

FIRE & RESCUE NEWS

ERIK STEN RECOMMENDS MORE SUPPORT FOR PF&R

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As the Portland economy improves, Fire Commissioner Erik Sten recommends restoring cuts to PF&R that were sustained over the previous decade.

These recommendations are a warm welcome for PF&R, which has seen more than a decade of steadily increasing run volume and declining resources to meet the demand.

According to Fire Commissioner Erik Sten, "Emergency response is up 19% in the last 11 years, while the on-duty staffing is down 7%. Fewer firefighters are responding to many more incidents with older fire engines. As the economy comes back, I believe that Portland Fire & Rescue should see restoration of some of the critical services cut over the past decade."

Sten recommends:

- Permanently funding Station 45, co-staffed with the City of Gresham
- Reestablishing a fourth battalion district
- Restoring four two-paramedic rescue companies, increasing on-duty strength by 5% and improving response times to emergency medical calls
- Stepping up funding for replacement fire trucks and engines.

In a budget note last year, City Council directed PF&R to hire an outside team to perform an extensive review of how PF&R conducts the business of protecting life and property in the City of Portland. *(Story continued on page 2)*



WE RESPOND
*Always Ready
 Always There*

ERIK STEN RECOMMENDS MORE SUPPORT FOR PF&R

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(Story continued from page 1)

The study, conducted by TriData Corporation, offered high praise for PF&R, stating, "The organizational culture of PF&R is one of the best and most positive that TriData has experienced. This is a smart organization that uses human resources to their full potential, treats them with respect, and consequently, has a very productive workforce."

The study called for adding paramedic rescue units at four of the city's busiest fire stations.

Because nearly two-thirds of all emergencies to which firefighters respond are medical in nature, adding the paramedics will significantly enhance public safety.

"Obviously, you want to get to the scene of a fire as quickly as possible. There is also a critical window of about four to six minutes for heart attack victims, and other critical medical incidents," says Fire Chief Dave Sprando.

"Adding these paramedic rescues will allow us to get to the scene more quickly."

FINDING FUNDING ALTERNATIVES



Since last October, PF&R has applied for and received more than \$1 million in Federal grants to enhance our ability to keep the public, as well as our firefighters, safe.

Through the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program, PF&R purchased rescue belts to help firefighters escape danger during high-rise incidents.

To help firefighters respond to a chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear explosive devices (CBRNE), PF&R purchased upgrades for the firefighters' breathing gear.

These are just a few of the items funded by the grant that will help with emergency response and firefighter safety.

Through the Prevention arm of the grant program, PF&R will use funds to continue our award-winning public service announcement (PSA) campaign on KGW-TV, as well as purchase props for our Fire & Life Learning Center at the Historic Belmont Station. That facility is located at 900 SE 35th Avenue. Call (503) 823-3615 for information about Safety Saturday or tours.

PF&R plans to hold a press conference in April to unveil the new exhibits.

DIRTY BOMB DRILL

In February, PF&R's Training Center was the scene of a "major terrorist incident" involving a radioactive explosive device, otherwise known as a dirty bomb. Fortunately, this was a simulated event coordinated by the FBI.

The exercise, which included 10 regional agencies, involved a scenario where a police patrol unit made a traffic stop and received security information about the occupants.

The vehicle was detonated shortly after the stop, causing numerous issues including

security for responders, secondary devices, injury to police officers, decontamination, a radioactive plume and exposures, and public communication.

The drill familiarized participants with the threats, protocols, and elements of jurisdictional emergency plans.

PF&R will participate in an extensive "Top Official" exercise (called "TOPOFF") in 2007, which will include all Metro area responding agencies.



COOL HEAD & WARM HEART

PF&R's Trauma Intervention Coordinator (TIP), June Vining, received the "Heart of the Community" Award from Hands on Portland and the Portland Trailblazers last month.

The award goes to an organization that employs innovative methods to address significant problems or challenges in our community, and models excellence in volunteer management.

"It was an honor to accept the award surrounded by TIP volunteers and a room of 300 people who came to celebrate all the awards," Vining says. "The spirit of true caring and volunteerism was palpable in the room."

With a cool head and a warm heart, TIP volunteers from the Portland area make themselves available to be "Good Samaritans."



When requested by firefighters on the scene, they tend to the immediate emotional and practical needs of those in crisis.

This program has been in Portland for more than 13 years.

In the 2005 calendar year, 133 TIP volunteers responded to 1,549 calls for assistance, averaged a 19.92 minute response time, and provided assistance to 10,773 citizens.

**PORTLAND FIRE &
RESCUE**

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MAJOR INCIDENT REPORT

From February 5th through March 11th,
Portland Fire & Rescue responded to 6,005 incidents.
Fire: 279 Medical: 4,449 Other: 1,277 Major Incidents: 13

3/11/06	Apartment fire. 650 SE 162nd Avenue. Loss: \$12,000 Cause: Cooking fire
3/06/06	Commercial fire, 2301 N. Columbia. Loss: \$20,000 Cause: Excessive resin exposed to heat
3/06/06	House fire. 2754 NE Alameda. Loss: \$112,000 Cause: Undetermined
2/26/06	House fire. 6305 N. Interstate Avenue. Loss: \$200,000 Cause: Electrical equipment arc/overload
2/20/06	House fire. 1910 SW Taylors Ferry. Loss: \$11,000 Cause: Improperly discarded cigarette
2/18/06	Apartment fire. 14994 SE Division. Loss: \$55,000 Cause: Combustibles placed next to heater
2/17/06	Apartment fire. 2836 SE Colt. One civilian fatality. Cause: Under investigation
2/17/06	House fire. 3305 SE 112th. Loss: \$21,500 Cause: Under investigation
2/14/06	House fire. 2245 SE 103rd. Loss: \$35,000 Cause: Improper fireplace ash disposal
2/10/06	Commercial fire, Arby's. 10071 SE Washington. Loss: \$16,000 Cause: Electrical arc/overload
2/09/06	Commercial fire. 5050 SE 82nd. Loss: \$25,000 Cause: Under investigation
2/07/06	House fire. 3020 SE Yamhill. One civilian fatality. Loss: \$21,000. Cause: Cooking fire
2/06/06	Commercial fire. 3836 NE Columbia. Loss: \$150,000 Cause: Electrical arc/overload