



The EXCHANGE

Newsletter of the Merchants Exchange of Portland

Fall 2010

PSGP Funds
Still Available

Association News:
CRC
MFSA OIL
MFSA Fire

Millions in PSGP Funds Available

There are more than seven million dollars in Port Security Grant funds available to the local maritime industry and agencies. The Merchants Exchange of Portland Grant Team is accepting applications for Port Security Projects for Grant Years 2008, 2009 and 2010.

The DHS Port Security Grant Program allocates federal grant funds to specific Port Areas for coordinated security improvements. Regional Port Areas are appropriated funds on an annual basis by FEMA. Funding portions are based on risk analysis and other federal priorities. In each Port Area the Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) headed by the Captain of the Port, is responsible for appointing a Fiduciary Agent, approving the area plan, and approving individual grant projects.

As the Fiduciary Agent for this unique federal program, The Merchants Exchange is responsible for applying for Port Security Grant funds on behalf of the region. They coordinate with the AMSC to identify viable local projects, conduct outreach to the local community about the grants, submit local projects to FEMA for approval and monitor projects once they are underway.

Non-federal entities with operations along the Columbia and Snake Rivers from Astoria up to Lewiston, and the Willamette River down to Portland are eligible to submit their projects to the Merchants Exchange for consideration by the AMSC. Once a project receives AMSC endorsement and Captain of the Port approval it is then forwarded to FEMA for Federal approval. With Federal approval the Merchants Exchange works directly with the grantees to ensure each project is completed. Since the spring of 2010 nine projects have received initial endorsement from the AMSC and one has received full FEMA approval.

To view the grant guidance, download application worksheets and find other information, please visit the Merchants Exchange [Website](http://www.pdxmex.com) at www.pdxmex.com, or contact the Merchants Exchange Port Security Grant team by e-mail at psgp@pdxmex.com or call Robin Wright at 503-220-2088 with questions.

CLEAN RIVERS
COOPERATIVE, INC.

Clean Rivers Cooperative, Inc. (CRC) conducted Annual Boom Rodeo Competition on August 25, 2010, as part of 3rd Quarter Membership Training. This year's competition included raffle prizes and new stations such as Rally Style Baton Run, Spin-the-Wheel, Man Overboard Rescue and a revised Written Test with hands-on test questions. Sector Columbia River showed up with great force and took home the Agency Class trophy, while for the first time ever CRC members tied for first place! First and second place winners competed in a Spin-the-Wheel contest for first place bragging rights. 2010 winners were: Tesoro Refining & Marketing, Co. – 1st Place; NuStar Energy-Portland – 2nd Place; and, Pacific Terminal Services, Inc. – 3rd Place. Winners received the commemorative belt buckle as well as gift cards.



MFSA Oil

The Maritime Fire & Safety Association (MFSA) is seeking individuals interested in serving as the Incident Commander provided by MFSA during responses to Covered Vessels. Please contact Marisa Chilafoe for details (by phone 503-220-2099, or by e-mail Chilafoe@pdxmex.com).

By: Leslie Slape

Reprinted with Permission from the Longview Daily News

Posted— Wednesday, October 20, 2010



MFSA/F-PAAC ANNUAL SHIPBOARD DRILL-2010

In February 1982, a fire broke out in the engine room of the Protector Alpha, a grain ship that was refueling at the Kalama grain elevator. Numerous safety mistakes caused an explosion the following morning that killed a 22-year-old Coast Guardsman and injured five other people.

In the wake of that tragedy, the National Transportation Safety Board recommended that the multiple jurisdictions on the Lower Columbia develop a plan for dealing with various port disasters, including solving the logistical problems of fighting shipboard fires in remote areas on the river. The agencies formed the Maritime Fire & Safety Association, which has been rehearsing ever since.

Wednesday, the Longview Fire Department hosted an MFSA drill at the Cowlitz County Expo Center. "We're always trying to see where we need to make improvements," said Lt. Don Doyle of the Longview Fire Department, member of the planning committee. "We can use exercises like this to measure our capabilities and see where we need to go." Although most MFSA drills are "hands on" rehearsals with hoses and gear, Wednesday's was a "table top" drill that focused on the command systems, said drill facilitator Lt. Darryl Arrera of Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue. The command drill was a supplement to the annual drill in June, he said. "We try to create real-type incidents and the pressure," he said. "This is somewhat of a flight simulator for us."

Against a backdrop of a film of a burning ship, participants engaged in a real-time battle against a "fire" without smoke, flames or danger. In the scenario, a fire started in the galley of a cargo ship at the Port of Kalama, eventually burning through the ceiling onto the deck above. The ship's cook was missing. The cargo hold included plenty of potential fuel, including 4,200 pallets of pitted olives and olive oil.

"Some things went very well," Arrera said at the end of the day. "There are some areas of improvement that we talked about, which will be incorporated in the MFSA ops plan." Participants in Wednesday's drill included fire departments from Portland, Clark, Cowlitz and Columbia counties, the Cowlitz Department of Emergency Management, the Coast Guard, Cowlitz 911, the Port of Kalama, Global Salvage and Diving, private security firms and the MFSA.