

# OREGON YACHT CLUB FIRE DRILL GUIDE

The purpose of this guide and accompanying **Quick Reference Guide** is to assist everyone living on the moorage in becoming more capable of dealing with a fire. The guide is designed to outline the information given at a fire drill, and residents should bring it with them when they attend such a drill. Currently there are a few individuals who are well-versed in the fire fighting systems we have in place. We have been fortunate in the past that one or more of these individuals have been present during fires that have occurred. Please take the time necessary to make yourself informed about the systems in place to fight a fire in our very specialized situation. Attend fire drills at least once per year to gain hands-on experience that you can rely on in an emergency, when chaos is the order of the day.

## **Before you begin to fight a fire:**

- Make sure all occupants have left the building and are out of harm's way.
- **Call 911** or if possible specifically assign someone the task. Remember that this is likely to take more time than you might expect, so dedicating this task to another individual is likely your best option. It will free you up to take other necessary steps. **Note: If you assume the task of calling 911, you should also assume the task of proceeding to the front gate to assist the fire department in entering the premises.** See notes below regarding that responsibility. If you assign someone to call 911, remind them to proceed to the front gate.
- Determine quickly and safely whether you can fight the fire alone. **DO NOT** re-enter a burning structure unless you can positively determine that you have an unobstructed escape route AND that you will be able to extinguish the fire.
- Do not use a fire extinguisher unless you are sure that the extinguisher is appropriate for the type and size of fire you are fighting. Fire extinguishers have definite limitations so do not think they will extinguish much more than a small, non-aggressive fire. Precious minutes can be wasted attempting to use a fire extinguisher when something else is more appropriate.
- Alert your neighbors.

At this point, it is advisable that the person who has a fire in his/her home take a supporting role in fighting the fire. That person will be experiencing panic, and panic tends to cloud one's judgment.

These are the tasks that need to be accomplished next, and should be delegated by the person who has remembered to bring the quick reference guide.

- Double check to make sure 911 has been called and the gate is being opened.
- Instruct neighbors on either side of the fire to turn on their garden hoses and fight the fire. They may choose to delegate this task to another person. **In the past, this has been the most effective way to fight small house fires at OYC.** Do you know where your neighbor's garden hoses are? If it is winter, is the water to the outside spigot turned off inside the house? If so, turn it on. A third garden hose should be hooked up to the spigot at the main water shut-off valve (on the walkway) of the burning house if it is safe to do so. **Using garden hoses on the fire is our first line of defense.** (Note: The fire safety committee recommends that every houseboat have a heavy duty brass hose nozzle for every operable hose they have as in **photo #1 below**). This nozzle should be attached to the hose at all times and ready for use.

**PHOTO #1 Brass Hose Nozzle**



- Turn off the electricity to the burning house at the meter box. After locating the numbered fuse corresponding to the slip number, flip the breaker switch down to cut power to the house (**photo #2 below**). Are you familiar with your breaker switch?

**PHOTO #2 Breaker Switch at Electric Panel**



- Turn off the gas to the house at the gas meter (**Photo #3 below**). Turn the valve  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a turn clockwise. This will require a wrench.

**PHOTO #3 Gas Meter Shut off Valve**



Know the location of your gas meter, and familiarize yourself with how to turn it off!

- The individual who called 911 should take a flashlight if it is dark and car keys and go to the parking lot to meet the fire truck. Open the traffic gate using your personal gate code or the clicker in your car. After the gate is open, turn the gate off at the motor (**photo #4 below**), leaving the gate open so the fire truck can more quickly enter the premises. To access the motor, which is located to the inside left of the gate as you are going OUT the gate, you must **first remove the motor cover**. Use this same procedure if an ambulance has been called.

**PHOTO #4 Gate motor with cover removed**



- Someone should take a flashlight (if necessary) and go to the south end of the parking lot to open the fire gate to Oaks Park so the fire department can gain access to the fire hydrant in Oaks Park. The combination to the gate lock is **XXXX**. (Refer to the Guide distributed at the Annual Meeting for the combination.) The fire hydrant is about 300 feet from the gate, near the tree in front of the roller rink entrance. When the firefighters arrive, they will hook up to the hydrant at Oaks Park. They should then hook another hose from the pumper truck to the red OYC standpipe at the top of the ramp (**photo #5 on following page**). This will substantially increase the water pressure in the OYC fire line.
- Concurrent with preparing for the fire department arrival, two people should take responsibility for priming and starting the 2 OYC fire pumps—one located at the bottom of the ramp and the other located on the walkway behind space 20. Regardless of the size of the fire, both should be started. There are written instructions for starting the pumps on the inside of the pump houses. Again, if it is dark, a flashlight will be quite valuable. First make sure the water intake hose is in the river. Then prime it, using the hand pump marked “pump.” Make sure the choke is open (it should already be in the open position) and turn the motor on. After the motor runs a short while and then begins to lug, close the choke by pushing it in. As the fire pumps are being turned on and the fire line is being filled, the firehoses can be

**PHOTO #5 Red OYC Standpipe**



- attached to the standpipes. Currently, our pumps can easily supply ample pressure for 3 hoses. Standpipes are located approximately every 100 feet along the walkway. Make sure the hose(s) are laid out lengthwise so there are no kinks in the hose before attaching it to the standpipe. After the first freeze of winter, the water line will have been drained and will be empty. If this is the case, it will take about 11 minutes for the line to fill if both pumps are on. Then open the nozzle and assist the people using garden hoses. If there is insufficient pressure in the fire hose, close the nozzle and wait for pressure in the line to build. The spray is powerful, so be ready for a kick and grasp the nozzle firmly.
- When the firefighters arrive, get out of their way. Because of the weight of their gear, plus their limited scope of vision, a moorage is a very dangerous place for a firefighter. They have the added stress of perhaps falling in the water.

Fire can be mesmerizing. Don't become transfixed, keep a cool head and pay attention to what is going on. If you are not performing a specific task, stay out of the way.