



Smoke Signals

SMOKE SIGNALS is published monthly for Volunteers, Staff and Friends of IVFD.
681 Caves Hwy, Cave Junction, OR 97523
541-592-2225



October
2017

Chief's Message

By Dennis Hoke: Fire Chief, Paramedic, EFO dennishoke@ivfire.com



- Chief's Message
- Pg. 1-2
- Logistics
- Pg. 3
- Ops and Prevention
- Pg. 4
- CERT
- Pg. 5
- Through the Lense
- Pg. 6-9
- Firehouse Cook
- Pg. 10
- In District
- Pg. 11
- Administration
- Pg. 12



Here is an interesting question. What makes a good fire department? What makes a great fire department? I have read a number of books and articles about this very subject and there are some textbook answers. The real answer is "it depends" (spoken like a true politician). How organizations are viewed is subjective to the interpretation of the viewer.

So let us bring this down to the Illinois Valley Fire District. I think we are working our way towards being a top-notch fire district. My view ... my interpretation. I base this on facts, not fake news (yes, I had to go there!). We were recently deployed to Brookings for the Chetco Bar Fire and to the Eagle Creek Fire. We were also awarded the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Contract at the IV Airport. We have two CERT team members

still deployed to the Chetco Bar Communication Section. Would this have occurred for a mediocre organization?

I had the opportunity to speak with the task force leaders and the incident commanders of both incidents. The resounding theme I heard was IV Fire members did what was asked and did it well. That says a lot about us and the organization. Most of our members have never been deployed to a project fire. It's not fun, especially on the night shift. Fire camp is chaos, disorganized and it takes days to get the flow going. Then a new overhead team is assigned and it's like starting all over again. They overcame and persevered.

Whether you are deployed, on duty at the airport, at the grocery store or on a call, you represent this organization. You represent success. Sure people look at our

apparatus and gear. That is not what's important. It's our members that are the most important hardware. It's people, not equipment that makes a critical difference is the success of this organization. Like most volunteer fire districts, we do not have a large number of responders. What we do have is a small group of well-trained individuals who are dedicated to the community and the organization. I firmly believe quality is better than quantity.

This is why training is so important. We have to train as if our lives depend on it. The time to learn how to be a competent firefighter, CERT or medical responder is not during or after the incident. We have to be battle ready every day. Too many responders are killed in the line of duty because they failed to train for a job that can kill. Great organizations place training and safety of its member's as the top priority.

What other factors make a great organization? One thing that comes to mind is building community trust. During the recent Chetco Bar Fire, the public inundated us with questions. I had to start giving daily updates on Facebook. The information was the exact same as the official reports from the US Forest Service. However, the public trusted us to give them the right information. Being transparent, open and accessible is common to great organizations. We cannot violate this trust. Once lost, it is very difficult to get it back.

How are we seen by other organizations? I have to say we have come a long way in the past few years to change the perception of IVFD. Operational effectiveness would be impossible if it were not for our collaborations with other emergency and non-emergency

