

## Historic Belmont Firehouse

# Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum News

Issue 19  
March 2007

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

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**For Information,**

**Contact**

**Don Porth**

**Public Education Office**

**503-823-3615**

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**Belmont Firehouse**

900 SE 35th Avenue

(at Belmont Street)

Portland OR 97214

**Open** the 2nd Saturday  
of each month 10 till 3  
or by appointment.

### **“Straight Tips”**

*On Smoke Alarm Safety*

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Smoke Alarms are always in season. They are your best protection from fire. Check them monthly to ensure they work. Be sure you have the new technology with a **“Hush Button”** to eliminate false alarms that cause people to disable the alarm.

Think Safe.

## The Fire Engine Experience Arrives!

The final piece to the Historic Belmont Firehouse, Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum has finally arrived. “The Fire Engine Experience,” as it has been dubbed, is in place and fully operational.

This high-tech simulator is built into an American LaFrance Eagle fire engine cab. It exposes each rider to the demands emergency responders face on a daily basis. Visitors become part of the crew as they respond to a 911 call from the jump seat. Different emergency scenarios take the would-be firefighters on a 6-8 minute response through the streets of Portland.

This is a one-of-a-kind exhibit available nowhere else in the country. It educates riders in a unique and interactive way while immersing them into the world of emergency responders. It is truly the best way to learn.

The vehicle cost \$125,000, which came from a Dept. of Homeland Security Grant. The cab itself was donated by American LaFrance.

*Think Safe!*



## History Book To Arrive In May... More Historic Documentation Needed

A history book is due in Portland sometime in late May.

This effort was prompted by Arcadia Publishing, who have produced a series of books on fire departments in different cities,

This book will be a pictorial history, driven by captioned photos sharing the history of Portland Fire & Rescue, dat-

ing back to the 1850s.

Instrumental in the authoring of this book was Brian Johnson of Portland's City Archives. Brian serves as the caretaker of Portland's history and has taken a special interest in the fire bureau due to the generous donations and story sharing of fire bureau retirees. Brian's cumulative knowledge of the names and faces in fire bureau history is unmatched. This is one opportunity to capture that infor-

mation for all time.

**Your Help Is Needed**—A written history offering more detail will be underway soon. A committee is forming to help perform research and marketing of the book. If you have an interest in supporting this project, please contact Don Porth to sign on. Help capture the fire bureau's history before it's lost



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

## Remember This???

Many experienced firefighters will recognize this as an axe belt. It had a brother known as a hose belt, which carried similar rope pigtails. While they were commonly known as the “Sherk Hose & Axe Belt,” many don’t realize its inventor and name sake was A.L. Sherk, Portland Firefighter from 1909 to 1942. His son-in-law and grandson were also Portland Firefighters. See this and other notable items on display at the Historic Belmont Firehouse.

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](mailto:dporth@fire.ci.portland.or.us)



**Portland Fire History, Safety Learning Center Information, Foundation Background**  
Find it on the web at [www.jeffmorrisfoundation.org](http://www.jeffmorrisfoundation.org)

### \*\*\*FIRE SALE\*\*\*



A full line of merchandise is available at the Belmont Firehouse gift shop. This includes T-Shirts, Crew Neck Sweatshirts, 1/4 Zip Sweatshirts, Polo Shirts, and kid T-shirts and Sweatshirts. Most of these come in Navy Blue, Red, and Gray and in an assortment of sizes. Also carried at the gift shop are various safety items including fire escape ladders, smoke alarms, bike and sport helmets, cabinet locks, and various home safety items to protect young people from home dangers. And don't forget the fire engine pedal cars, always a favorite. Shop the Belmont Firehouse gift shop today. All proceeds support the Safety Learning Center.

[jeffmorrisfoundation.org](http://jeffmorrisfoundation.org)

## Fireman's Fund Insurance Supports Belmont Firehouse

The 2007 calendar year is shaping up to be a good one for funding at the Historic Belmont Firehouse, Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum. While several grant applications are still pending, current successes include a \$7,500 donation from Fireman's Fund Insurance.

The \$7,500 grant package is part of a nationwide program called Fireman's Fund Heritage<sup>SM</sup>. Since 2004, Fireman's Fund has issued grants to hundreds of different departments totaling more than \$10 million. Independent insurance agencies that sell Fireman's Fund products are able to direct these grants to support their communities. Fullerton & Company was instrumental in directing this specific grant to the Belmont Firehouse.

“Fullerton is committed to giving back to our community,” said Tim Nielsen, president and chief executive officer of Fullerton & Company. “We are particularly pleased to help the Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum create an awareness of and provision for fire prevention training and education for children and families in our area.”

**The Portland Firefighter's Association** has also contributed \$1,000 to the Safety Learning Center to support the transportation fund, a fund created to ensure that no school or senior center is excluded from the Safety Learning Center experience due to lack of finances for transportation. Special thanks to Local 43.

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