

Historic Belmont Firehouse

Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum News

Issue 26
September 2008

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

For Information or appointments:

Don Porth

Public Education Office

503-823-3615

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.

No Safety Saturday
in July & August

“Straight Tips”

Fire Prevention Week 2008

This year’s theme is “Prevent Home Fires.” While this seems an obvious statement, few realize that over 3/4 of all structure fires happen where people live. While you may believe your home is the safest place you can be, statistics prove that wrong. Take charge of your home safety by ensuring smoke alarms are working and eliminating hazards before they cause your family harm.
Think Safe.

Oysters + Firefighters = Safety

On October 9th Firefighters will again line up to consume oysters, all for the sake of fire and life safety in Portland.

The fourth annual “Shuck & Swallow” oyster eating contest will pit 6 firefighters, teamed with 6 local seafood chefs, against one another to see which team can shuck, then swallow, the most oysters in 10 minutes. The event will take place at 3:30 at the McCormick & Schmick’s Seafood Restaurant at SW 1st and Oak in downtown Portland.

Previous winners include Ted Cassinelli (year one and two) and Jim Morelli (year three). It has taken 90+ oysters each year to be the champion.

Local celebrities help out as counters to track the consumption. This year’s helpers include: Andy Carson—KPTV, Drew Carney—KGW, and Brianna Woodside-Gomez—Miss Oregon Teen 2008.

Along with the oyster event, firefighters will

assist servers all evening long, waiting on tables and meeting the dinner guests of McCormick & Schmick’s. This is a chance to get up close and personal with some of the finest firefighters Portland has to offer.

McCormick & Schmick’s strongly supports the Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum by donating a portion of the proceeds from all dinners and beverages to the Jeff Morris Foundation. To date, McCormick & Schmick’s has raised over \$15,800 for fire and life safety programs.

You can thank M&S and have a great dinner by coming to SW 1st and Oak on Thursday October 9th, beginning at 4 PM. For reservations, call 503-224-7522. It’s a great family evening with lots of surprises.

Portland Fire & Rescue employees who wish to volunteer to eat oysters, serve, or assist, contact Don Porth at 503-823-3615.

Think Safe!

Calling Box 2153!!!

Fire alarm boxes served Portland for over 100 years, serving a silent vigil over the residents of the city. In the early days, they were locked and only one person in the neighborhood had a key. The “Responsible Citizen” would have to be found and brought to the alarm box to turn in an alarm.

While this certainly prevented false alarms, it could result in quite a delay in alerting the fire department when fire struck. The design was later changed to make them more of a self-service device. The obvious problems followed but it was still considered a better way of protecting the public than the locked alternative.

It’s been 24 years since the 9-1-1 system

replaced fire alarm boxes. As odd as it may seem to those who responded to their location and wound them up each time, they are now a historic artifact and difficult to find.

HOWEVER, it’s not too late to own one. Current and past fire bureau employees are able to purchase a chance at winning Box 2153 in a raffle to be held on October 9th at the McCormick & Schmick Fundraising dinner (see article above). Tickets can be purchased at the Portland Firefighters Union Office, Portland Fire Marshal’s Office, Portland Fire Training Center, or the Historic Belmont Firehouse. If you have more questions, contact Don Porth at 503-823-3615. Proceeds support the Safety Learning Center. Don’t let this opportunity pass!

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

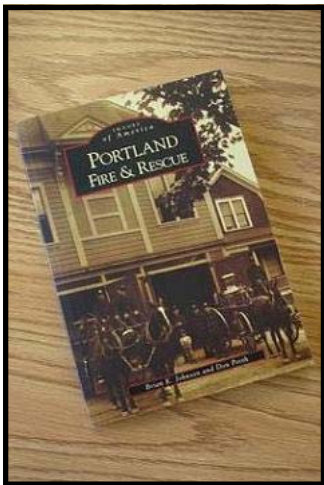
Remember This???

There was a day when hundreds of fire alarm boxes, like the one pictured here, punctuated the city streets of Portland. In 1874, the beginnings of the fire alarm telegraph system used a simpler version of this model to allow citizens to alert the fire department in an emergency. The system evolved over the years and was finally rendered obsolete by telephones and the 9-1-1 system. These boxes were removed from Portland streets in 1984 and sold off through the city property control warehouse. The Fire Museum has retained several which are on display at the Historic Belmont Firehouse. The box pictured here will be raffled off on October 9th. **Check page one for details.**

Do you have a memory to share? Submit them to Don Porth at the Belmont Firehouse. Call 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 ***

Portland Fire & Rescue has a long and unique story to offer. Arcadia Publishing has a book sharing a pictorial history of 155 years of service to the community. These books are available at the Historic Belmont Firehouse (which is pictured on the cover) for \$20.00. All proceeds support the Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum at the Belmont Firehouse. Clothing and safety items are also on sale.

Visit the Belmont Firehouse Gift Shop or shop on-line for the entire selection of clothing and gifts. All proceeds support the Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum.

www.jeffmorrisfoundation.org

September 11th Reflection Supported by Community

For the 3rd year in a row, the Belmont Firehouse has hosted the "September 11th Reflection," an open house to the public to allow reflection on the events of September 11, 2001.

This year, the firehouse opened its doors at 7 AM and remained open until 5 PM, allowing nearly 100 people a place to reflect on that fateful day.

Reactions varied widely. Some visitors offered their thoughts in the guest journal. Others spoke to one another or the staff at the firehouse, sharing stories of their memories or that of a loved one who perished. At the center of

the day was the "Strength of America" sculpture that sits on the firehouse plaza. It carries 570 names of firefighters, police officers, port authority officers, emergency medical workers, Army personnel, and Navy personnel who died that day. The sculpture remains on display all year long.

Think Safe!



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