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NEWS RELEASE – 2010-05

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Falmouth Fire-EMS held their annual Awards Recognition Dinner at Keeley's in Portland on Saturday night March 20th. A record attendance of 140 members and their guests were present to recognize members of the department for their service in 2009.

After opening remarks by Assistant Chief Doug Patey, Fire Chief Howard Rice gave a recap of some of the accomplishments of 2009. Certificates were presented to the 32 members of the department who completed Firefighter Levels I and II Certification during past 12 months during an in-house Fire Academy. Held in Falmouth A plaque with the names of the members was presented and will be displayed at the Central Station Training Room in honor of the 233 hours of training completed at the Pro-Board National Standard.

The following top responders of the year were presented awards:

Fire Calls: Captain Stan Bishop, Lt. Will Hawkes, Dylan Hallett, Brian Saucier
EMS Calls: Greg Murphy, Jack Davis, Lt. Paul Goldstein, Ron Dearth, Lt. Linda Roberts
Total Calls: Lt. Paul Goldstein, Lt. Will Hawkes, Captain Stan Bishop, Jack Davis

All past members of the Pleasant Hill Firefighters Association in attendance were called up to receive a plaque dedicated to the past service of the Fire Association at the Allen Avenue Station from 1923 until its closure in 2009. The plaque will be used to dedicate one of the rooms at Central Station as the Pleasant Hill Room, where various historical Pleasant Hill memorabilia will be displayed.

The following members received awards for obtaining a milestone in years of service to the department:

5 Years of Service – John Pelletier, Lee Ruby
10 Years of Service – Helena Hollauer
15 Years of Service – Josh Carmichael
20 Years of Service – Greg Vatulas
30 Years of Service – Mike Coffey
35 Years of Service – Jay Hallett

Chief Howard Rice presented the annual award for the Recruit of the Year to Dani Leclerc, Tom St. Pierre, and Zack Tooker. All three are live-in students in the first year of the Live-in Program at the Winn Road Station. Fulltime College students, each one provides service to the fire-ems department in exchange for living quarters in the fire station. All three were selected for their dedication to make the department run effectively, for providing many more hours of service than required under the live-in agreement, and for displaying positive attitudes and a willingness to learn and work as a team.

The Firefighter of the Year Award was presented to Firefighter Erik Knudsen. In presenting the award Deputy Chief Jay Hallett spoke of the dedication and commitment that Erik has had to the department over the past 37 years. While Erik has served in various different positions for the department, from Firefighter to Senior Captain, he has always been a leader both on and off the fireground. Erik was one of four members of the department with over 35 years of service to completed the Firefighter Levels I and II Certification.

Firefighter Erik Knudsen then presented the annual Officer of the Year Award to Captain Stan Bishop. Captain Bishop, who started with Falmouth Fire-EMS in 1976, was selected as the winner by a vote of all department members. Captain Bishop was recognized for his outstanding leadership, positive attitude, and dedication to the department and its members. Recently promoted to Captain of Central Station, Captain Bishop is a recent graduate of the Falmouth Firefighter Levels I and II program.

Council Chairperson Cathy Breen spoke to the department and thanked all members and their families for the service they provide to the community. She spoke of the value of having a predominantly volunteer fire service in times when a lot of communities have paid staffing around the clock. She spoke not only as the Council Chairperson, but also as a member of the community, to capture the amount of dedication and caring the members have for their fellow residents to keep providing the outstanding level of service.

End of release.

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