

# VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## Thank You for Your Support on Election Day!



### 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 that we have 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,

Staff and Volunteers  
P.I.O. VRFPD

### Service During COVID-19

Recruitment hasn't been easy during the COVID-19 Pandemic – closing our station to the public to reduce exposure possibilities to the staff is way outside of our norm.

In times of change, we must change in the same ways our community restaurants, and everyone else has.

Last week we began an option to deliver an application to a community member interested in volunteering. We're also delivering burn permits right to your house! We are adapting to the changes, and doing everything we can to continue to serve our commu-

nity. We can't guarantee same day delivery but we have been getting within a couple days of a call into the station for the burn permits.

As Columbia County starts to open up, we will re-open the station soon and we look forward to seeing all of you again. To our community members, thank you for your support, and if you think you want to volunteer, give us a call and see what we are about!

Rob Davis  
Recruitment & Retention  
Coordinator

### What Is The Emergency Conflagration Act?

The Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) assists and supports the Oregon fire service during major emergency operations through the Conflagration Act (ORS 476.510). The Conflagration Act was developed in 1940 as a civil defense measure and can be invoked only by the governor. The act allows the State Fire Marshal to mobilize firefighters and equipment from around the state. The Conflagration Act is **only** used for fires that involve or **threaten life and structures**.

When there is a wildland fire, the Oregon Department of Forestry, along with local fire departments in the immediate area, respond to fight the wildland fire.

The State is divided into Fire Defense Districts. The Local Chief of that Fire Defense District works with Deputy State Fire Marshal & Fire Defense Board Chief to request assistance from the State Fire Marshal. At that point, the State Fire Marshall requests that the Governor implement the Conflagration Act, which enables the Office of State Fire Marshal to request equipment and firefighters from around the State of Oregon.

The Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal's three Incident Management Teams (IMTs) provide comprehensive incident command to manage ongoing emergency operations. IMTs provide incident management expertise in logistics, finance, planning, public information, operations, safety, and community issues.

IMTs respond with resources

mobilized by the Governor for a conflagration or other emergency that has overwhelmed the control and resources of local emergency responders. IMTs enhance effective coordination among responding agencies during fires, floods, earthquakes, structural collapse, tsunamis, the spilling of hazardous materials, and other natural or human-caused incidents.

The IMT will develop a plan of action to aggressively and safely mitigate the incident to which it has been assigned, either through Unified Command or a single incident command structure.

Resources assigned to the incident will operate with the guidance of an Incident Action Plan (IAP) within an organized chain of command and formal safety plan. The IAP will address the objectives, strategies, and tactics as dictated by the risks and opportunities associated with the incident.

The IMT commits resources to the incident only after resources have been briefed on the developing strategy and tactics, resource-specific objectives, weather, fuel types, and safety considerations. Within the second operational period, the IMT develops a formal IAP for delivery via an Operational Period Briefing. The IMT expects that all personnel shall receive a briefing by their immediate supervisor prior to being deployed within the hazard area. This briefing shall detail resource assignments, assigned objectives, chain of command, and safety considerations.

The IMT may place firefighters at a greater level of risk to save lives,

save property, or reduce environmental impact.

From 1996 to 2016, there were 70 Conflagrations in the State of Oregon.

Short Summary:

- Conflagrations declared: 70
- Most in one year: 11 in 2002
- Most in one week: 5 in 1996 and 5 in 2002
- Most in one day: 3 in 1996
- One example, from 2015, would be the "Grizzly Bear Complex" fire.
- Conflagration date: 8.20.2015
- Communities threatened: Flora (Wallowa County)
- Umatilla National Forest at WA border
- Structures threatened: (405) residences and (98) other structures
- Structures saved: (400) residences and (78) other structures
- Structures lost: (25)
- OSFM-mobilized Task Forces: Marion, Yamhill, Clatsop, Columbia, and Union counties

• Conflagration mobilization cost: \$736,540.44

• Cause: Lighting

You'll notice that in the Grizzly Bear Complex fire example, the OSFM mobilized a Task Force that was made up from fire departments in Marion, Yamhill, Clatsop, **Columbia**, and Union counties. Each department brought the equipment (fire truck) and personnel to staff the equipment.

All of the fire departments that join the Conflagration are reimbursed for all of the expenses that are incurred. The fire departments that send equipment and personnel must have Workman's Comp. Insurance on all of the personnel involved.

Information for this article was obtained from: <http://www.oregon.gov/osp/SFM/>.

#### Calls responded to April 1-30

Fire	1
Emergency Medical Service	48
Hazardous Condition	0
Service Call	12
Good Intent	3
False Alarm	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>65</b>