

Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum News

Issue 14
February 2006

The Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum is a cooperative effort between Portland Fire & Rescue and the Jeff Morris Fire & Life Safety Foundation.

**For Information,
Contact**

**Don Porth
Public Education Office
503-823-3615**

Belmont Firehouse
900 SE 35th Avenue
(at Belmont Street)
Portland OR 97214

“Straight Tips”

On Winter Safety

Cold weather brings out extra heating devices, like space heaters, fireplaces, and stoves. Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away and turn them off/shut them down before leaving home.

Interior Facelift Beautifies the Belmont Firehouse

The interior of the Belmont Firehouse has recently undergone quite a transformation. Through the good work of the pros at the Fire Bureau Logistics center, painting, electrical repair, and many other improvements have been made to the main floor.

Most notable is the paint scheme. Off-white above fire engine red was the recommendation by the exhibit design firm (Formations Inc.) to best accent the developing exhibits. The bright red jumps out like a

fire engine through traffic.

The electrical work has been nothing short of revolutionary too. After 94 years, much conduit and wiring had been added, abandoned, and replaced. Now, with all the abandoned conduit out of the ways, many of the original building features, such as the beams and ceiling trim, are far more noticeable.

While not quite ready for unveiling, the new apparatus and main entry doors are on their way to completion.

These are the most dramatic changes that will be introduced in a future newsletter.

EXHIBIT DEVELOPMENT

The exhibit fabrication is now underway and should be completed around June. More details will be forthcoming. Exhibits will be built at an off-site location to be installed at Belmont later. This will bring the facility to its operational completion.

Think Safe!

Grant To Bring Fire Engine Exhibit to Life

Through the Fire Prevention and Safety Grant program offered by the Department of Homeland Security, Portland Fire & Rescue has secured a grant to activate the American LaFrance Fire Engine Cab Exhibit into a fully operational simulator. This exciting opportunity will create a one of a kind experience, allowing visitors to ride along on a fire bureau response without ever leaving the Belmont Firehouse.

The cab was donated by American LaFrance in 2004 and has served as a static exhibit since. The frame, axle, tires, and wheels were donated as well. It provides an interesting contrast between the 1879 steam pumper from over a century ago to the vehicles of today's fire service.

Grants and gifts of this nature are largely what has made the Safety Learning Center a real-

ity. Innovative planning and exhibit development have combined to make the Belmont Firehouse one of the most unique visitation experiences in Portland or the Pacific Northwest.



Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum Event Line 503-823-3616

Remember This???



It's been many years but some may still remember the old neon fire signals that graced the streets in front of fire stations. Pictured here is one of the remaining artifacts from the days gone by.

More recent years found a variation on the modern traffic signal, using red and yellow

signal lights to prompt for cars to yield for fire apparatus.

Located inside the Belmont Firehouse, Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum, this sign now carries a different meaning to visitors. In its quest to prevent fires and injuries, the Safety Learning Center presents many items from fire service history that can now educate the public about preventable fires and injuries.

If you have history to share, contact Don Porth at the Belmont Firehouse.

Portland Fire History, Safety Learning Center Information, Foundation Background
Find it on the web at www.jeffmorrisfoundation.org

FIRE SALE *** Gear up for spring!

T-shirt weather is coming so get ready now. The Belmont Firehouse has great t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other clothing for kids and adults. And now, credit cards can be accepted.

For kids, the Captain Pumperton line is always popular. T-shirts and sweatshirts are available in a variety of sizes and colors.

For adults, t-shirts, sweatshirts, quarter-zips, and polo shirts are available with the Jeff Morris/Portland Fire logo. Check out all the merchandise on-line or plan a visit to the Belmont Firehouse. For appointments or tours, contact Don Porth at 503-823-3615.

jeffmorrisfoundation.org



Volunteer Efforts Allow Safety Learning Center to Thrive

Calendar year 2005 was a success largely because of the incredible effort of volunteers. A total of 1,448 hours were compiled by various volunteers assisting with projects at the Belmont Firehouse.

Volunteers come to the firehouse for varied reasons and serve many purposes. Some are fire science students from Portland Community College or Chemeketa Community College seeking work experience or involvement in the fire service. Some are fire buffs interested in helping with projects or learning more about the history and/or career of firefighting. Still oth-

ers are current or past members of Portland Fire & Rescue.

Regardless of the motivation, volunteer contributions are, without a doubt, the primary reason the Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum has succeeded. With this valuable help, 5,000 visitors were able to experience the facility in 2005 for tours, events, meetings, or other functions.

If you are interested in volunteering, help is always welcomed for a large variety of projects. Contact the firehouse at 503-823-3615 for details.

***** Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum Event Line 503-823-3616 *****