

Historic Belmont Firehouse

Safety Learning Center & Fire Museum News

Issue 31
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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.

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**For Information or appointments:**

**Don Porth**

**Public Education Office**

**503-823-3615**

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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”

“Home Addressing”

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*In its long past role, the fire service responded to fires, and who couldn't see a column of smoke to follow to the emergency. Today, most emergencies are medical related. A visible address on a home is critical to a prompt response. The best location is near the front door, on the mailbox, on the curb, or in an easy to see and well lit place. Help your firefighters find you. Make that address visible!*

**Think Safe**

## Fire Marks

A new exhibit has been placed in the Historic Belmont Firehouse. “Fire Marks” shares the history of these unique plaques and how they helped form the fire service as we know it today.

Fire Marks, usually affixed to a house or storefront out of reach of vandals, were used as guides by fire brigades of the 18th century. They stood as a guarantee that the insurance company involved would reward handsomely the brigade extinguishing the blaze. It also discouraged malicious arson by showing that the owner himself would not suffer greatly in case of fire.

This early form of fire prevention was driven by the insurance industry. Because fire brigades would often let an uninsured building burn, it did not, however, serve the best interests of the general public. Public fire departments resulted.

The Historic Belmont Firehouse has two Fire

Marks on display, one from the “Mutual Assurance Company For Insuring Houses From Loss By Fire” and one from “United Firemen’s Insurance Company of Philadelphia.” Their unique shape and design would distinguish one from another.

Visit the Belmont Firehouse to learn more about these historic artifacts and the interesting history of the fire service in Portland, Oregon.



## Safety Learning Center Recognized with Awards

The efforts of the Safety Learning Center at the Belmont Firehouse have recently been recognized through two significant awards.

On May 30, 2009, the Oregon Fire Chief’s Association recognized the Safety Learning Center with their “Award of Excellence.” This award recognizes programs or processes that positively affect the fire service. It is with great pride that the Safety Learning Center accepts this recognition.

On June 11, 2009, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company recognized the

Safety Learning Center with their “Fire Mark” award. This award has two components. The first is the recognition of heroic or selfless efforts on the part of firefighters who serve their community. The second, and that which was given to the Safety Learning Center, is the Community Service and Public Education Award for service to citizens. It is also a humble pleasure that the facility receives this recognition.

The most important recognition of all is the attention the facility has received from the 30,000 visitors who have passed through the doors since operation began. Introducing safety to their lives is the goal and best measure of success.

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

## Remember This???

Radios seem a standard feature in the fire service. But it hasn't always been so. Long before radios, speaking trumpets were used to communicate across a noisy fireground (they remain a part of the fire service as a symbol of rank on badges and patches). Radios entered the scene sometime later but were initially limited to fire vehicles. In time, portable radios found their way into the officer's hands. Today, radios are in the hands of almost every firefighter on the line. This photo shows two evolutions of radios from the past 25 years. These are on display at the Historic Belmont 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 \*\*\*



A new item graces the Belmont Firehouse Gift Shop. "Fuller Fire Truck" has arrived from Chevron Cars and is now available at the Firehouse. In a deal worked out with Chevron Recreation, these are able to assist in fundraising for the Jeff Morris Foundation and provide a fun gift for visitors to the Historic Belmont Firehouse.

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)

## Oregon Home Magazine Visits Belmont Firehouse

The editor of "Oregon Home Magazine," Sheila De La Rosa, recently visited the Historic Belmont Firehouse while doing a write up on the Belmont business district. She was so impressed with the firehouse, she mentioned it prominently in the "Letter From the Editor" column of the August/September 2009 issue. A quarter page column continues to share the qualities of the facility on page 32 of the magazine. This is high praise from a magazine that writes about experiences from across Portland and around the Pacific Northwest. Thanks, Oregon Home Magazine, for sharing our story with your readers.



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