

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Burn Ban in Effect

Per Oregon Department of Forestry and Columbia County Fire Defense Board, the burn ban took effect Tuesday, June 16. Only approved campfires are permitted.

Contact VRFPD at 503-429-8252 if you have any questions. If there is no answer, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We may

be out of the office on emergency calls, meetings, training or serving the community. Thank you for understanding and your cooperation.



May 19th Election

The May 19th election carried three board member seats, a ten year bond levy to replace old, outdated and unreliable equipment, and a five year operating levy to hire a training officer.

Two of the board member seats ran unopposed, and the third seat sat empty. The District is currently working through the paperwork to canvas the write ins. I look forward to welcoming and working with our new board member, although I don't currently know who he/she is yet.

With the official paperwork in from Columbia County, the Apparatus Committee, headed by LT. Jesse Harbour, will be meeting with a local fire equipment manufacturer to start the process of getting a new pumper tender ordered.

Unfortunately, the voters did not hear or understand the severity of our need for a full time training officer. This position would have allowed for

us to broaden our training schedule to accommodate the varied schedules of the volunteers and expand our cadet program. A training officer also would have added another full time responder to our rapidly dwindling volunteer base. The benefits of this position to the district and community would have been boundless.

Looking through the paperwork and pondering the aftermath of the election, I remain confident and dedicated to VRFPD. I believe that we can still move forward. The current plan is to expand our efforts for educating the constituents of the fire district, trying once again in November to acquire a training officer.

The Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District remains committed to protecting and serving this community. We hope that you continue to support the district and its hard working, devoted volunteers. Feel free to contact me at any time with your questions, concerns, and/or how you can become a

volunteer.

Chief Dean Smith
503-429-8252



COOKING APPLIANCES

Safe Operation:

- Make sure to have proper ventilation before operating the appliance.
- Open an overhead vent or turn on the exhaust fan.
- Watch what you heat. A leading cause of kitchen fires is unattended cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire away from burners.
- Never use cooking appliances for heating.

If You Smell Gas:

- Check your stove knobs to make sure they are in the off position.
- Put out all open flames (pilot lights, lamps, smoking materials, etc.).
- Shut off the gas supply.
- Do not operate electrical switches. Turning a switch on or off can create a spark and may cause an explosion.
- Open doors, windows, and vents.
- Leave the RV until the odor is gone.
- Have the gas system checked and repaired by a qualified professional.

ELECTRIC HEATERS

- All heaters need space. Keep things that can burn such as paper, furniture, bedding, or curtains, at least three feet from heating equipment.
- Plug space heaters directly into an electrical outlet. Do not use extension cords or power strips.
- Purchase and use portable space heaters with an automatic shut-off, so if they're tipped over, they will shut off.
- Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface.

GENERAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- Make sure the power cord connecting the RV to the campground electricity supply is in good condition.
- Inspect for cracked or damaged cords, broken plugs, or loose connections on all appliances.
- Avoid electrical overload. Limit the number of appliances operating at one time.

Camping and RV Fire Safety

GENERATOR SAFETY

- Check all exhaust system connections regularly for leaks and tighten as necessary.
- Make sure the generator tail pipe extends past the edge of the RV.
- Always operate the generator in an area where the wind will carry the exhaust fumes away from the RV.
- Allow the generator to cool down before refueling.

CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS

- Install a CO alarm inside your RV.
- If the alarm chirps, replace the batteries or the entire alarm, depending on the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Replace CO alarms based on manufacturer's recommendations.

SMOKE ALARMS

- Install a smoke alarm inside your RV.
- If the alarm chirps, replace the batteries or the entire alarm, depending on the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Have an extinguisher installed near the primary exit and know how to use it. When in doubt, just get out.
- Extinguishers are meant to put out small fires.
- Use extinguishers only if it can be done without putting yourself or others in danger.
- Once a month, turn dry chemical extinguishers upside down and tap on the bottom to loosen the powder.
- Make sure the needle on the gauge is in the green, indicating it is fully charged.

FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

- Make sure emergency exit windows and hatches are clearly marked and in good working order.
- Make sure all occupants know where and how to operate escape windows.
- Keep exit routes unobstructed.
- Have an escape plan and practice it.
- If your smoke or CO alarm sounds, get out and stay out. Call 9-1-1 from outside.

CAMPFIRE SAFETY

- Call before you go to ensure campfires are allowed.
- Always have a shovel and a bucket of water nearby to extinguish any escaped embers.
- Select a site away from grasses and shrubs, overhanging branches, and stacked firewood.
- Established campgrounds with existing fire pits are best.
- Scrape away leaves and litter to bare soil, at least 10 feet on all sides.
- Circle your campfire pit with rocks. Keep your campfire small and add wood in small amounts.
- Never leave the camp fire unattended.
- Before going to bed or leaving the campsite, drown all embers with water, stir the coals, and drown again. Repeat until the fire is dead out.

Calls responded to May 1- 31

Fire	3
Emergency Medical Service	34
Hazardous Condition	3
Service Call	8
Good Intent	2
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident	0
No Emergency Found	0
False Alarm	1
Total	51

VERNONIA
RURAL
FIRE DIST.



CAN YOU FILL
THESE BOOTS?

VOLUNTEERS
WANTED

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