



# OREGON

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Oregon State Fire Marshal Incident Communications Unit receives award**

Oregon Fire Chiefs Association President Greg Keller presented the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Incident Communications Unit with the 2008 Public Service Award at the Oregon Fire Service Meritorious Awards banquet, May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Portland Expo Center.

Members of the Incident Communication Unit (ICU) were recognized for their efforts in establishing interoperable communications during Governor declared conflagrations including the Deer Creek Fire, the McLean Creek Fire, the Black Crater Fire, and the Egly Complex Fire. Also highlighted was their crucial work during the Vernonia Floods.



From left: Incident Communication Unit Project Manager Bruce Bjerke, State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr and Assistant Communication Unit Leader Rick Iverson

Incident Communication Unit Project Manager Bruce Bjerke and Assistant Communication Unit Leader Rick Iverson accepted the award on behalf of all the members of the OSFM Incident Communication Unit.

The primary mission of the ICU is to establish communications from the incident base to units and personnel in the field at an incident.

The ICU is staffed entirely by volunteers who use their knowledge and experience to develop communications plans to minimize problem areas for radio communications among emergency responders during an incident. Staff then deploy the equipment and resources necessary to execute the plan and keep all field communications functioning.

The Public Service Award is presented to an individual or group who has unselfishly given to the fire service, above and beyond expected performance. This year there were five Public Service Awards issued.

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