



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **(Fire District to “Stand Down for Firefighter Safety” Next Week)**

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue will be participating in the 2007 International Fire and EMS Safety Stand Down, being held the week of June 17-23. The Stand Down is sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section of the IAFC. Stand downs have been used by the military for years to correct issues that have been identified as a problem throughout the ranks.

The Stand Down, themed “Ready to Respond,” will focus on preparing fire service and EMS personnel for their daily duties by reviewing their training and the proper use of equipment to ensure safe response, mitigation and return from all emergency situations. Failure to remain cautious can cause routine activities to become hazardous, as has been shown in many fire service and emergency medical service line-of-duty deaths and injuries. Nationally, there were 105 firefighters who died in the line of duty during 2006 and 44 lives have been lost this year. The purpose of the Safety Stand Down is to reduce these deaths and injuries by focusing attention on safety practices and working to improve them.

TVF&R will respond to emergency calls as normal, but between calls, firefighters, officers, and day staff will take time to review safety-related procedures and guidelines; discuss national accident reports, and inspect vehicles and equipment. Each day will begin with a message from Fire Chief Johnson, Local 1660 President Rocky Hanes, and the Fire District’s Safety Committee. A “tone” from the District’s 9-1-1 Center will also signal a moment of silence for those firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

A commitment to safety is nothing new for TVF&R. The District’s mission holds personnel safety as the **foremost** priority on a daily basis. The District’s commitment to safety includes having a District Safety Officer, Infectious Disease and Wellness Specialists, and a Safety Committee that meets monthly; firefighter rescue training incorporated into regular training sessions; and a Highway Safety Program to help keep firefighters from being hit by a passing vehicle while on-scene at an incident. The District’s bulls-eye reflects this commitment and is a daily reminder to all personnel. Battalion Chief and District Safety Officer Jim Davis states, “A structure fire requires wearing over 50 lbs of protective gear, hoisting fire hoses and rescue tools, and working inside a building with scorching temperatures.” For this reason, TVF&R firefighters incorporate physical fitness into every shift, and have annual physical exams.



*For more information and to read about fire service fatalities, visit these web sites:*

[www.iafc.org/standdown](http://www.iafc.org/standdown)      <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/fire/default.html>  
<http://www.iaff.org/HS/Index1.asp>      <http://www.iafc.org/>

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