

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

VRFPD Hires Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Coordinator

In cooperation with the Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District (RFPD), through an Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA), the Vernonia Fire District has been able to bring on a part-time coordinator to assist in recruiting new volunteer members to join both districts with the goal of increasing the ability to provide service to our citizens.

On November 5 Vernonia Fire District welcomed new Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Coordinator Rob Davis to the department. Rob brings nearly 20 years of Fire, Rescue, and EMS experience working in both the public and private arenas. Rob is also a Volunteer Firefighter with the Mist-



Birkenfeld RFPD.

The addition of this part-time position does two things for both districts. First we have someone whose sole responsibility is to look at new ways to encourage community members to come in and be a part of the Fire Department. Second is to be the go-to person for all of our current members - someone to help them achieve their goals in both Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and make sure that we as a Fire District are meeting the needs of our members.

Vernonia Fire District responded to 740 emergency calls in 2018 with a 90% volunteer firefighting force. With the decline of volunteer firefight-



ers across the nation, positions like the Volunteer Coordinator are becoming more and more prevalent in volunteer and combination career and volunteer departments.

If you are interested in serving the communities of Vernonia or Mist-Birkenfeld please come in to the fire stations, meet the wonderful people, and fill out an application!

Driver Training

In mid-October, Vernonia RFPD and Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD teamed up to put on a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Apparatus Operator class. This weekend class was a 16 hour course that teaches emergency driving skills to the volunteers in our area. We were fortunate enough to have 12 volunteers take the class between the two Fire Districts.

The first part of the class was an eight hour

classroom portion where the students learned about vehicle checks and maintenance, vehicle weight and dimensions, stopping distances, and defensive driving. The second eight hour portion of the class was drive time for the volunteers. They drove through a cone course set up in a way to imitate everyday obstacles. The students were evaluated during this portion of the course by set criteria.

This course was the first driver course put on by the Vernonia RFPD in at least five years. Soon we will have a Pump/Operator class to certify our newer personnel to drive and pump our fire apparatus during fire ground operations.

If you have any interest in joining in on some of this training come down and see us at the fire station.

'Tis The Season

By Bailey Wegner
Toy and Joy Chair

The most wonderful time of the year is around the corner once again. However, for some, the most wonderful time of year is the most stressful. With the cost of items increasing in the blink of an eye, our wallets become pinched and we become worried. Instead of enjoying our time with our families, we are worried about how we are going to supply them with the things they may want or need.

Luckily, in our small town, the Vernonia Fire Association has tried to help take that stress away from families. With the help of donations from our community, we have been able to help give the children of Vernonia toys for Christmas. The day after Thanksgiving, our donation barrels go around to various locations throughout town to collect new, unwrapped toys for us to be able to give out. If you are wanting to donate, we are needing things for the teenagers

of the town.

Alongside the barrels are the applications. We ask questions about age and interests so that we can try and supply the correct items for the children. In order to receive toys, the applications need to be filled out completely and turned in on time. The applications are due December 18. Applications turned in after the 18th will not be guaranteed toys. We try our best to fill the community's needs, but it is stressful on us receiving late applications and not having the correct amount of toys. Applications are processed, toys are wrapped, and delivered before Christmas day. The date of pick up and delivery will be on the applications.

This year, as an incentive to donate, Robyn at the Simply Beautiful and Handsome Boutique will be giving 10% off discounts at the store for customers who donate new, unwrapped toys. We love seeing the community help us with this project and could not do it without everyone.

The Vernonia Fire Association and the Vernonia Ambulance Association work hand in hand to make Toy and Joy happen for our community, and pride themselves in taking care of the community in more ways than one. However, our helping hands numbers are running low, and we are always looking for volunteers. Firefighter and EMT applica-

tions are always available at the station, but around the holidays we are always looking for holiday helpers. We can sign off for community service hours and we always have fun. We are here to serve and help the community and appreciate all the help we can get. 'Tis the season to help.

Calls responded to October 1-31

Fire	2
Emergency Medical Service	48
Hazardous Condition	1
Service Call	7
Good Intent	0
False Alarm	1
Total	59

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!

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