

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

VRFPD Battles Fire on Riverside Drive

On July 22nd at 0415 hours, the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District received a call for a structure fire located at 720 Riverside Drive.

When units arrived on scene, they found a mobile travel trailer, which was parked within a couple feet of the residence, fully involved (completely on fire). Because of the close proximity of the dwelling, the flames exiting the mobile camping trailer acted like a blow torch to the side of the home. The flames quickly traveled up the side of the dwelling and burned through the overhanging eaves, entering the enclosed attic of the two story dwelling.



Because of the extreme fire load (items stored in the attic and throughout the dwelling) fire suppression (being able to extinguish the fire) was greatly hindered. If the extreme fire load in this

particular instance had not been present, a significant amount of the dwelling and contents could have been saved. The VRFPD did all they could under the circumstances that they faced while trying to extinguish this fire.

In addition to the fire load inside the dwelling, there were numerous items stored around the outside of the home, and throughout the back yard, which made exterior fire suppression difficult. Parked cars, camping trailers, and other such items should not be stored or parked close to your home or business.

Make sure that you

keep your home and business clear of extra furniture and stored items so that in the event that you have a fire, you and your family can safely exit your home or business. Try to keep the area clear around all of the exits and particularly the window areas where you sleep. A fire can occur day or night and you need to have a safe way to exit the structure.

To help protect you and your family, make sure that you have an adequate number of working smoke detectors in key locations. Remember to check and change the batteries on a scheduled basis.



Meet New Public Information Officer Robert Schattschneider

The Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District's new Public Information Officer (PIO) is Robert (Bob) Schattschneider.

Robert, called "Shotzy" by his family and friends, moved to Vernonia in February of 2010 from Sarasota, Florida with his wife Joy and daughter Brittany. Robert has a total of 10 children and 7 grandchildren at the ripe old age of 55.

Robert began his firefighting experience in 1980 in a small rural town located in North Central Ohio. Robert soon realized that he had a passion for the fire service, so right after completing his firefighting training; he successfully completed his EMT training so he could further serve his community.

Robert quickly advanced through the ranks of Firefighter/EMT, Fire Lieutenant and then Fire Captain, with command over both fire and rescue. During this time period, Robert took several firefighter training classes at the Wayne County Fire School, including Arson Investigation, which was taught by the Ohio State Fire Marshall's Office. Robert successfully completed the level 3 training and then served with the Wayne County Arson Investigation Task Force in addition to his fire department obligations. In 1992 Robert then served as Captain / Assistant Fire Chief, before taking a brief break in the action for a few short years.

In 2002, Robert relocated his family to Sarasota, Florida where he

began a new career as a 911 Call Taker for the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office. Robert soon advanced to become a radio dispatcher for the Sarasota Police Department and the Sarasota County Sheriff's Department.

In 2004, Robert transferred from Communications to become a Corrections Deputy at the Sarasota County Jail. Soon after completing the Corrections Academy at the Sarasota Criminal Justice Academy, Robert successfully completed the Law Enforcement Academy in addition to the Corrections Academy. It was while working at the Sarasota County Jail that he met his wife of eleven years this past June, Joy McDaniel Schattschneider.

In 2006 Robert successfully transferred from the Corrections Division with the Sheriff's Office, to the Patrol Division where Robert served at the South County Front Desk and out on patrol, until becoming disabled in August of 2009.

Robert decided to relocate to Northwest Oregon to be near his wife Joy's family, Jack and Sharon Huntington, who reside here in Vernonia.

When Robert realized VRFPD was in need of a Public Information Officer, he felt that even with his disability he could still volunteer some more to his community. Robert is really enjoying being able to put all of his years of training to use once again.

Peter O'Leary is New VRFPD Board Member

Peter O'Leary, a 21 year resident of Vernonia, was elected as a write-in candidate and has agreed to serve on the Vernonia Fire Board. Peter was a volunteer with the Vernonia Volunteer Firefighter's Association from 1995 until 2003, serving as volunteer President for the last four years of his membership.

Peter is married to Leslie O'Leary, bookkeeper at Gwin

Logging, and has one daughter, Madeline, who is a student at Portland State University.

Peter has worked for the United States Postal Service since 1988, and has been a Vernonia City Carrier since 2000. He enjoys hiking and badminton, having won the Senior Doubles competition at the Oregon State Games for the last two years.

Facebook Clarification

In response to some of the comments on the Vernonia Community Bulletin Board, and the Vernonia Community Bulletin Board 2, in regards to the investigation and reporting of the smoke that was in the air last week, the best place to get factual information is to go to our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Vernonia-Rural-Fire-Protection-District/100245990705>.

We will do our best to keep everyone informed concerning emergencies in our local area. Rest assured that in the event of a wildland/forest fire in our area, media reports will be sent out as quickly as possible, and by the best means possible to spread the word as quickly and efficiently as we can.

In the event of a wildland or forest fire, the local television news stations and radio stations will be notified immediately in an attempt to notify all of you who might be affected. Law enforcement, both local and county will also assist in alerting the community, and the reverse 911 system can also be implemented.

Facebook seems to be the place where everyone tends to hang out these days when it comes to social media. The best place to check for local news information would be your local news television stations, local radio, and then our Facebook page. You wouldn't tune into Saturday Night Live to receive your weather report, or The Home Shopping Network to receive your nightly news.

For those of you who monitor our Facebook page please feel free to "Share" our posts to any of the other Facebook pages that may be relevant to our area. You can contribute to our community by spreading the news as it

becomes available.

While we are committed to serving our community through preservation of life and property, we are also concerned with keeping those of you who live in or near our area, informed of any conditions that may threaten your safety. We might not give you every juicy detail of how we established our facts, but you will be given the information necessary to protect you and your loved ones.

To help ensure that you get the information that we provide on our Facebook page, Facebook has added a function that you can place the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District's page as "See First." Any new posts will automatically show up first in your news feed. So I encourage you all to like the page and set it up so you get your updated news alerts in a timely manner.

We do realize that seeing and smelling smoke in the air during this Fire Level II, High Fire Danger period can be very worrisome, rest assured that in the event of an actual emergency our community will be warned quickly and efficiently! We will also inform you of any steps that you should take to ensure the safety of you and your family.

Sincerely,
VRFPD Public Information Officer
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503-429-8252 (office)

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Calls responded to July 1- 31

Fire	1
Emergency Medical Service	23
Hazardous Condition	1
Service Call	13
Good Intent	3
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident	1
No Emergency Found	0
False Alarm	0
Total	42