

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Wildland Chainsaws

By Robert Schattschneider

A few weeks ago Jeff Pricher, Division Chief of Scappoose Fire District, was in Vernonia instructing firefighters from as far away as Lane County, teaching the hands on portion for S-212.

S-212 is titled "Wildland Chainsaws" by the National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) and is the foundational education necessary to receive certification for chainsaw use on interagency fire responses.

Pricher stated that, "The class is a 4-day class that covers Maintenance, Hazard Tree identification, limbing, bucking and felling of trees. All of the core content is derived from federal OSHA and essentially gives students the requisite information, technical skills, and mentoring to safely utilize a power saw."

Pricher said, "The instructor cadre are currently certified operators with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and have many years of experience between them. Chainsaw use is what most consider to be a high risk/low frequency skill set. In addition, the reactive forces of the tool do not lend to friendly accidents or mistakes, so the class spends a lot of time providing technically correct skills with mentoring."

Pricher also stated that, "The instructor to student ratio is generally kept low to provide the student with optimal instructor time to acquire proficiency. All in all, the ultimate goal is enhanced awareness and safety for all of the firefighters with the hope that that information can begin to be shared within their respective agencies and others."

Chief Smith and I were able to meet up with Pricher and the firefighters

from several of our surrounding fire departments. Pricher explained that one of the unique factors of this particular class is that they were able to obtain permission from one of the local logging

highlighting the amount of training and dedication that first responders devote themselves to on your behalf.

Please express your appreciation the next time you run into any of our



companies to practice all of these skill sets on an active logging unit right here in Vernonia.

Pricher said, "This cooperation almost never happens, and as a result, we are very thankful that Mike Pihl from Pihl Logging had the foresight and willingness to allow firefighters from as far away as Lane County to come to Vernonia to practice, learn and gain proficiency with this tool."

Firefighters at the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District have several different types of chainsaws and other cutting devices that are carried on several fire apparatuses in the event that they are needed in firefighting or at accident scenes.

This is just another example

local or out of town emergency services personnel. They all deserve a pat on the back for their continued dedication to training and serving our communities.

The Vernonia Rural Fire

Protection District would also like to recognize and thank Mike Pihl for all of the support that he has given to us over the years. Thank you Mike!

Reminder

Fire District Operating Levy #5-253 will be on the Election Ballot in May.

If you are not registered to vote please do so. If you have any questions regarding the ballot or the needs of the district please contact us at the station and/or any of the Board of directors and volunteers.

Calls responded to March 1-31

Fire	3
Emergency Medical Service	24
Hazardous Condition	6
Service Call	6
Good Intent	3
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	3
Special Incident	0
No Emergency Found	0
False Alarm	0
Total	45

**VERNONIA
RURAL
FIRE DIST.**



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THESE BOOTS?**

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WANTED**

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

Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District NOTICE OF PROPOSED INTERSTATE PERMISSIVE COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT

Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes 279A.220 and District Contracting Rule 137-046-0460, notice is hereby given that the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District intends to enter into a contract with Spartan Motors, Inc. for an amount estimated to be \$345,000.00 for the purchase of one Spartan ERV Water Tender and associated equipment through an interstate Permissive cooperative procurement established by Skagit County Fire District # 10, Concrete, Washington. The purpose of this notice is to provide information to the public and invite interested persons an opportunity to submit written comment.

Any person may submit written comments specific to this notice. A comment that protests the procurement shall provide a detailed statement of the legal and factual grounds to support the protest, how the procurement process is contrary to law, and the relief requested. Comments will be handled pursuant to District Contracting Rule 137-046-0440 and 137-046-0470 and ORS 279A.225.

Written comments must be delivered to Fire Chief Dean Smith, Vernonia RFPD, 555 E. Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064, no later than 4:00 pm., April 29, 2016. Comments received after the deadline will not be considered.

Dean Smith

Dean Smith, Fire Chief
Vernonia RFPD

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