

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Are You Prepared For a Wildfire?

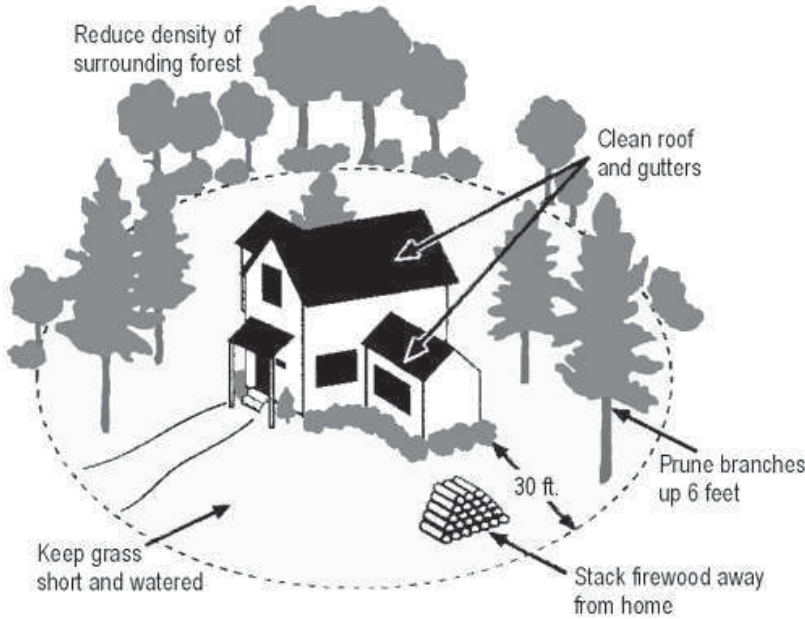
Wildfire doesn't have to burn everything in its path. In fact, cleaning your property of debris and maintaining your landscaping are important first steps to helping minimize damage and loss.

The work you do today can make a difference. Follow these simple action steps now and throughout the year to prepare and help reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire:

- Clear leaves and other debris from gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This prevents embers from igniting your home.
- Keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Remove dead vegetation from under your deck and within 10 feet of the house.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.
- Inspect shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent

ember penetration.

- Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Cover exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the



home.

- Remove flammable materials (firewood stacks, propane tanks, dry vegetation) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck or porch.
- Enclose under-eave and soffit vents or screen with metal mesh to prevent ember entry.
- Wildfire can spread to tree tops. If you have trees on your property, prune so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.

Learn more about how to keep your family safe and reduce your home's risk for wildfire damage at www.firewise.org.

Who Will Show Up When You Call 911?

Currently, the city of Vernonia has a population of approximately 2,260 citizens. Of those citizens, only 11 have been active volunteer firefighters on the VRFPD roster in the last 2 months. Of those 11 firefighters, the same few respond 92% of the time with a mere average of 2 volunteers responding to any given call at a time.

The fact is 11 fire volunteers are not nearly enough for this district and the ongoing rise in call volume. The ones that are dedicating their time to help you have families, other obligations and often a job that requires them to be out of the district most hours of the day and into the night. They are not always readily available to respond to your emergencies.

2014 held a record breaking amount of calls at 521 for the year. Starting 2015 out, there were a total of 80 calls for January and February. Below is a breakdown of active responding volunteers.

Calls Responded to by Active Volunteers

Volunteer	Jan '15	Feb '15	Total
Chief	19	18	37
Lt 1	12	10	22
Lt 2	16	21	37
Lt 3	7	1	8
Lt 4	6	6	12
FF 1	3	1	4
FF 2	10	6	16
FF 3	0	1	1
FF 4	0	2	2
FF 5	6	16	22
FF 6	2	1	3
Logistic 1	0	1	1
Total Calls	80		
Total Response	165		
Average Turnout per call	2		

The truth is we need more community involvement. Over 2,000 citizens and only 11 have reached out to lend a hand.

We need you more now than ever! With volunteer numbers dwindling to an all-time low, it may not be much longer before there is no one to respond to your call for help. Alarming isn't it?

The need for volunteers on the department is not just firefighter related. The district is also seeking help with emergency and non-emergency personnel positions. There are so many opportunities available and the 11 volunteers cannot continue to do everything all on their own. Firefighting, medical assistance, training, grounds maintenance/beautification,



building remodeling, station organization, recruitment programs, cadet leaders, public education, public information, fire safety education, school student education, event organizing, website/online management, quarterly newsletter/bi-monthly article writing, grant writing and the list goes on.

Do you have a trade, hobby or special interest that would benefit the fire district? Volunteer and make a difference! Whether you have 1 hour a week available, or 40 hours a week available, every little bit helps! To find out how you can become an everyday hero in the Vernonia Community, call Chief Smith at Vernonia Fire, 503-429-8252.

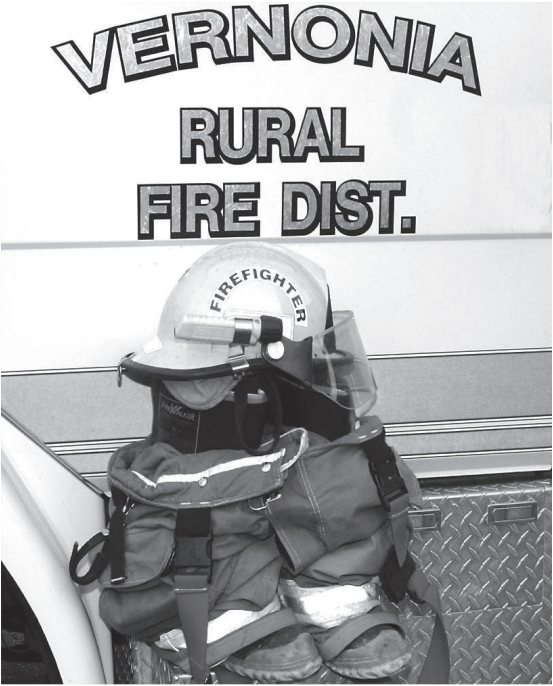


*Congratulations to the 2014 Award recipients:
Officer of the Year Jesse Harbour
Firefighter of the Year Byron Weller
Volunteer of the Year Jason Smith*

**Burn Legally
Burn Responsibly**
Burn Permits, Rules & Regulations
Vernonia RFPD 555 E. Bridge St.
Mon-Thurs 9am-4pm
or by appointment. 503-429-8252

Calls responded to February 1-28

Fire	2
Emergency Medical Service	24
Hazardous Condition	5
Service Call	6
Good Intent	0
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident	0
No Emergency Found	0
False Alarm	2
Total	39



**CAN YOU FILL
THESE BOOTS?**

**VOLUNTEERS
WANTED**

**Call Dean Smith
for more information
on free training
(503)429-8252**