House bill)

<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-s970/text> (this is the link for the Senate bill)

Are Your Guns Safe?

By Dick Hahn
Deputy State Fire Marshal

How much protection do you need for your guns? One of the best ways to protect your guns and other important documents is with fire safes.

First of all a fire safe does not guarantee the contents are protected from fire and heat. There is no such thing as a fireproof safe but there is a fire resistant safe.

It has to be a fire safe to have fire resistant protection. Any material can suffer damage from heat and fire if exposed to a high enough temperature for a long enough time. Some materials

are good at resisting extreme heat for a limited period, so fire-rated gun safes constructed with these materials are designated as fire resistant.

A good fire resistant safe will keep the internal temperature below 350 degrees Fahrenheit (F) when exposed to fire for 30 minutes reaching a temperature of 1200 degrees F.

The two most commonly used insulators in a fire-rated gun safe are sheetrock (gypsum board) and ceramic wool blankets. In recent years, gun safes have improved but most fireproofing is still sheetrock.

One of the reasons manufacturers prefer using sheetrock over ceramic blanket is the cost. Sheetrock that has fiberglass fibers sandwiched between steel plates can be quite effective. As the safe heats up, water molecules contained in the sheetrock vaporize and form steam. This conversion of water to steam absorbs

heat energy. It also serves to pressurize the safe sealing it off from heat and flame

Ceramic wool has a much higher insulation rating than sheetrock. Ceramic fibers are produced with advanced spinning technology and are rated at high temperatures of 2300 degrees F. Not compressing ceramic enough can make it too loose and it can fall within the safe walls leaving air gaps. Over compression can also

be a problem. Over compression of any insulating material will cause the loss of the insulating value.

An important thing to remember is to look for a fire-rated gun safe

that passed an Underwriter Laboratories (UL) test. It must be "UL Listed". If the product is labeled "Tested to UL Standards", it means it has been submitted for testing, but does not mean it passed the test. The actual UL classification is for fire resistance.

Virtually no product on the market has been tested and proven to survive against every possible fire, so Underwriters Laboratories has devised a rating system to determine a product's ability to withstand fires of specific temperatures and lengths of time.

They will only issue a certification based on a product's ability to meet or exceed these standards. The UL testing consists of a ½-hour, 1-hour and 2-hour fire endurance test:

UL ½-Hour Fire Endurance Test means a safe has been subjected to temperatures of 1550 degrees F for ½ hour and the interior remains below 350 degree F.

UL 1-Hour Fire Endurance Test means a safe has been subjected to temperatures of 1700 degrees F for 1 hour and the interior remains below 350 degrees F.

UL 2-Hour Fire Endurance Test means a safe has been subjected to temperatures of 1850 degrees F for 2 hours and to a flash fire of 2000 degrees F for 20 minutes and the interior temperature remains below 350 degrees F.

Fire-rated safes are typically considerably heavier than non-fire rated safes.

The photos attached to this article show what can happen to a fire-rated safe when exposed to high heat for

long periods. The safe was originally located in a second story room of a large log home and fell into the lowest level of the house as the fire developed. Lack of water precluded an aggressive attack and the fire was allowed to burn itself out over a period of several

hours. Once discovered, hydraulic extrication equipment was used to open the gun safe. As the photos illustrate, although the safe itself remained intact the contents were not protected from prolonged exposure to high heat.



IFIRS News

ByCheryl Karnowski
Program Coordinator

Frequent Critical Errors

Since the first of this year, two critical errors have consistently shown up due to National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) rule changes with a start date of January 1, 2009. The following excerpts from the NFIRS Coding Q and A (found under Idaho Fire Incident Reporting System (IFIRS) section of the State Fire Marshal website at www.doi.idaho.gov/sfm/ifirs.aspx) explain these errors and how to correct them:

QUESTION: After sending in our quarterly incident reports (we use vendor software), I looked at the critical log file and see that all our 111 incident type reports have the error: “Fire Spread in Structure Module Must Match Fire Spread in Basic Module.” What two fields are not matching or are being omitted?

ANSWER: There are two issues occurring here. First, there is an error in the error message you are receiving. The error message should read: “Fire Spread in Structure Module Must Match Fire Spread in Fire Module.” This is a known bug and will be addressed in a future release of the system. Second, the error is indicating that when you select “Confined to

Object of Origin” on the Fire Module (Section D3), then Field J2 on the Structure Module must have a value of 1 – “Confined to Object of Origin.” This is an issue that should be addressed or corrected by your vendor as this rule change was released to them in September 2008 for a January 1, 2009 start date.

QUESTION: I get a critical error on unit times when they are returned prior to arrival of the first unit. The coding is asking for a 93-cancelled in route which then errors on any action taken. What is the best way to code a multiple unit response that has one unit arrive on the scene after the other incoming units have been returned?

ANSWER: On the Basic Module, the Arrival Date/Time should be the date/time that the FIRST unit arrived on scene, and the Clear Date/Time should be date/time that the LAST unit clears the scene. The Alarm Date/Time is the date/time that the initial units are alerted to a call.

