

The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

December 6, 2002

City of Coos Bay 500 Central Avenue, Coos Bay OR 97420 [541-269-8912] See us at http://www.coosbay.org Email the city manager at bgrile@coosbay.org

Good afternoon from Coos Bay City Hall ...

Due to staff constraints and pressing priorities, there will be no formal published edition of The Friday Update today. However, copied below for your information is a press release issued to statewide news media earlier today with information concerning the Coos Bay building official's report about code matters and the tragic fire that claimed three brave firefighters in our town last week. We thought you would want to see Mr. McClay's report, and so it is attached.

Many in our community are in route to Baker City today where a memorial service is scheduled tomorrow for fallen firefighter, Lt. Randy Carpenter. Mayor Benetti, several councilors and I will be flying over for the service ourselves in the morning.

In behalf of Mayor Benetti and everyone at the City of Coos Bay, please accept this community's sincere thanks for the ongoing expressions of support that continue to arrive in the form of staffing at our three fire stations, expressions of sympathy and financial contributions to the City of Coos Bay's memorial fund. Contributions to the fund can be made at any branch of US Bank. Fund proceeds will be divided equally and sent to each of the three fire fighters' estates.

Thank for keeping all our public safety workers and the families of Randy Carpenter, Jeff Common and Chuck Hanners in your prayers. They and we are grateful.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 6, 2002 12 noon

For more information contact: Susanne Baker, Community Services Department, City of Coos Bay, 541.269.8918

CITY OF COOS BAY BUILDING OFFICIAL PROVIDES INFORMATION TO ASSIST IN INVESTIGATION INTO FIRE THAT KILLED THREE FIREFIGHTERS Report was requested as part of the State Fire Marshal's

investigation into November 25th fire

COOS BAY, Ore. - City of Coos Bay Building Official Joseph McClay provided a report today to Oregon State Supervising Deputy Fire Marshal Bob Wright. The report provides detailed information about code requirements related to the appliances and chimney that were noted during McClay's inspection of the fire site after the fire had been extinguished.

The Deputy Supervising Fire Marshal requested that McClay develop the report to assist with the investigation into the cause and spread of the November 25th fire. The report provides a summary of building and mechanical code requirements that may be relevant to the investigation.

The report states several key points:

- A business license application was made by Automotive Machine Service at 328 N. 2nd Street on January 4, 2001. When approving Business License applications, the protocol includes a site inspection by the Building Official. There are no requirements placed on that inspection by City Code. However, the inspection typically considers required fire exits and extinguishers and a visual inspection of readily accessible areas, including whether there has been a change of use of the building.
- The Building Official inspected the Automotive Machine Service location on July 31, 2001 and determined that the usage was consistent with previous usage of the space and that fire exit and extinguisher requirements were met. The Business License was approved and a Certificate of Occupancy was issued.
- The city has no records regarding the masonry chimney or its date of origin, composition and lining, connections, or status as an interior or exterior chimney.
- The city has no applications for this location for mechanical permits for the installation of an appliance venting to a chimney. An owner, authorized agent or contractor is required to first make application to the code official and obtain the required permit for the work.

The report also goes into detail about the code requirements that the appliances and chimney found after the fire should have met, and states that, from the information available at the site after the fire, it appears that at least some of those requirements were not met.

The report also contains specifics about the make and model of the appliance.

Several simultaneous investigations into the fire continue, including investigations by Oregon OSHA and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the City of Coos Bay is cooperating fully with these investigations as requested. The City of Coos Bay is still determining what, if any, additional investigations will be conducted by the City.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: The text of the report is attached as a Word document. The appendices are available to be viewed in the City Building Official's Office at 500 Central in Coos Bay. Copies of the appendices can be mailed; however, due to reduced staff resources today, they cannot be mailed until next week. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause.