



# The Charged Line

News From Glide Fire



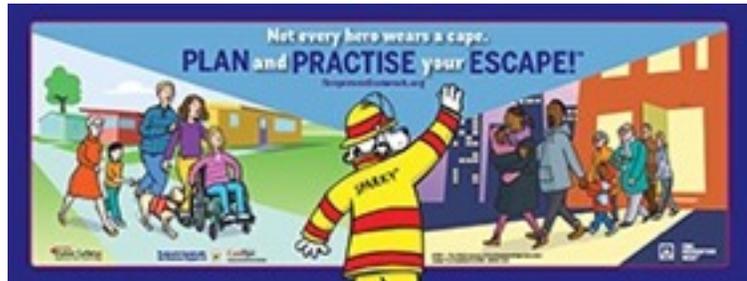
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## Make a Home Fire Escape Plan

Glide Fire is teaming up with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to promote this year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, **"Not Every Hero Wears a Cape. PLAN and PRACTICE Your ESCAPE!"**



NFPA statistics show that in 2017, U.S. fire departments responded to 357,000 home structure fires. These fires caused 2,630 deaths and 10,600 injuries. On average, seven people died in a fire in a home each day during 2012 to 2016.

"Home fires continue to be a significant threat to safety," says Lorraine Carli, NFPA's vice-president of Outreach and Advocacy. "In a typical home fire, you may have only one to two minutes to escape safely from the time the smoke alarm sounds. Planning and practicing your escape can help give everyone enough time to get out."

Here are some tips to help you make an escape plan worthy of a hero:

- **Draw a map of your home. Show all doors and windows.**
- **Visit each room. Find two ways out.**
- **Make sure all windows and doors open easily and lead you outside.**

- **Make sure your home has working smoke alarms.**
- **Pick a meeting place outside the front of your home.**
- **Talk about the plan with everyone in your home.**
- **Learn the emergency phone number for your fire department.**
- **Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year.**

While NFPA and Glide Fire are focusing on home fires, these fire safety messages apply to virtually anywhere. "Situational awareness is a skill people need to use wherever they go," says Fire Chief Ted Damewood. "No matter where you are, look for available exits. If the fire alarm sounds, leave the building immediately." For more information about Fire Prevention Week and home escape planning, visit [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).

## Helping Neighbors, Saving Lives: New EMTs Join Glide Fire Team

In times of trouble in the community of Glide, Oregon, residents can call on the Glide Rural Fire Protection District for help. And now Glide Fire is pleased to welcome four new Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to its team: Corey Fenton, Corin Kelly, Jill Whelchel, and Lonnie Wibberding.

EMTs are the backbone of an ambulance crew. They receive medical training that enables them to respond to many types of life-threatening emergencies. In rural areas, such as Glide, they are often the first responders to arrive. Glide Fire's EMTs are all volunteers. "Being an EMT was not something I had thought to do, but when the opportunity came up, it was interesting. I'm glad I did it, and I look forward to serving Glide," says Lonnie, a local pastor.



Lonnie Wibberding



Jill Whelchel

Becoming licensed as an EMT in Oregon requires candidates to pass a series of classes and exams, including rigorous practical skills tests and a national exam. "I thoroughly enjoyed the classes at Umpqua Community College," says Jill, who is a retired editor. "I learned a lot and met the challenges one at a time. Our instructor, Dale Pospisil, was engaging and enthusiastic, and he shared his expertise and some of his memorable experiences with us."

EMT students practice on each other, splinting, backboarding, and even giving injections (using sterile saline). Two other requirements are performing 12-hour shifts on an ambulance and in a hospital emergency department. Jill states, "I especially liked helping patients in the hospital; in the ambulance, I used the Zoll monitor to gather patient information such as heart rate and blood oxygen level. These experiences gave me a lot of respect for those who make their career in emergency medical services."

In addition to learning medical skills, EMTs must learn to make decisions quickly during emergencies. Lonnie states, "I'm a consensus builder. EMT skills require you to take charge and make a decision now. That's a different kind of challenge for me and a good skill to have."



Corey Fenton

Several members of Glide Fire are military veterans, such as Corin Kelly. She is using her new skills as an EMT by working at the jail for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. Corey Fenton is also a veteran and is now in private security. He says, "I have always volunteered at different places with my Pops. This opportunity at Glide Fire has been the most rewarding by far." Corey plans to become a paramedic.