On the Apparatus and Personnel Module, individual units should enter the date/time they are alerted (ALARM DATE/TIME) as long as it is not BEFORE the alarm date/time on the Basic Module. They should then enter the date/time they arrive on scene (ARRIVAL DATE/TIME) as long as it is not BEFORE the arrival date/time on the Basic module. And they should enter the date/time they

clear the scene (CLEAR DATE/TIME) as long as it is not AFTER the clear date/time on the basic module.

When you have multiple units responding to an incident and an arriving unit cancels the remaining units, you should enter the time that the cancelled units are cancelled as the clear time on the apparatus module for those units. This time cannot be prior to the arrival time on the basic module but it can be prior to the clear time on the basic module, as long as you select “93 - Cancelled in Route” as the actions taken on the apparatus module for the cancelled unit. If your software vendor does not allow this, contact them for an update or fix as this is a new rule as of January 2009.

Firehouse photo from Spring issue of the Fire Connection issue was of the Arimo Fire Department

The 2008 Fire in Idaho Annual Report will soon be printed and sent to all fire departments along with the 2009 Fire Department Survey. We use this information to maintain contact numbers and addresses for your fire department. Please complete this survey and return it to our office. It can be accessed at www.doi.idaho.gov/sfm/firesurvey.aspx and completed and submitted online.

STAY FIRE SMART! DON'T GET BURNED.
IT'S FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 4-10, 2009

Superhero Sparky reminds the unsuspecting citizens that burns are a leading cause of injury and are very preventable. Join Sparky's team of superheroes and prevent burns in your town today! For more Fire Prevention Week Planning, visit www.firepreventionweek.org and www.sparky.org and www.nfpa.org



Code Corner

Interpretation by Jim Macklin
Deputy State Fire Marshal

QUESTION 1: Are fire alarm systems required in All R-1 occupancies?

ANSWER: No.

Exception 1 of Section 907.2.8.1 (below) of the International Fire Code, 2006 Edition exempts R-1 occupancies of not more than two stories in height and with required construction features.

Exception 2 explains what is required if the occupancy is protected with an automatic sprinkler system.

- **907.2.8 Group R-1.** Fire alarm systems shall be installed in Group R-1 occupancies as required in Sections 907.2.8.1 through 907.2.8.3.
- **907.2.8.1 Manual fire alarm system.** A manual fire alarm system shall be installed in Group R-1 occupancies.

Exception 1 states a manual fire alarm system is not required in buildings not more than two stories in height where all individual sleeping

units and contiguous attic and crawl spaces are separated from each other and public or common areas by at least one-hour fire partitions and each individual sleeping unit has an exit directly to a public way, exit court or yard.

Exception 2 explains the interface of an automatic sprinkler system and the fire alarm system.

- **907.2.8.3 Smoke alarms.** Smoke alarms shall be installed as required by Section 907.2.10 (listed single- and multiple-station smoke detectors complying with UL 217 and NFPA 72).

It is important that we know and understand the difference between single-station smoke alarms and multiple-station smoke detectors. They are as follows:

Single-station smoke alarms are single-station alarm device assemblies that incorporate the detector, the control equipment and the alarm-sounding device in one unit, such as the detectors in your home.

Multiple-station alarm devices are two or more single-station alarm devices powered by a fire alarm system control panel that can be interconnected so that actuation of

one detector causes all integral or separate audible alarms to operate.

QUESTION 2: When are smoke alarms of sleeping units required to be connected to an emergency electrical system and to the annunciator panel?

ANSWER: Section 907.2.8.3 pertains to smoke alarms installed in sleeping units of R-1 occupancies that ARE NOT protected with an automatic sprinkler system.

In buildings that are NOT equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2, the smoke alarms in sleeping units shall be connected to an emergency electrical system and shall be annunciated by sleeping unit at a constantly attended location from which the fire alarm system is capable of being manually activated (manual fire alarm box).

For occupancies protected throughout with an automatic sprinkler system, smoke alarms are required to be installed in each sleeping unit, the same as those without sprinklers.

Smoke alarms are required to only sound an alarm to alert the occupants in the sleeping unit in which they are installed to evacuate the room or rooms.

Lowman Volunteer Fire District

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- Three years of dedicated fund raising, a grant from the Harry W. Morrison Foundation and a line of credit loan from the bank plus a fair amount of sweat equity made Station #72 happen.
- The 14 firefighters and 12 auxiliary members are made up of accomplished tradesmen, clerical workers and retired business owners.

State Fire Marshal's Message

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buildings that are not addressed in our current codes. As a model code, it will require adoption by governing jurisdictions.

A series of hearings will be held across the country between now and the end of the year with a draft of the code to be issued in the spring of 2010. Regular updates will be posted on the ICC website, www.iccsafe.org.

Do you know where this station is located and what fire department uses it?

