

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”

It's A Hot Time...Maybe

When the weather gets cold, the heaters come out, and so do the associated dangers. Portable heaters need plenty of space from things that can burn, about 3 feet.

Be sure your heater is equipped with a shut off device to protect it if it tips over. If it doesn't have one, it's probably very old and should no longer be used.

*Stay warm, but stay safe.
Think Safe.*

Oregon Turns 150 * Firehouse Celebrates

On February 14, 2009, the state of Oregon will turn 150 years of age. By that time, three fire companies were already operating in the city of Portland (Vigilance Hook & Ladder, Willamette Engine Company #1, and Multnomah Engine Company #2). By June of 1859, a fourth company, Columbian Engine Company #3 would begin operation, finding quarters at the 200 block of Washington Street.

Even more remarkably, the fire engine purchased for Columbian is still in possession of the fire bureau. In fact, it is now on display at the Historic Belmont Firehouse, having also reached it's 150th birthday.

The 1859 Jeffers Sidestroke Handpumper was manufactured in 1859 but, due to it's shipping path around the horn, didn't arrive until 1860.

Sometime after Black Saturday, the fire that devastated Portland in August of 1873,

it was sold to the city of Pendleton. At the end of the volunteer era, the Veteran Volunteer Firemen's Association endeavored to return it to Portland. They held a Fireman's Ball for several years to help raise funds for the purchase. Sometime around 1896, it was purchased and returned to Portland where it has remained since.

The vehicle still shows the “3” painted ornately on both sides of the vehicle. It also has the addition of a metal plate that says “Veteran” representing the association that brought it back to Portland.

The handpumper will be on display at the firehouse for all of 2009 along with other stories commemorating Oregon's 150th Birthday. The Belmont Firehouse will have special hours, 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM on February 17-19, 2009. Stop in and visit this unique piece of history.

Think Safe!

Disabled Are Now Enabled At Belmont Firehouse

A new feature, a lift to assist the disabled to access The Fire Engine Experience, has recently been added to the Historic Belmont Firehouse. It was purchased through the recent Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program that provided other exhibit, safety, and functional improvements to the Firehouse.

The Safety Learning Center has become a popular destination for groups with physical disabilities. While it's wide doorways, hard floors, and compact size always made for an easy-to-manuever facility, some were left unable to share in the very popular Fire Engine Experience. That's no

longer the case.

Along with the lift capabilities, handrails and improved steps also resulted from the upgrade. This exhibit remains the most unique and popular in the firehouse. It is now available for all visitors to learn from and enjoy.



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

Remember This???

One of the newest exhibits in the firehouse hasn't seen action since 1993. The old status board from Fire Alarm Dispatch has been in storage for many years and has finally returned to its former glory. It is once again controlled by computers, but no longer to direct crews from one emergency to the next. Now it tells the story of the intricacies of a third alarm emergency and how emergency response resources were allocated and supplemented to maintain continuous protection of the citizens. If you haven't seen this device in the past 16 years, you haven't really seen it!

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 ***

In the spirit of the 150th birthday of the State of Oregon, it only seems right to recognize one of the very early volunteer firefighters with Multnomah Engine Company #2. Henry Weinhard (yes, the beer brewer) served as a Portland Firefighter about 150 years ago. While his beer-brewing seems to have been his most long-standing contribution, he was no doubt an important member of his crew during his tenure as a firefighter. The Belmont Firehouse carries an exclusive line of Henry Weinhard t-shirts at the Belmont Firehouse Gift Shop.

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

Attendance in 2008 Strong

2008 proved to be another busy year at the Historic Belmont Firehouse, Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum. In total, 6,740 people visited or used the facility. This brings the total visitation to over 26,000 since the Safety Learning Center began operation.

The visitation and use of the facility occur for a variety of purposes. 73 groups of youth (preschool, school, scouting, etc.) utilized the Learning center for educational programs. 12 senior citizen groups also paid a visit to the facility for entertainment and education.

Another common use was for events, whether arranged as community outreach opportunities or by people needing a venue for special gatherings. In all, 49 uses were logged for events in 2008.

Between meetings of various types (113) and general tours, activities, and miscellaneous use (334), the Belmont Firehouse remained as active as it could be in 2008. All of this was supported by 884 hours of volunteer effort, a contribution of which has proven absolutely essential for the facility to operate.

*** [Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum Event Line 503-823-3616](tel:5038233616) ***