

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Fire District Funding

The funding for Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District comes almost entirely from tax dollars collected and distributed from property taxes. VRFPD's tax rate is \$0.9535. This equates to roughly \$0.95 cents per thousand dollars of the assessed value on your home or property.

The funds are used by the Fire District for all personnel costs, building expenses, apparatus costs, maintenance costs, and operational expenses. Just like private property owners and businesses, your Fire District also pays for utilities, fuel, phones, etc. The budget for VRFPD is broken down into several categories: Income, Personnel, Capital Outlay (large purchases with a longer shelf life,) Materials and Services, and a Reserve Fund.

Over the course of the last few years, the Fire District's budget committee has looked at the projected tax collection numbers, and has budgeted less than what was expected to be received. This "tightening of the belt" has allowed the Fire District to keep the lights on, the doors open, the volunteers trained, and the community

assisted. Along with budgeting less, the Fire District has continually spent less than the allotted amount, leaving the unused portion of funds for the next year, and has allowed a small growth in the Reserve Fund for future use.

Planning for current and future needs has been a challenge for all. The VRFPD Board of Directors has come to an understanding that the time is now. If the Fire District wants to continue the current level of service to the community, the request for a bond levy is imminent. This will assist with upgrading your firefighting fleet; while helping provide adequate Fire District coverage, boosting training, recruitment, and retention of volunteers.

Even with the purchase of the used fire engine from Banks (with the help of the Vernonia Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association), your Fire District is still limping along with a 32 year old pumper tender that has engine and water tank issues. An apparatus bond levy will provide the funding necessary to purchase a new pumper tender, and

will realign firefighting apparatus to a lower average age category, allowing the Fire District to work on an apparatus succession plan for the future. This will allow time in between purchases, instead of several apparatus being out of date compliance all at once.

A new pumper tender will cost the Fire District approximately \$450,000.00. The average bond levy length of term runs ten years. The Fire District's last bond, used to purchase your current first out fire pumper, Engine 454, was a ten year bond, and was paid off in 2010. If approved again for ten years, it will cost roughly \$0.21 cents per thousand. The Fire District has quietly waited its turn to ask the voters for assistance, but it is now time to speak up. A bond levy is crucial for the Fire District to continue servicing the Vernonia



community and maintaining the current Insurance Service Office ratings. The cost increase on a \$250,000.00 home at \$0.21 cents per thousand is \$52.50 a year, with a monthly cost of \$4.38.

Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District asks that you support the needs and growth of service to the community and invites all who are interested to attend our budget committee meetings starting at 6:00 PM on March 10, 2015.

Calls responded to November 1-30

Fire	2
Emergency Medical Service	26
Hazardous Condition	4
Service Call	3
Good Intent	2
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident	0
No Emergency Found	0
False Alarm	0
Total	37



The Vernonia Fire Department helped bring Santa to town in the Spirit of Christmas Lighted Parade.

Christmas Tree Safety



As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.



PICKING THE TREE

- » Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.



PLACING THE TREE

- » Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- » Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- » Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- » Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.



LIGHTING THE TREE

- » Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- » Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.
- » Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- » Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

FACTS

- ❗ One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical failures.
- ❗ Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious.
- ❗ A heat source too close to the tree causes roughly one in every six of the fires.



Your Source for SAFETY Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

www.nfpa.org/education



VERNONIA FIRE

★★ RECRUITMENT ★★

We Need Volunteers

www.vernoniafire.us

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a firefighter? Have you ever wanted to volunteer in your community? The Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District is in need of additional personnel and we have positions for everyone. From firefighting to support positions, we can use your help.

All training and equipment is provided free of charge. Being a volunteer firefighter is a very rewarding job. Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District provides a vast array of Emergency Services ranging from Vehicle Extrication to fire scene Rehab & Firefighting. We respond to over 400 calls per year. We hold our general membership meeting every second Monday of the month at the Fire station. You can call Dean Smith at 503-429-8252 with any questions. Feel free to email us at anytime at vrfvolunteers@gmail.com