

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

FireWise Safety Tips: Protect Your Home From Wildfire

We would like to remind the residents of our district to get your property ready for this year's fire season.

There are several steps that you can take to prepare your property and protect your home from wildfires.

Action steps for around your home:

- CLEAR leaves and other vegetative debris from roofs, gutters, porches and decks. This helps prevent embers from igniting your home.
- REMOVE dead vegetation and other items from under your deck or porch, and within 10 feet of the house.
- SCREEN in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- REMOVE flammable materials (wood piles, propane tanks) within 30 feet of your home's foundation and outbuildings, including garages and sheds. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch your house, deck, or porch.
- WILDFIRE can spread to tree tops. PRUNE trees so the lowest branches are 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- KEEP your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it down to reduce fire intensity. Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire.
- Don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. DISPOSE of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.
- INSPECT shingles or roof tiles. Replace or repair the shingles that are loose or missing to

- prevent ember penetration.
- COVER exterior attic vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent sparks from entering the home.
- ENCLOSE eaves and screen soffit vents using 1/8 inch mesh metal screening to prevent ember entry.

When it comes to grilling:

Here are some safety tips for outdoor grilling that will help protect you and your home:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

Charcoal Grills:

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any



- other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

To view these tips and many more, go to <http://firewise.org/> and search their website for hundreds of safety tips that cover numerous topics.

Please take the fire season seriously and follow all of the safety tips to help protect you, your family, and your property. Follow VRFPD on Facebook for notices, burn conditions, and closures, and updates concerning what's going on in the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District.

Feel free to call Chief Smith with questions or concerns at (503) 429-8252.

Open Burning With Permit - ORS 478.960

Under Oregon law, ORS 478.960, citizens of Oregon can burn certain items if they have a valid permit issued by the Fire Chief in their area.

Each year everyone waits for the dry season to end so they can clean up all the yard and garden debris. But time and time again, those who do burn, forget about the rules.

Because of the Environmental Quality Commission, there are regulations concerning what can and cannot be burned.

VRFPD responds annually to numerous complaints concerning illegal burns. And most complaints are well founded.

VRFPD posts on Facebook

and contributes information in the Voice newspaper, concerning what can and cannot be burned.

Because illegal burning is becoming such a problem, VRFPD will begin issuing citations for illegal burning, and subjects can also be charged for the expenses incurred (Charges for Service).

When you purchase your burn permit, you are given the information needed to comply with the burn permit.

So once again, you can burn yard and garden debris, tree trimmings, and leaves.

You CANNOT burn, any form of lumber, household garbage, construction material, demolition

debris, tires, petroleum products.

If you have any questions about open burning, please contact

the fire station at (503) 429-8252, or email the Fire Chief at: firechief@Vernoniarfpd.us.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



Here's What We Do!

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

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

Calls responded to March 1-31

Fire	3
Emergency Medical Service	40
Hazardous Condition	0
Service Call	9
Good Intent	3
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	0
Special Incident	0
No Emergency Found	0
False Alarm	1
Total	56