

CITY OF COOS BAY CITY COUNCIL
Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
October 7, 2014	

TO: Mayor Shoji and City Councilors

FROM: Mark Anderson, Fire Chief

THROUGH: Rodger Craddock, City Manager

ISSUE: **Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Training Grant Award**

BACKGROUND:

The Fire Department applied for and has been awarded a small training grant through the US Department of Transportation. This is a Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant. The grant will cover the cost of bringing an instructor in to teach an eight hour course called "Above The Line/Below The Line" by Haz Mat IQ. This course teaches a 4-step process for quickly recognizing hazards, developing mitigation strategy, and determining proper PPE (personal protective equipment) for known and unknown chemicals. The primary target is Haz Mat team members, but it is also beneficial to first responders and fire department engine company officers. More information on the course can be found at www.hazmatiq.com

In addition to our department staff, we would like to invite North Bend, Charleston, Coquille or other local agencies interested in participating. Ideally we would schedule the class for March or April of 2015.

ADVANTAGES:

Keeping personnel trained and prepared for handling hazardous material emergencies can be expensive and challenging. By utilizing available grant funds, we are able to provide quality training by nationally recognized and respected instructors. This grant is an opportunity to creatively finance training that will assist staff in making good decisions when managing the critical first minutes of an emergency.

DISADVANTAGES:

None

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

The HMEP Grant funds awarded are \$5,950.00 (again, to cover the instructor's costs). The City's responsibility would be to provide the venue (training room at Station No. 1) and overtime for off-duty staff if they choose to attend. This is already budgeted as Haz Mat Team training, so the fiscal impact is minimal.

RELATED CITY GOAL:

Ensure staff is properly equipped and trained to deliver city services to those who work, live, and visit the City of Coos Bay.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve to accept the Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant for Training.