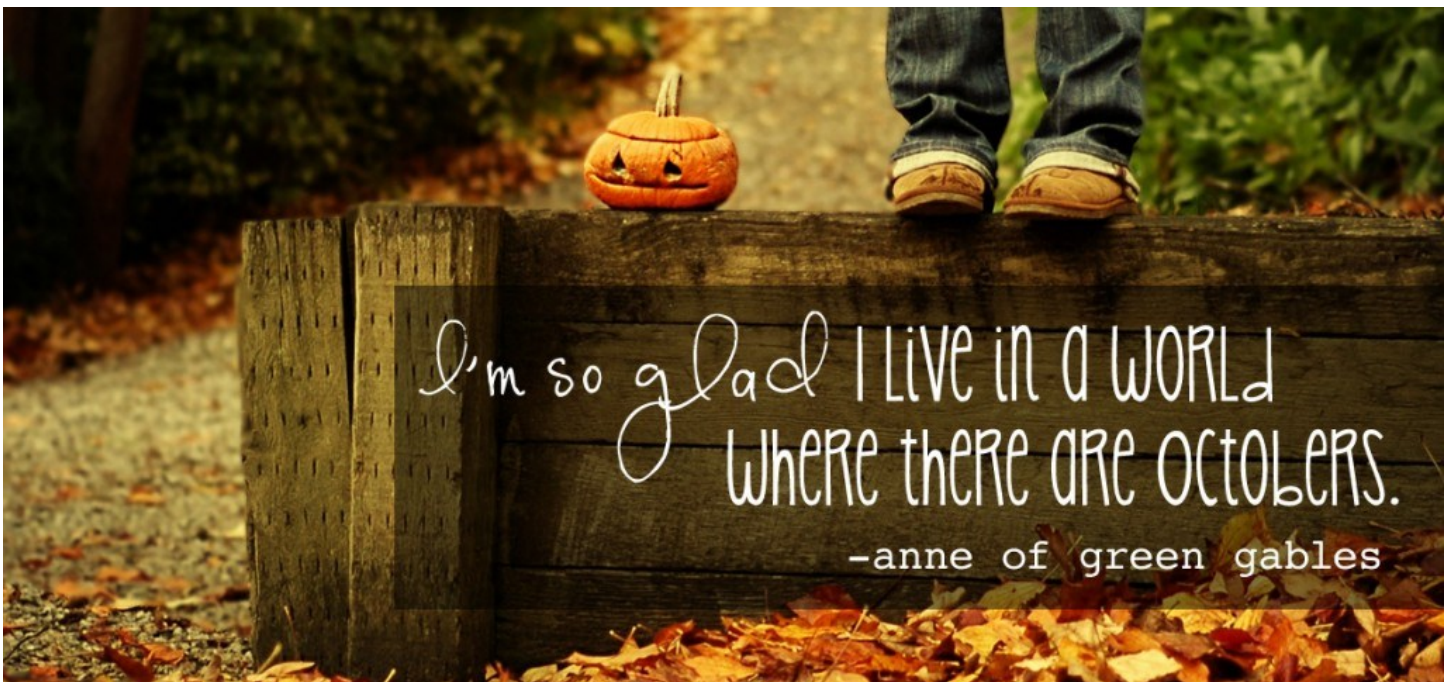
organizations. Our partners, ODF, USFS, USPS Law Enforcement, AMR and the list goes on and on. Gasquet Fire called last week to work on the mutual aid agreement and joint training. Caves Monument sent us an agreement for protection of their historical assets. Would these organizations continue to support us if we were just "good"?

IT'S WHEN YOU STRIVE FOR
GREATNESS THAT GREAT
THINGS HAPPEN

Is IVFD a good or great Fire Department? As I said before, I think, we are well on our way to greatness. The people who make up IVFD are the reasons why we are successful. Can we improve? Of course we can. I strive every day to improve. We sometimes focus on the small issues and lose sight of the great successes we have achieved. You make the difference between good and great. Let me end with this thought... Do we understand why we are really here (hint: it's not for us)? Get this answer right and you will understand greatness.

Until next time, let's be safe out there.

Dennis





Logistics

By Kris Sherman;
Division Chief Logistics

SCHOOL ZONE DRIVING

Summer is almost over and school has begun. Drivers need to be more alert in the mornings and afternoons due to kids being on roadways and school buses using their flashing yellow and **RED** lights and driving through school zones. Here are the driving laws and some reminders of what to look for.

According to the National Safe Routes to School Program, more children are hit by cars near schools than at any other location. A few reminders for drivers following buses or driving in school zones.

Flashing **RED** lights on a bus means you must **STOP**. Vehicles should stop at least 15 feet behind a bus. Do not block crosswalks forcing kids to walk around your vehicle as this may place them in the path of moving vehicles.

Always **STOP** for crossing guards when they are holding up their flags.

Each school zone has a sign reminding drivers to drive 20 M.P.H. The challenge is knowing what the sign says in your area. There are three common signs you may see:



- ◇ School Zone sign says 20 M.P.H. from 7am to 5pm on school days.
- ◇ School Zone sign says 20 M.P.H. when lights are flashing.
- ◇ School Zone sign says 20 M.P.H. when children are present.



You might be able to find alternate routes avoiding school zones. Drivers should be aware of their surroundings at all times and eliminate distractions. Remember that fines in school zones can range from \$172 to \$679.

GOING TRICK-OR-TREATING?

- S** Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be short, soft, and flexible.
- A** Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- F** Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- E** Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them. Limit the amount of treats you eat.



