



Camas Fire Department Newsletter

December 1, 2011

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Left: Washougal Captain Larry Saari visits with Camas Firefighter/Paramedic Ben Silva at Station 171. Right: Camas Captain Greg Payne

CFD Command Staff:

Nick Swinhart

Fire Chief

Cliff Free

Division Chief of EMS

Allen Wolk

Battalion Chief

Larry Larimer

Battalion Chief

Mark Ervin

Battalion Chief

Randy Miller

Deputy Fire Marshal

Larry Saari

Training Captain

Contact Information:

E-mail:

nswinhart@ci.camass.wa.us

Website:

www.ci.camass.wa.us/fire/

Our Mission:

To provide the highest quality service to our community through the protection and preservation of life and property



Camas and Washougal Swap Officers By Fire Chief Nick Swinhart

Readers of our previous newsletters will notice an addition to our command staff list to the left of this paragraph. Starting December 6, 2011, longtime Washougal Captain Larry Saari will be coming over to Camas Fire Department as the new Training Captain. Captain Saari will be working day shift and will report directly to Division Chief of EMS Cliff Free. To fill the gap this will create in Washougal, Camas Captain Greg Payne will be transferred to Washougal Station 171. Despite working out of different stations, both officers will still be considered employees of their respective cities.

This is a significant event in the history of the Camas and Washougal Fire Departments, and likewise a major event in the trial merger between the two departments. The creation of the Training Captain position was approved by the Camas City Council as part of the restructuring of the command staff. When Captain Saari expressed interest in the position, an opportunity was recognized that could help strengthen the merger between the two departments. Following approval of the firefighter's union and the Camas and Washougal City Councils, the unique transfer of personnel was complete. We wish the best of luck to Captain Saari as he takes on this new and challenging position! In other merger news, both cities have recently approved an agreement that will allow trading time between the departments. Discussions are also ongoing about the possibility of a group vacation pick for 2012.



Fatal Fire in Washougal

A fatal fire occurred in Washougal on November 22, taking the life of a 28 year old woman. Approximately 15 firefighters responded from Washougal, Camas, and East County Fire and Rescue. The investigation is being led by Washougal Fire Chief Ron Schumacher and it may be some time before a cause is known.



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Chief Departing for NFA

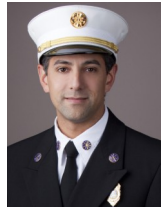
On December 11, Camas Fire Chief Nick Swinhart will be departing for two weeks at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The NFA provides a unique training experience for firefighters from all over the world, and all at no cost to local departments. Division Chief Cliff Free will be in charge during this period of time.



Above: CFD Division Chief Cliff Free visits with Portland Division Chief John Nohr during a recent meeting at PFR Station 1.

CFD visits Portland F&R

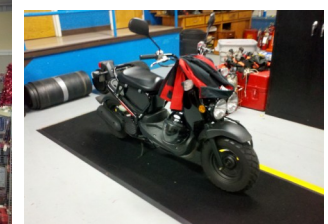
In November, CFD Chief Nick Swinhart and Division Chief Cliff Free made a trip to Portland Station 1 to visit with officials there on items of mutual interest and to discuss ways the departments might work together in the future. The meeting brought about many good ideas and also included an amazing tour of the department's recently renovated Station 1.



Year End Report By Fire Chief Nick Swinhart

The year 2011 has been an incredibly busy one for the Camas Fire Department, with a tremendous amount of changes for our staff. The first six months of the year the department was helmed by Interim Chief Monte Brachmann, who kept everything running smoothly while awaiting the resolution of the lengthy process of hiring a new permanent fire chief. The department is indebted to Monte for coming out of retirement to lead CFD during this period of time. In July the department had to deal with a new fire chief coming on, while almost simultaneously having to navigate a complicated trial consolidation process with our partners in Washougal. In the course of one month, the department went from 41 personnel operating out of two stations to nearly 80 operating out of 4 stations. I've had a great partner helping steer this process along in Washougal Fire Chief Ron Schumacher. The assistance of IAFF Local President Kevin Bergstrom in helping implement some of the changes needed to make the process work smoothly has also been invaluable. In other areas we've seen dramatic decreases in overtime spending and the hard work of our finance department has helped stabilize the EMS Fund picture for 2012. Of course much work remains to keep the fund sustainable in the long term. The command staff restructuring has also improved things with the creation of the Division Chief of EMS and new number 2 position in the department. 2012 promises to be a busy year with the renewal efforts for our EMS Levy and hopefully a permanent resolution on our consolidation efforts with Washougal. As always, we look forward to the challenges. Thanks to Chief Ron Schumacher, our elected officials, and our staff, for making 2011 a great year!

The Year in Photos:



*Top Row: Interim Chief Monte Brachmann (right) departs, staging the department photo proves to be a difficult task, VFD recruit class uses 42's training grounds for class.
Middle Row: CFD personnel prepare for PT exercise at 42, a PR appearance at a grand opening at Sears, BC Wolk's Command Vehicle.
Left: "Movember" brought about many changes at CFD. Mustaches sprang up overnight on everyone from chiefs to rookie firefighters like Ben Porter. Strangely, Steve Pozsgai's disappeared.*