Volunteering at Glide Fire can do good things for you and your community. You get free training and equipment, giving you the skills to help in an emergency. **Anyone can**

**apply; no previous firefighting or medical experience is needed.**

Glide Fire serves about 4,200 residents and at least 1,000 annual visitors over a 25-square-mile area in rural central Douglas County. It provides residents with a first response to medical emergencies, fires, vehicle crashes, and rescues. The district responded to 561

calls in 2018. This is the highest annual call volume since Glide Fire was formed in 1973.

Glide Fire desperately needs 20 community members to train as volunteer firefighters! We currently have only 9 firefighters. Of the 6 firefighters who live in Glide, 2 are over age 70, and only 2 are under 60. Before our experienced volunteer firefighters retire, they can train younger residents willing to serve their community. Call Fire Chief Ted Damewood TODAY at 541-496-0224. YOUR community needs you NOW!

## Glide Fire Goes Solar!

You may have noticed the large bank of solar panels on the roof of the Glide Fire Station. Glide Fire is thrilled to be the recipient of one of Pacific Power’s Blue Sky 2018 funding awards. The district was able to install a 69.125 kW system that is expected to exceed the station’s power needs during the summer, and provide up to 33% of the station’s power needs during the winter. Any power the station doesn’t use feeds into Pacific Power’s electrical grid through a net-metering system.



No taxpayer money was used to purchase or install the solar panel and inverter system. The entire cost of

the \$165,080 solar array and inverter system was paid for by the support of Pacific Power’s Blue Sky participants and the Energy Trust of Oregon. In addition to the grant-funded solar panels and inverters, the district invested \$40,000 in a 20 kWh battery backup system to power essential items during an extended electrical outage. This is



part of Glide Fire’s plans to provide emergency services during a catastrophic event (earthquake, wildfire, weather, etc.) when the electrical grid is down and the station’s propane generator would run out of fuel. This battery cost will be recouped by reduced monthly electrical bills over the next 6 years, after which the cost savings can be used to fund other district expenses.

This is one of only 12 community-based renewable energy projects this year funded by Pacific Power’s Blue Sky Program. Blue Sky is an opt-in program that gives Pacific Power customers the option to match all or part of their energy use with renewable energy.

Beth Werner, business manager for Glide Fire, says, “We’re grateful to the Blue Sky Block participants for this funding that will allow us to be more cost efficient and to better prepare for a disaster.”

## New Equipment Can Help Save Lives

It's 4:30 in the afternoon, and Glide Rural Fire Protection District volunteers are first on scene. They find a 35-year-old man lying on his couch, reporting chest pain and shortness of breath. As they ask him questions about his current symptoms and medical history, the EMTs turn on a new Zoll heart monitor/defibrillator and begin applying the monitoring instruments to the patient. With this machine, they quickly record his vital signs: blood pressure; heart rate, rhythm, and quality; oxygen level in the blood; and respiration rate.

Based on the readings, they give the patient low-dose aspirin and low-flow oxygen and monitor his heart rate while they await the transporting ambulance. When Umpqua Valley Ambulance arrives, Glide Fire personnel report on the patient's symptoms and vital signs and provide the paramedics with a printout of his heart rhythm.

This is an example of how potentially life-saving the Zoll monitors can be. If the worst happens, the Zoll is an automated electronic defibrillator that can shock a quivering heart back into a regular pattern.

Glide Fire has two Zoll monitors, costing about \$30,000 each. They were purchased with money from grants and gifts from the Ben Serafin Foundation and the Glide Fire Association. The latter funds include income saved from multiple years' raffles at the Glide Fire Barbecue and Craft Fair.

All personnel were trained on how to use the Zolls before they were put into service on the ambulances. Fire Chief Ted



Damewood

states, "We are so grateful to live in a community that supports the life-saving measures we take on behalf of all residents in our area. Our aging population and those who have limited access to health care are especially at risk, and having this equipment will surely save lives."

## Glide Community Disaster Preparedness Meeting



**Tuesday, October 22, Glide Community Center, 6:30 pm**

**Learn** what's being done to help the Glide and Idleyld Park communities respond to long outages of electric power or unavailability of food, drinking water, fuel, and so on.

**Listen** to guest speakers: Wayne Stinson, Douglas County Sheriff's Office Emergency Manager; Ted Damewood, Glide Fire Chief; Gail Young, Douglas County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT); Red Cross representative.

**Bring** your ideas. Join us to be part of important disaster preparedness. Printed materials will be available.