Operations & Prevention

By Kamron Ismaili; Division Chief Operations and Prevention

re·spon·si·bil·i·ty

noun

- ◆ The state or fact of being accountable or to blame for something.
- ◆ The state or fact of having a duty to deal with something or of having control over someone.
- ◆ The opportunity or ability to act independently and make decisions.
- ◆ A thing that one is required to do as part of a job, role, or legal obligation.
- ◆ A moral obligation to behave correctly toward or in respect of.



“Most people do not really want freedom, because freedom involves responsibility, and most people are frightened of responsibility.”
 — **Sigmund Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents**

“The man who passes the sentence should swing the sword. If you would take a man's life, you owe it to him to look into his eyes and hear his final words. And if you cannot bear to do that, then perhaps the man does not deserve to die.”
 — **George R.R. Martin, A Game of Thrones**

“Those who enjoy responsibility usually get it; those who merely like exercising authority usually lose it.”
 — **Malcolm Forbes**



“Accountability breeds response-ability.”
 — **Stephen Covey**

“Success on any major scale requires you to accept responsibility. . . In the final analysis, the one quality that all successful people have is the ability to take on responsibility.”
 — **Michael Korda**

“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”
 — **Abraham Lincoln**

“Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.”
 — **George Bernard Shaw**





CERT



By Sue Williams

Dressing For Winter Weather

Call-outs in the fall or winter present some challenges for CERT members in terms of dressing for the wet, windy, and colder weather. Because we are not as physically active as our fire

fighters, we need to consider what kind of clothing will keep us warm as well as protected when we're working with minimal activity for sometimes hours, controlling traffic or staffing an outdoor information station. Dressing in layers is critical and you don't need to look like the Pillsbury Doughboy.

Layer 1 – Controlling Moisture

Even with minimal activity our bodies will sweat (especially looking into the headlights of oncoming traffic!). Your first layer next to your skin needs to be able to wick any moisture away from your body and allow it to evaporate. Several kinds of materials do this extremely well: wool, wool blends, and the synthetics like the winter polyester fleece or polypropylene knits. These fabrics continue to hold body heat even when they are damp. The one fabric you should never use next to your skin for moisture control and body heat retention is cotton. So, here are some recommended layering suggestions.

- ◇ Long underwear tops and bottoms (e.g., skier's insulation). Consider polypropylene knits, light weight wool and wool blends.
- ◇ Don't forget to include insulating your feet as well. Wool, wool blends and the synthetic knit socks provide the same protection to your tootsies. Carry an extra pair (or two) in your go-bag.

Layer 2 – Staying Warm: Insulation

This is the layer that helps to hold in your body heat. For light weight and insulating power, nothing beats down. However, when down gets wet, even a little bit, all bets are off. Instead, wool, wool blends, and the synthetic fleeces (e.g., Polar fleece) are excellent choices. These are usually light weight and will insulate whether dry or damp. Try to find a top that has a turtleneck with a half-zip so that if you do get too

warm while on the job, you can open the collar to let your body breathe.

Long pants that are a tight weave and not all cotton are a good choice. Jeans tend to be heavy and cold, but with long underwear can provide warmth for your legs in windy and night temperatures. Rain, however, needs some special attention.

If you know you're being called out during a rain storm, synthetic fleece pants provide excellent warmth and insulation. and when coupled with a waterproof (and reflective) rain pant over them, the combination is hard to beat for comfort.

Layer 3 – Staying Dry: Waterproofing

As we wade into winter, being as waterproof as possible is critical.

Boots need to be waterproof leather or Goretex. Check the bottoms and sides (stitching can tear) for any cracks or holes that water may infiltrate and get them sealed up. There are excellent waterproofing sprays and waxes available at most sporting goods or discount stores for use on boots.

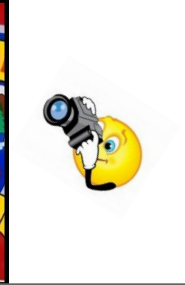
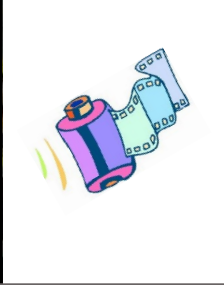
Rain pants (water proof) are a must. Find ones that are large enough to go over your extra clothing, that are easy to get in and out of, and that have a snap or elastic at the cuff to secure around your boot top. Any color rain pant will work, but for extra visibility, try to find ones that are bright colored and have the reflective tape around each leg.

Rain jackets need to have lots of pockets, both inside and out, a hood, and tabs on the shoulders to allow you to attach your radio and/or remote mic for ease of use. Be certain that the material is truly water proof, and not just water resistant. If you can find a rain jacket that is highly reflective, so much the better. Even though you'll be wearing your CERT vest, having added visibility is always a plus.

Gloves are another consideration. The same insulating qualities discussed above for other pieces of clothing hold true for gloves. Wool, wool-blends, or the synthetic fleeces will tend to keep your hands warm when they get wet. And do consider putting an extra pair of gloves in your go-bag.

Through the Lenses

Of: Dale Sandberg, Jason Bayless, and Ned Booth—IVFD Media Department





SMOKE SIGNALS is a monthly newsletter published by the Illinois Valley Fire District for volunteers, staff and friends.
To get a copy please stop by our administration office at 681 Caves Hwy.

ILLINOIS VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT SMOKE SIGNALS, OCTOBER 2017



ILLINOIS VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT SMOKE SIGNALS, OCTOBER 2017



The Firehouse Cook



By Pramada Kisiela:

Corn Chowder

There are as many ways of making corn chowder as there are cooks. I haven't made this for a long time so I looked up recipes but still had to make my own.

Many recipes use canned creamed corn but Neil does not like sweet tasting soups, and I have not found creamed corn without added sugar. This soup is best made with fresh corn, scraping it off the cob, but I was also trying to make a recipe that could use stored goods, so I have alternative substitute ingredients as well. Using fresh corn you will need 3 - 4 cups of corn. This recipe makes about 1 1/2 quarts of soup. Russet potatoes will work best as they make the soup creamier, but I didn't have any on hand.

Ingredients:

- ◆ 3 T butter
- ◆ 1/2 cup each finely chopped onion, carrots and celery [1 T dried onion, or 3 T. dried mixed vegetables]
- ◆ 1 t. salt
- ◆ 3 1/2 - 4 cups diced potatoes [2 cups diced dried potatoes, soaked until soft]
- ◆ 1 c. water
- ◆ 2 cans corn with liquid (regular or creamed)
- ◆ 2 cups milk [1 can evaporated milk]

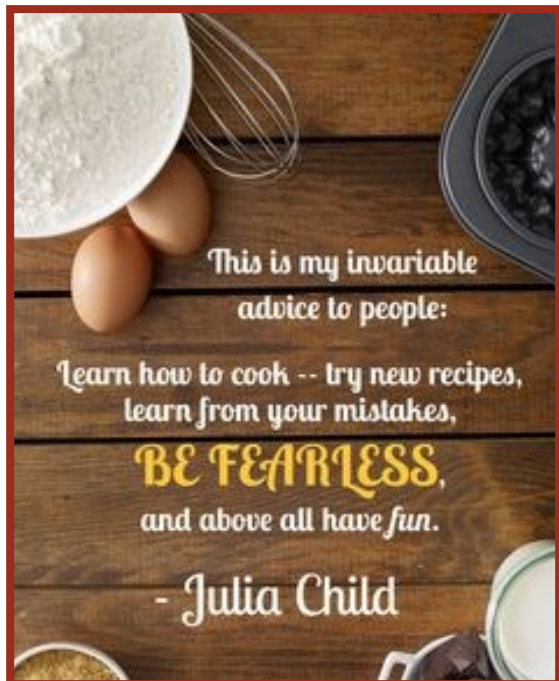


Method:

Melt butter in heavy bottomed pot. When hot, add minced onion and salt and sauté until transparent. If using dried vegetables, soak in a small amount of water first and cook for a few minutes until softened. Next add the fresh carrots and celery and cook for a few more minutes. Then add potatoes (fresh or dried and soaked) and stir a few more minutes, add water and simmer until tender.

Add corn and milk (if using evaporated add 1 cup water additional) and simmer for some minutes until just starting to boil. If you like it more creamy, partially blend with a wand blender. Adjust salt and add black pepper; sprinkle with dill if desired.

Serving ideas: Top with minced green onions raw or sautéed, diced cheddar cheese, florets of steamed broccoli, or sour cream. Good with crispy toast or crackers.





