

Historic Belmont Firehouse

Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum News

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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

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“Straight Tips”

On Springtime Safety

Falls cause devastating injuries to people of all ages. Seniors are particularly vulnerable. Keep floors clear, add handrails in bathrooms and near steps. Keep those you love safe.

Belmont Firehouse Gets A Facelift

If you’ve passed by the Belmont Firehouse recently, you will have noticed a change. A new apparatus and entry door system have been installed to help the building better serve its current day use as a Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum.

The new configuration serves the practical purpose of creating a window into the building to show passers-by what is available for the visitor to see. It also enhances the apparatus floor with copious amounts of natural light.

Most importantly, it creates a main entrance that invites visitors into the building.

Bollards line the curb in front to create a safe gathering area for the thousands of visitors enjoying tours and events at the firehouse.

In a full circle evolution, the new doors are approximately the same size as the original doors on the firehouse. The Seagraves fire engine currently in one of the bays has approximately 2 inches of clearance on either side as it enters or exits the building. This explains why the door was reconfigured in 1963 for emergency response considerations. Many other changes are on the horizon including exterior painting and signage. The Belmont

Firehouse is open on the second Saturday of each month (Safety Saturday) from 10-3 or by appointment. Plan a visit soon!



“Scouting for Safety” Generates Safety Interest

A new program has been developed for the Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum. It is called “Scouting for Safety.”

This lesson plan is intended to serve the Boy Scouts in the Cascade Pacific Council (Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington).

Scouting for Safety offers each level of Scouting an opportunity

to enjoy a firehouse tour as well as a classroom session to meet the various requirements for rank advancement for their scout-

ing level. Classroom sessions feature the interactive Hazard House, which is always popular with kids of all ages.

Thus far, the program has proven very popular. If you are involved in scouting or know a scout group looking for a great activity, this should be on their “must do” list. With summer coming on, it offers a great learning experience from Tiger Cubs to Boy Scouts.



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

Remember This???



Many will remember the Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) that preceded the MSA line currently used by Portland Fire & Rescue crews. While they look similar, the components were arranged differently.

More important than function was the weight. These Scott air tanks were made of steel and had other metal components causing them to weigh in at a heavy 45 pounds. Contrast that with the MSA units that followed that were approximately 22 pounds. No wonder it was a challenge to get firefighters to wear them!

Why does this matter? Well, a fully equipped firefighter of today is packing about 50 pounds of gear (helmet, coat, pants, boots, SCBA, small tools, etc.). After donning all of this essential gear, the tools to perform the work at a fire scene are added to the load (axes, saws, hose, nozzles, etc.). Even car collisions require the use of heavy tools for extrication.

Do you have a memory to share for future issues? Submit them to Don Porth at the Belmont Firehouse for consideration. Contact can be made at 503-823-3615 or dporth@fire.ci.portland.or.us

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

FIRE SALE *** T-Shirts on Sale!



Portland Fire & Rescue T-Shirts are on sale at the Belmont Firehouse. You can view these on-line at the Jeff Morris Web Site or visit the firehouse. Also check out the sweatshirts, polo shirts, and kids clothing, all unique to the firehouse and Jeff Morris Foundation.

Safety Saturday (the second Saturday of each month) remains the open day of operation. All other visits are by appointment. For appointments or tours, contact Don Porth at 503-823-3615. Plan a visit to the firehouse today.

jeffmorrisfoundation.org

Fire Apparatus Donations Need Help!

Volunteer assistance is being sought to help restore old fire apparatus. None have yet been accepted, partially due to the lack of resources (mostly human) to bring them back to the appropriate condition. Storage is also an unresolved question. But capturing these important parts of fire bureau history is worth considering.

Recent offers of old fire apparatus have been made to the Jeff Morris Foundation (on behalf of Portland Fire & Rescue). While these are great offers, the Foundation has few resources with which to handle these offers. The Fire Bu-

reau is also limited in their ability to support such projects.

As with many donations, they are accepted by the Foundation until such time as the item can be prepared or batched for final donation to the city (via ordinance). This allows further fundraising (if necessary) or for a practical batching of many smaller items.

If you have any ideas or skills to offer, please contact Don Porth at 503-823-3615.

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