

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CITY OF NEWPORT  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

On May 4, the Newport Volunteer Fire Department celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The City Council officially sanctioned the Newport Hook and Ladder Company on May 4, 1885. It was an all-volunteer department into the 1940's, after which, it became a combination department with the three paid staff.

Meredith Savage, president of the Newport Volunteer Fire Department reports that today's department is a "combination department with 10 paid staff and 26 very dedicated volunteers." The Volunteer Fire Department will be recognized at the May 17, 2010 City Council meeting held at 6:00 P.M., at the Newport City Hall.

There are three annual volunteer awards, and these were presented at the awards banquet held on April 3. The recipient of the Volunteer Firefighter of the Year Award was Meredith Savage; the Rookie of the Year Award went to Tom Jackson; and the Chief's Award was given to Kevin Naegeli. Fire Chief Rick Crook said that each of these firefighters "exemplifies the best traits in the profession, and are role models to the department and its future members."

Savage reports that the department "is always looking for new volunteers who want to be part of a team that helps on what might be a neighbor's worst day." Anyone over 18 with reliable transportation is eligible. Savage added that "the department provides fully-paid training and personal protection equipment to anyone willing to meet the training and educational requirements."

Persons interested in the volunteer fire service in Newport should contact the Newport Fire Department at 541.265.9461 or stop by the station at 245 NW 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

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