

# VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## Fire Season

It's that time of year again. The rains have stopped, the temperatures have risen, and we're all enjoying the nice weather and all that it brings to Vernonia.

While you're enjoying the weather and starting your gardening season, stop and take a look at your property. Is it ready for the dry season that is just around the corner?

This is the time of year when we all need to take the necessary precautions to protect our properties from the fire dangers that are hidden behind all of the surrounding natural beauty.

Some of the things that you need to focus on are getting your gutters cleaned out, yard debris cleaned up, bushes, trees, and shrubs trimmed, and cleaning up anything else on your property that can be easily ignited by a fire source. These are the hidden dangers that a wandering ember is longing to find.

A burning ember can travel up to one mile under the right conditions. It's just looking for fuel to land on. Now I'm not suggesting that a burning ember has a mind of its own, but the only thing keeping it from burning out, is fuel!

By "fuel" I'm talking about any dry material, natural or manmade, flammable liquids, and tall dried out grass and leaves that can easily be ignited.

The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal are both encouraging home owners and renters to take the time to clean up their property to remove abundant fuel sources.

Those gutters that have been packed full of leaves and fir needles all winter long, will dry out and become an excellent fuel source for a burning ember. That green moss on your roof

will also dry out and become another excellent fuel source.

If you have un-mowed fields of grass around your property, this will spread a burning fire faster than you can run when there is a little wind behind those flames. Try to get as much of it mowed as you can before things dry out and turn brown.

If you have a valid burn permit, issued by VRFPD, take advantage of this period of time when burning of yard and garden trimmings are allowed.

If you need a burn permit, contact Karin Goodman in the office by calling (503) 429-8252. Karin will explain how you can obtain a burn permit.

Here are a few "Burn Pile Tips" to help wildfire prevention.

Consider chipping or recycling your yard debris. If burning is the only option, it is less likely to escape control by following some simple safety tips.

- Call before you burn - Burning regulations are not the same in all areas and can vary with the weather and fuel conditions. Check with your local Oregon Department of Forestry district, fire protection association, or local air authority to learn if there are any current burning restrictions or regulations, and whether a permit is required.

- Know the weather forecast - Never burn on dry or windy days.

- Clear a 10-foot radius around your burn pile - Make sure there are no tree branches or power lines above.

- Keep your burn pile small - Small piles, 4x4 feet in dimension, are recommended. Add debris in small amounts as existing material is consumed.

- Always have water and fire tools on site - When burning, have a charged water hose, bucket of water, a shovel, and dirt nearby to extinguish the fire. Drown the pile with water, stir the coals, and drown again, repeating until the fire is DEAD out.

- Stay with the fire until it is completely out - Monitoring a debris burn continually from start to finish until dead out is required by state law. Go back and recheck old burn piles, as they can retain heat for several weeks and rekindle when the weather warms and winds blow.

- Never use gasoline or other accelerants to start or increase your open fire - Every year, approximately 60 percent of all



burns treated at the Oregon Burn Center are the result of backyard debris burning.

- Burn ONLY yard debris - State regulations prohibit the open burning of any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors.

Escaped debris burns are the leading human-caused fire issue in Oregon, particularly in the spring and fall. For more tips on wildfire prevention, visit the Keep Oregon Green site, [www.KeepOregonGreen.org/](http://www.KeepOregonGreen.org/) Tips provided by the Oregon Department of Forestry.

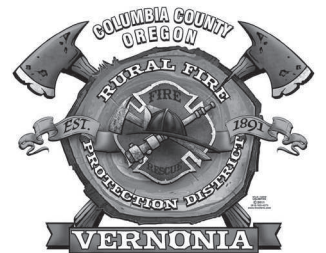
### Calls responded to April 1-30

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Fire                              | 1         |
| Emergency Medical Service         | 43        |
| Hazardous Condition               | 2         |
| Service Call                      | 8         |
| Good Intent                       | 2         |
| Severe Weather & Natural Disaster | 0         |
| Special Incident                  | 0         |
| No Emergency Found                | 0         |
| False Alarm                       | 2         |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>58</b> |

### Burn Legally Burn Responsibly

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

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED



Here's What We Do!

### 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.

**VRFPD**  
555 E. Bridge St.  
Vernonia, OR 97064  
503-429-8252

**VRFPD FIRE CHIEF**  
Earl Dean Smith  
dc4502@yahoo.com  
503-709-8821 (cell)  
503-429-8252 (office)

**VRFPD P.I.O.**  
Robert Schattschneider  
pio.vrfpd@gmail.com  
971-225-8332 (cell)  
503-429-8252 (office)

The Vernonia Volunteer Firefighter's  
&  
The Vernonia Ambulance Association's  
9<sup>th</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast  
Saturday, May 21st, 7am-Noon  
Payment By Donations Only



Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association's  
Garage Sale, May 21 & 22  
All Proceeds to Benefit 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks