



MONTHLY REPORT

From: Chief Dennis Mason

To: Mayors, Council Members and Commissioners

Date: *August, 2013*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Fire District Receives “A+” Bond Rating

CCF&R Commissioners decided to refinance outstanding loans to take advantage of lower interest rates and achieve cost savings. As part of the process the District decided to pursue a bond rating grade from the national rating agency of Standard & Poor’s. Based on current and future projected financial stability and the overall fiscal strength of the Fire District, Standard & Poor’s gave the District a rating grade of “A+”. “This bond rating grade reflects that Clark County Fire & Rescue is very well-managed and has excellent financial practices in place for the benefit of our taxpayers” said Commissioner Michael Lambrecht, Board Chair.

By refinancing current bond debt the District achieved average annual savings of \$20,615 for the next 12 years, for a total net savings of \$247,380.

Video Conferencing System Installed

CCF&R implemented a new video conferencing system at 7 of its 9 fire stations allowing fire crews to train, communicate, and interact with their brother and sister firefighters while staying in their station areas.

“We are still learning all the ways we can use the system,” said Chief Dennis Mason. “The biggest advantage is the ability to link all the stations together for daily training and communications without ever turning a wheel”. What used to take considerable coordination



and scheduling moving crews, and calling neighboring departments for coverage while crews attend classes and training events can now be accomplished without moving personnel and apparatus. This will result in significant savings in fuel, maintenance and personnel costs. The system also allows off-duty personnel and other agencies to participate in a training event either through a similar system, an iPad or a computer.

With the recent addition of the City of Woodland, Clark County Fire & Rescue now covers 167 sq. miles and includes Battle Ground, Ridgefield, La Center and all points in between. “Trying to maintain communications and coordinate daily training between all the crews has been a challenge,” said Mike Ciraulo, Training Chief for the department. “The new video conferencing system will help reduce many of those challenges,” added Ciraulo.

The \$52,000 system was designed and installed by *Intovate International LLC* of Hillsboro, Oregon and was fully funded by FEMA through a SAFER Grant.

OPERATIONS

Work on New Fire/Rescue Boat Progressing

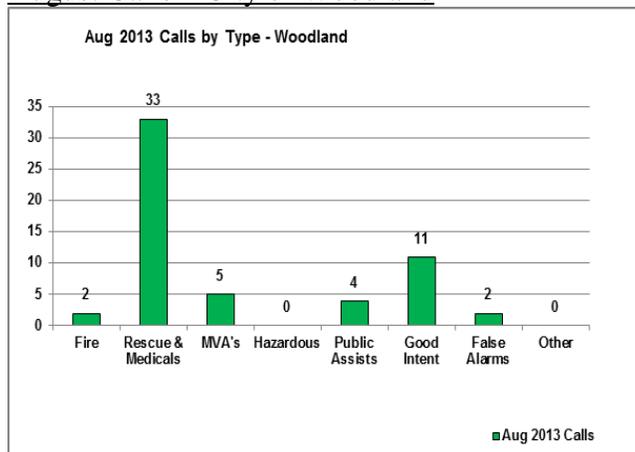
Work continues to move forward on the District's new 30' Fire/Rescue boat. NorthRiver Marine in Roseburg, Oregon was awarded the \$375,000 contract. The all-aluminum vessel will be equipped with a 1500 GPM fire pump and a state-of-the-art electronics package including forward looking infrared (FLIR) to locate victims in the water. It will be housed in the District's new boathouse at the marina in Ridgefield.

The vessel is being funded through FEMA's Port Security Grant Program and is one of three vessels being provided to CCF&R, Vancouver Fire and the Port of Astoria. Delivery of the new boat is expected sometime in late December.

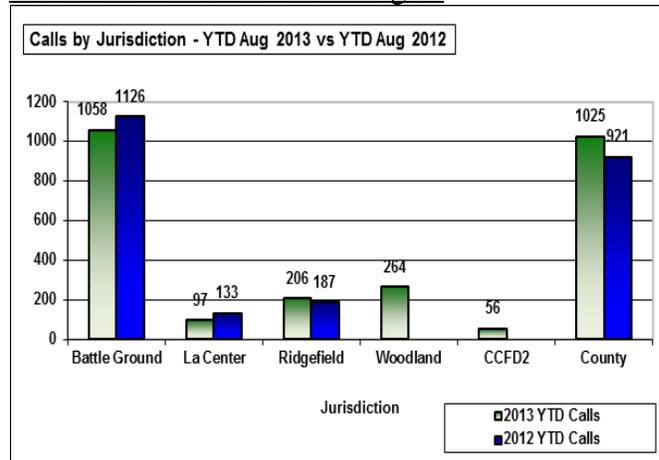
New Engine In Production

Battle Ground's new Class A pumper has now been under construction for several weeks. A "pre-paint" visit to the KME factory in Pennsylvania is scheduled for the first week in October. The pre-paint inspection is designed to confirm the size and placement of cabinetry and other design features before the vehicle moves into the paint shop. The apparatus is expected to be completed and delivered sometime in December.

August Calls – City of Woodland



Year to Date Total Calls – August



TRAINING

Nothing new to report

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Cities Approve Interlocal Agreement

All four cities participating in the ambulance procurement process have either signed or have placed the issue on an upcoming agenda for final approval of the interlocal agreement with EMS District 2.

The withdrawal of the City of Vancouver from EMS District 2 caused a delay in the ambulance procurement process and created significant concern among the remaining jurisdictions. As a result of the delay the current ambulance contract with AMR has been extended through December 31, 2014.

The consulting firm of J. Fitch and Associates has been hired to work with the City of Vancouver and EMS District 2 in an attempt to design a joint RFP for ambulance services. While there will still be two separate ambulance service areas, it is hoped a joint bid and procurement process will help soften the negative impacts of Vancouver's withdrawal from EMS District 2.

911 COMMUNICATIONS

Radio Committee Continues its Work

The Communications Committee representing Law Enforcement, Fire, and other emergency service agencies is continuing to work with the consulting firm RCC to develop the overall plan for replacement of the county's 800 MHz radio system.. One option that is gaining support is a phased approach over a period of 4-6 years. That approach would be the least costly and would allow much of the current system to stay in place while portions of the new system are phased in. A final decision on the exact replacement plan is expected early next year.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

The District conducted three station tours and five engine tours during August.

District Awarded Fire Prevention Grant

The District was notified last week that it has been awarded a Fire Prevention Grant through FEMA to purchase and install smoke and CO detectors for low income families throughout the communities served by CCF&R. The grant totals just over \$12,000.

REGION IV HOMELAND SECURITY COUNCIL

Nothing new to report