

# 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 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”

**Don't Let Candles Burn You**

*In recent years, candles have become a leading cause of fires and fire deaths. This problem is magnified during the holidays because of decorations and traditions.*

*Take time to ensure your candles are safe. Keep things that can burn away from them. Use candle holders that protect the flame and provide a solid base. And above all...*

**Think Safe.**

## New Exhibits Enhance Belmont Firehouse

The week of November 17th found the Belmont Firehouse closed to visitors, but bustling with activity none-the-less. A federal grant for about \$65,000 (30% matched by the Jeff Morris Foundation) provided funds for another round of upgrades to the facility.

The most exciting and high-tech upgrade is the Fire Alarm Telegraph Status Board. In its early life, it hung on the wall of the fire dispatch center at NE 21st and Pacific. It has been a silent display at Belmont for two years. Now, it has been activated as a computer driven show that walks the visitors through a 3rd alarm event that taxes the on-duty resources of the fire bureau. Visitors will experience how coverage continues to provide for citizen safety while move-ups and personnel callbacks take place. This is a must see exhibit. Not all exhibits are just to be seen. Some must be felt to understand. The De-

structive Power of Fire exhibit is also a unique experience to the Firehouse.

Numerous other exhibits have been enhanced to clarify the role the tools and equipment played in providing for community safety. Each carries a moral that helps visitors understand their vulnerability to fire and injury and encourages preventative actions.



Several of the grant-funded upgrades are also about safety. 25,000 visitors have passed through the Belmont Firehouse since operation began. After two years in its current configuration, many lessons have been learned and keeping the facility safe for future visitors is paramount. A very key improvement is a lift platform for the Fire Engine Experience. Now visitors of all ages, regardless of physical capability, can share in this valuable learning experience.

## McCormick & Schmick Fundraiser Successful

October 9th was the date of the annual fundraiser at McCormick & Schmick's Original Seafood Restaurant at SW 1st and Oak. As always, a good time was had by all.

The day began with the oyster shuck and swallow event, pitting teams of firefighters/chefs against one another. In the end, Terry Foster of the Training Section prevailed with a new, ten-minute oyster swallowing record...100. Other competitors included Stew White (FMO), Tommy Schroeder (22's), Jesse Hellwege (22's), Jonathan Miller (22's), and Daniel Curiel Mendoza, a visiting firefighter from Guadalajara, Mexico through the Sister City Bomberos Program.

Special thanks go to all of the Portland Fire

& Rescue Firefighters who became Servers for the evening. Their goodwill toward restaurant patrons made the evening special for many. Other bureau employees and Belmont Firehouse volunteers played a key role in decorating the restaurant and operating the firehouse store, which was set up for the evening. Brianna Woodside-Gomez, Miss Teen Oregon 2008 served as royalty for the evening, greeting guests and providing photo opportunities.

And finally, thanks go to those who took their evening to patronize McCormick & Schmick's. Proceeds from the entire evening totaled \$2,566.00. This will support fire and life safety programs through the Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum for the coming year.

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

# Remember This???

Most are familiar with the story of Chief David Campbell, who met his demise on June 26, 1911 at the Standard Oil Works fire. Few know that one of the telegraph tapes that tapped stations out to that fire is now on display at the Belmont Firehouse. Box 267, which was addressed as "Standard Oil Works" on SE Water Avenue is shown punched into this paper tape. It includes a handwritten note on it declaring its origin. This is part of the most recent round of exhibit enhancements at the Firehouse.

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](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 \*\*\*

Safety is always in season, but the holidays make it even more so. As the safety tip on page one explains, candles are a leading cause of fires and fire deaths. Why not try a flameless safety candle? Pictured here is an battery operated candle that even flickers as it illuminates. It runs on 2 AA batteries and is made of (and smells like) real wax. These are now available at the Belmont Firehouse Gift Shop for \$8 each. All proceeds support the Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum at the Belmont Firehouse. Clothing and other 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](http://www.jeffmorrisfoundation.org)

## Santa Claus Is Coming To Town...

Saturday December 13th, the day normally dedicated to Safety Saturday, will actually be the 4th Annual SANTA SATURDAY! Old Kris Kringle will be on hand from 9 AM to 3 PM for photos with Jr. Firefighters of all ages. He does ask that a \$5 donation be given to the firehouse to help give the gift of safety to everyone. Be prepared for a bit of a wait in line. The firehouse is closed to general touring due to the line this activity creates. For more information, contact Don Porth at 503-823-3615.

**Think Safe!**



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