Fire Marshal Office Reorganizes for Health Care

From the Desk of Dan Jones, Deputy Fire Marshal Health Care: The Oregon State Fire Marshal office has formed a Healthcare Unit based in Salem that has statewide coverage out of one location. There are no longer regional deputies for conducting Medicare/ Medicaid surveys of Hospitals, Nursing homes, Ambulatory Surgical Centers and ESRD. This Healthcare Unit will not be conducting state licensing inspections for other occupancy types than those listed above, the community based care facilities and other state licensed facilities will be inspected by the regional deputies. Regional deputies will continue to assist the Healthcare Unit until the point that the unit is fully staffed.

This change was made to improve consistency of facility surveys and plan reviews for our customers and to improve the safety of residents in our Medicare/ Medicaid certified facilities throughout the state. Our goal is to create partnerships with all facilities.

In an effort to improve communications between the OSFM and the Oregon Healthcare facilities we are initiating a process for providing alerts on hot topics and interpretations that come up on a frequent basis. Survey and Certification letters that CMS provides will be forwarded on to eliminate surprises. Common deficiencies that are being discovered on surveys will be sent out so that facilities can verify that they are in compliance. If facilities request interpretations from the Healthcare Unit the interpretations of the code will be shared with all facilities.

Note: OHCA and the Fire Marshal will continue the provider trainings which have been going around the state since early June. If your building has questions or needs resources associated with compliance standards please contact Linda Kirschbaum at OHCA lindak@ohca.com and/or Gayle Johnson gayle.johnson@state.or.us or Dan Jones at Daniel.M.Jones@state.or.us at the Fire Marshal’s office.