

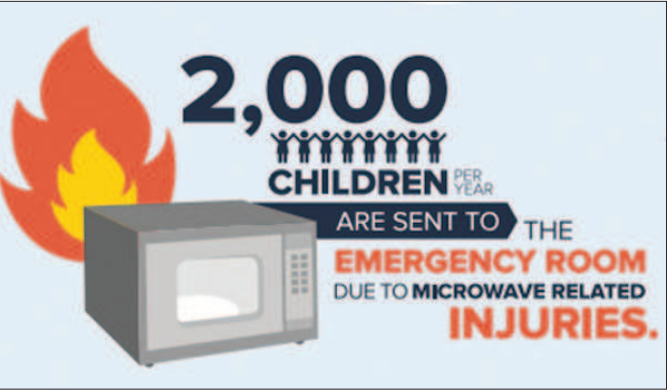
VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Salmon Festival

Thank you to all that came out this year to visit and donate to the cause. A total of \$325.00 was graciously donated for the

future apparatus acquisition. Although we did not have our wood raffle this year, we were happy to bring back our homemade Salmon Chowder and fresh baked artisan rolls. Next to us were our partners from Columbia County Emergency Management. They educated participants on preparedness and handed out information from mapping your neighborhood, to the components of a 72 hour kit.



PROTIPS

- 1 Don't tell anyone you are home alone, especially on social media.
- 2 Off limits talk – knives, gas stoves, matches, pool use, and medication.
- 3 Don't open the door to strangers. Ignoring the doorbell is not rude if it keeps you safe.
- 4 Turn porch lights on at night to deter criminals.
- 5 Have a check-in plan.

Time and Money

Time and money. These are things that we all seem to lack. If one is abundant for a moment, the other is scarce. In this day and age it seems that families are cutting every penny to make ends meet. Men and women work full time and some work two jobs just to stay afloat. After making the money to pay the bills, time is spent on household duties, bonding with the kids, school activities and sports. With what time is left, some spend volunteering for local charities and community groups.

Volunteers at VRFPD are required to give up countless hours from the time they are added to the roster. These hours include basic training (145 hours), drill (every Monday night for 2.5 hours), weekend training for any outside classes, driver training (16 hours), Pumper Operator training (40 hours), First Responder training (45 hours), EMT Basic (145 hours), plus any hours spent driving out of district to attend outside training. All these, along with the requirement hours of continuing education, to remain certified.

In the past few installments of the newsletter and newspaper articles we have broached the issue of our aging fleet, which is well beyond what the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) deems appropriate. An apparatus should be moved to second position

from service. Our first out engine is fourteen years old and our oldest responding apparatus is forty years old. It starts and runs, responds to calls and training, but is slow and only a handful of the volunteers can drive it. It requires much more work for our volunteers than an updated machine would.

One of our officers has been tasked with reevaluating our fleet and how we use it. Can we recycle and up fit what we have to better and more efficiently serve our community? What changes can we make that will save funds in the long run? We are considering all angles and have a plan in the works.

Your current tax dollars provide upkeep for the station and grounds, an office person that keeps the bills paid and accounting in check, apparatus to put fires out, control accidents and generally help people in need. The Fire Chief is tasked with making sure that apparatus respond, personnel is trained, nobody gets injured and the public gets served.

So at this time you might ask, "What does this have to do with time and money?"

We need more volunteers so we can spread the work load more evenly, freeing up more time for those that have worked themselves ragged. We need funding for apparatus upgrades to make our service to the community more efficient. We need funding to entertain the possibility of one more paid personnel, which will benefit our volunteers, our students, and most importantly, you.

It is our mission to figure out how to make this all possible and continue to grow, serve and protect.

LATCHKEY CHILD:

A child who returns from school to an empty home because his or her parent or parents are away at work, or a child who is often left at home with little adult supervision.

11%
5 to 14 year olds spend time at home without parental supervision.

According to a national census report, 11% of children aged 5 to 14 spend some time at home without parental supervision.¹ Whether a child is home alone for an hour or even the whole afternoon, it's extremely important to develop a safety plan to protect them from harm. Here we have assembled some strategies to make your child's "home alone" experience a safe one.

HOMESAFE CHECKLIST

Review this checklist with your child and check each box once discussed!

- ☐ Lock the door
- ☐ Set the alarm
- ☐ Check-in with parent
- ☐ Turn lights on after dark
- ☐ Homework and chores

What should your child do if...

- A stranger knocks on the door
- A door or window is open when they come home
- An alarm in the house sounds
- They want to use the microwave (help avoid common microwave burns)
- Someone calls and asks to speak with parents
- There is an emergency (who to call and where to go)

HOMESAFE
After-School Guide
FOR PARENTS & KIDS

PROTECT AMERICA
Yale Real Living

¹ Bass, F. (2013, Jun 10) Fewer Home Alone As Census Sees 39% Drop in Latchkey Kids. Retrieved from <http://bloomberg.com>

Calls responded to September 1-30

Fire	0
Emergency Medical Service	29
Hazardous Condition	4
Service Call	9
Good Intent	3
Severe Weather	
& Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident	1
No Emergency Found	0
False Alarm	1
Total	47