

## June Newsletter from The Chief

Seal Rock Residents,

May brought Seal Rock FD several grass/brush fire calls. The early-May heat spell escalated hazards related to burning. Many weeks of insignificant moisture led to the early declaration of fire season by the Oregon Department of Forestry. We might have a long summer at the coast.

Seal Rock FD has a roster of four paid FTE (including Office staff), nine Reserve staff, and twenty-seven volunteers (911 and support). Dedicated people, with zero percent turnover in May.

Training is vital to our program. Ben Spangler completed EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) through Oregon Coast Community College. He is now a Nationally registered EMT. Chief Will Ewing, Paul Highfill, and Dustin Brungardt have completed their recertification requirements for Firefighter I. They were certified in our past and have attended enough FFI drills to qualify for recertification. Jeremy Garbina qualified as a new certification.

Neeko Gilbert, Ben Spangler, and Cody Jiosa have applied to the Lincoln County Rope rescue team. Chris Norton, Madison Munger, and Neeko Gilbert received their Emergency Response certifications. Seal Rock Fire logged over 200 hours in training in May.

The Board takes the responsibility regarding stewardship of tax payer fund seriously as I do. To that end a complete review of policies and procedures has been completed. We have a multilayer bill approval system before any checks are sent. This process has at least four layers of “eyes on” for bill approval.

At the same time, we are reviewing all vendors, insurance policies, and other expense related items to make sure the taxpayer is getting the best bang for their buck. This process will be completed shortly, and we will continue to review yearly.

Twenty-nine percent of our May calls supported our neighboring districts. They have likewise backed us with personnel and equipment. Joe Munger has submitted a grant application for twenty sets of Structural Turnouts. Grant applications are competed on a routine basis and we have a committee of staff and volunteers to be successful with as many grants as possible.

We have a grant out for a fit tester for our breathing apparatus masks so we can complete this process in house.

Chief Will Ewing