

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Open Burning of Yard Debris

With a valid burn permit, issued by the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District, those of you who live within our coverage area can legally burn your yard debris. This includes leaves, tree trimmings, and last year's garden debris. This does NOT include left over construction debris, such as lumber, roofing materials, or plastics. Additionally, you are NOT allowed to burn HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE.

Recently we have been getting several complaints concerning open

burning within the city limits. Because of all of the rain we've received over the past few months, all of your yard debris is water soaked and not easily burnable. This condition creates a lot of smoke that permeates throughout your neighborhood.

If you are going to attempt to burn your yard debris, please be considerate of your neighbors and your neighborhood. No one likes having their immediate area filled with smoke coming from your open burn pit.

Please make sure that you burn small quantities of yard debris at a time, and make sure that you have a "hot" fire while doing so. Adding small amounts of debris at a time and keeping your fire well ventilated will help it to burn instead of smolder. You can use a yard leaf blower or any other device that will supply your fire with plenty of air to keep it burning with an open flame instead of just smoldering.

If you fail to burn your yard debris in a manner that keeps the smoke

to a minimum, your actions may result in a warning or citation. Please be considerate of your neighbors while you dispose of your yard debris by burning them in a fire pit.

Thank you for your continued support.



Tips for Your Safety and Health

Over the past few months, residents of Vernonia have either driven themselves or had a family member drive them to the Fire Department for a medical condition, such as chest pains.

I realize that some of you are concerned about your personal privacy, and don't want your neighbors to see an emergency vehicle pull up to your residence. Others of you just aren't sure if you should call an ambulance to your home for specific health issues, so you go to the fire station to get yourself or your family member checked out.

On two recent occasions, individuals went to the fire station complaining of chest pains. This can be a very critical period of time where medical conditions can rapidly deteriorate. The added stress on your body and your heart, created by the added physical exertion

of traveling to the station could become fatal.

PLEASE, if you are having chest pains that are painful enough to cause you enough concern to travel to the fire station, call 911 and have the ambulance and paramedics come to where you are. Just relax and keep your physical activities to a minimum while you wait for emergency responders to arrive.

If they determine that you do not need to seek immediate medical attention, you can then contact your personal physician for medical advice. We would much rather come to where you are than to see you attempt to travel to the fire station and have your condition worsen because you failed to call us for help when you needed it. That's why we are here! It's for you and your family!

Driving Safely

Recently we had a couple of trees come down, taking power lines down with them, on Nehalem Highway south of Vernonia. VRFPD's Fire Chief responded to assess the situation, and found that the southbound lanes of 47 were obstructed by the downed trees.

In the process of assessing the situation, and warning traffic in both directions concerning the obstruction that blocked the southbound lanes, an impatient driver traveling southbound, drove around the fire departments emergency vehicle into oncoming traffic, nearly causing a head on collision.

Please, anytime you approach an emergency vehicle with its emergency lights flashing in either lane, ODOT vehicles with yellow warning

lights, or any other construction type vehicle stopped with flashing lights, slow down or stop until you are directed to pass or can reasonably ascertain that it is safe to do so. Being impatient and inconsiderate of other drivers on our roadways will eventually result in a serious, if not fatal traffic accident.

Failure to obey lane closures and traffic control devices or traffic control personnel, could, in addition to causing an accident, result in a moving violation citation from law enforcement. Lane closures are necessary from time to time, and they will be kept to a minimum as conditions allow. Please be patient and cooperate with personnel who are working to open the lanes of traffic as quickly as they can.

VRFPD Places Measure on May 17 Ballot

The Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District (VRFPD) has filed a ballot measure with the Columbia County Clerk for the May 17, 2016 election.

The measure is a five year local option levy for Emergency Services Training and Operations and would cost taxpayers \$0.32 per thousand of assessed value each year.

If approved the measure would specifically provide funding for VRFPD for the salary and benefits package for a Training Captain who would be responsible for training programs for the District. The

Training Captain would also be responsible for responding to incidents while on duty, thereby increasing daytime response personnel availability.

The levy would raise approximately \$65,294 in fiscal year 2016-17 and \$72,072 in 2020-21, the final year of the levy.

VRFPD chief Dean Smith has been visiting local community groups to explain the need for the levy and is happy to answer any questions about the need for a Training Captain. You can reach Chief Smith at dc4502@yahoo.com.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

VRFPD is currently accepting applications for Volunteer Fire Fighters.

- You must have a High School Diploma or G.E.D., a valid Oregon Driver's License, and be at least 18 years of age.
- Currently, you must be able to attend weekly training on Monday nights
- Willing to attend the Fire Academy
- Live or work (employer willing to let you respond to calls) within VRFPD's District
- Applications can be picked up at the Fire Station.

Here's What We Do!

VRFPD
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503-429-8252

VRFPD FIRE CHIEF
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Calls responded to February 1-29

Fire	0
Emergency Medical Service	30
Hazardous Condition	0
Service Call	2
Good Intent	1
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident	0
No Emergency Found	0
False Alarm	0
Total	33