In District

By Neil Kisiela:

Safety First - "Everyone Goes Home"

Facts:

- On average, at least two emergency responders are struck by vehicles each day in the United States.
- According to data from the United States Fire Administration (USFA), firetruck accidents are the second leading cause of on-the-job deaths for firefighters.
- Over the 10 year period 2000-2009, there were roughly 31,600 accidents involving fire vehicles.

In many cases, it is possible for us to avoid accidents from happening. I've observed some things that could improve our and the public's safety. I'm not intending to point out any particular people since we all can improve our safety habits. It stands to reason that four eyes and four ears (or more) employed in scene safety size up and while on the road can notice more and produce better decision making. In other words, every firefighter should make an effort to observe and notice hazards and safety issues.

If you're driving your own vehicle whether a Yugo or a B.A. truck, you can drive however you want, it's your prerogative. But while driving a department vehicle, you are bound by different rules that you must abide by. While you're driving a fire department rig, you are held to a higher standard of safety because you are responsible for others, not only for yourself. Sometimes you're a driver and another firefighter may egg you on to drive code, faster, etc. Don't give in to it - **SAFETY FIRST!**

Here are two examples from not long ago on Hay's Hill between two blind curves. 8979 refused to park where directed and instead parked in a spot invisible to oncoming traffic behind the curve, with two wheels off the pavement in the ditch. Also, the driver of 8931 did not park where I directed (the best spot for safety), and later did a very risky maneuver, turning around in the middle of three lane traffic against advice, thus causing both directions of traffic to come to a screeching halt. **SAFETY FIRST!**

It seems that some firefighters think that driving code

means speeding. Driving code means you're asking other drivers to give you the right of way, not demanding, tail gating, and driving less safe. Code means you're alerting other drivers that you're driving to an emergency. That does not mean that you have to drive above the speed limit to justify code driving.

SAFETY FIRST!

I was in a situation where I asked a driver to put both hands on the steering wheel while driving us to an incident. His response was "It's a matter of preference" and he kept driving with one hand. This kind of attitude can get people killed.

If you find yourself to have that kind of attitude, then keep in mind what Chief Rick Lasky has said on Youtube:

"This is a dangerous job. The only way we can remove some of that danger and make it a safer place to be, is by being smart with what we do, making good choices, using common sense, and training. You're going to train all the time. If you get to a point in your career where you think you're above training, that you've learned everything there is to know,-- **there's the door.** And please use it, because **you're an accident waiting to happen.**"

These are just a very few examples about safety, but most important of all, is attitude. Necessary for improving safety is a willingness to learn, being open to considering good advice, and admitting that you don't know everything.

Your ever well wisher

Neil Kisiela

This Month's Quote

A man must be big enough to admit his mistakes, smart enough to profit from them, and strong enough to correct them.

John C. Maxwell





Administration

By Jamie Paul, Executive Administrator



October Birthdays

Brian Pfeiffer	07
Brian Pingree	22

Anniversary Dates

Celebrating Years of Service..

Jean Ann Miles	Since 2015
John Miles	Since 2015

Joys and Concerns:

Autumn is always a good time to remember some basics before we start up those heaters, wood stoves, etc.

Smoke Alarms – These are still a very important addition to your home. Smoke alarms are widely available and inexpensive. Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home and test it monthly.

Alternate Heaters – Make sure there is ample space around any portable heating unit. Anything that could catch fire should be at least three feet away.

Wood stoves—Inspect your chimney annually and use fire screens to help keep any fires in the fireplace.

Be Careful Around the Holidays – If you fill your home with lights during the holiday season, keep them away from anything that can easily catch fire. Check all of your lights prior to stringing them up and dispose of anything with frayed or exposed wires.

Volunteer Firefighters are needed

Fight Fires and Save Lives.

Volunteer Today!!

Stop by our Administration Office at 681 Caves Hwy. Cave Junction, Oregon



There Was an Old Witch

There was an old witch
Believe it if you can,
She tapped on the windows
And she ran, ran, ran.
she ran helter skelter with her toes in the air,
Cornstalks flying from the old witches' hair.

Swish goes the broomstick, meow goes the cat,
Plop goes the hop-toad sitting on her hat.
"Whee," chuckled I, "What fun, what fun!"
Hallowe'en night when the witches run!

