



# Camas - Washougal Fire Department

May 2014

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## CWFD

### Command Staff

**Nick Swinhart**  
Fire Chief

**Cliff Free**  
Division Chief of EMS

**Ron Schumacher**  
Division Chief/  
Fire Marshal

**Allen Wolk**  
Battalion Chief

**Larry Larimer**  
Battalion Chief

**Mark Ervin**  
Battalion Chief

### Contact Information:

Chief Swinhart:  
nswinhart@cityofcamas.us

### Website:

www.cityofcamas.us/fire



## Merger Complete After 3 Years



*An early trial merger staff meeting conducted in July of 2011*

Following a long and arduous process that required our staff to make many changes, the trial merger of the Camas and Washougal Fire Departments is finally complete. Beginning in early 2011, the dedicated staff, along with the elected officials in both cities, helped keep the temporary merger on track for over 3 years. In December of 2013, both city councils signaled that they were ready to make the partnership a more permanent one. The result was a 10 year contract for service and the Camas absorption of all Washougal staff and equipment. This long term partnership will help maintain the efficiencies the organization has realized over the past 3 years

and will continue the same elevated level of service that the community has come to enjoy.

As we move forward as one organization, our agency will still encounter challenges. Increasing call volume in the face of decreasing revenues and constant changes in Medicare reimbursements will always be burdensome. The ending in August of a federal grant to support staffing will magnify such challenges. As we noted in our annual budget statement, the filling of vacant positions as budgets allow will be among our priorities. CWFD will also focus on the planning of a new engine purchase, improvements to the volunteer program, continued participation in the County radio replacement process, and long range strategic planning.

Through the partnership that has existed between the cities since 2011, CWFD increased levels of service to the community without a corresponding increase in expenditures. This was unprecedented in the histories of both agencies. Our organization will continue to provide the highest level of service possible to our citizens in 2014 and beyond.



CWFD's prevention and inspection division will be moving in to a new home in the near future. Previously working out of two different offices, Division Chief/Fire Marshal Ron Schumacher and Deputy Fire Marshal Randy Miller will be moving in to the old State Farm office space adjacent to Camas City Hall. City staff have been working incredibly hard to get the space ready for a tentative June 1 move in date.

### Our Mission:

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

## Summer Safety

With nice weather just around the corner, CWFD joins the National Safety Council in encouraging everyone to always practice safety when enjoying summer activities:

- **Water Safety:** According to NSC Injury Facts, 3,858 people died in 2008 due to drowning, including swimming and water transport accidents. More than one in five drowning victims are children 14-years-old and younger, and for every child who dies from drowning, another four receive emergency department care for non-fatal submersion injuries. Most drowning and near-drowning incidents happen when a child falls into a pool or is left alone in the bathtub.
- **Fireworks Safety:** Summer brings picnics, barbecues, parades, and fireworks displays, especially around the 4th of July. Summer also brings an increase in injuries from backyard grills, bonfires, and fireworks. In 2010, fireworks caused an estimated 15,500 reported fires, included 1,100 structure fires. These fires resulted in an estimated 8,600 people treated in emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries, 39 percent of whom were under 15 years of age.

## Staff Milestones



Left to Right: Captain Greg Weisser, Captain Brooks Cooper, Firefighter/Paramedic Ben Silva, Captain Kevin Bergstrom

Over the past several months since our last newsletter, we have had multiple staff milestones we wanted to note. In March, James Tierney and Shayne Bradley marked 5 years with the department. In February, Ben Silva and Kevin Bergstrom hit 15 years of service. In May, Brooks Cooper celebrates 25 years with the department. Finally, in March, Greg Weisser was honored by colleagues and the City Council for 30 years of continued service to our communities. Thank you all for your dedication to our agency, our city, and our citizens!

## Training Burn

On April 19, CWFD had the opportunity to conduct a live fire training exercise on an abandoned home in Washougal. These opportunities don't come up very often, so the staff took advantage of the chance to get some critical training completed. Many CWFD paid and volunteer staff participated in practice burn and there is hope that there may be further such opportunities this year.



## Station Locations and Contact Information:

### Station 41

616 NE 4th Avenue  
Camas, WA 98607

360.834.2262

### Station 42

4321 NW Parker St.  
Camas, WA 98607

360.833.2042

### Station 43

1400 "A" Street  
Washougal, WA  
98671

360.835.2611

Dial

**9-1-1**

for all

Emergencies

