

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Thank You!

To our community,

The words "Thank You" don't seem nearly enough. As a District and Board of Directors, the decision was made that we must do something to increase funding to Emergency Services, and continue to provide a high level of response to our community, and those that come to visit. Like I said to our volunteers in an email after the Levy passed,

"We have a lot of great things happening. We have a dedicated core of volunteers, we're making the responses when they happen, we have a budget that allows us to move forward, and we're going to make the most of every penny to benefit the community in the programs

we implement, the changes we make, and the equipment we purchase.

At the end of the day, remember it all comes down to one thing... THEM.

'I am not here for me, I am here for we, and WE are here for THEM!' (Anchorage Fire Department)

Keep up the strong work, we appreciate you!"

We made promises and commitments to you, those we serve, to increase staffing, increase our reserve funds for future expenditures, and initiate programs that will best serve the community, at the lowest costs possible. We intend to keep those promises, and some of those processes have already begun. We are in line to increase our

full-time staff by one person effective July 1, we are completing pre-program requirements to begin our Resident Volunteer Program in conjunction with the Mist-Birkenfeld Rural Fire Protection District, and start the process to train our volunteers to the next level.

We are forever grateful to all of you, and your support of the Vernonia Rural Fire District. Without all of you, we do not exist.

Sincerely,
Chief Smith
Chief Steinweg
Chief Davis



Wildfire Conditions

The Columbia County Fire Defense Board would like to remind all residents that Northwest Oregon will enter Fire Season July 1, 2020 at 12:01 am. This effects private, county, state, and local government lands within Columbia County. It is anticipated that summer weather patterns will dry wildland fuels and increase the risk for fire spread. These weather patterns also bring the risk of lightning and increase fire activity in the area. Fire season is intended to reduce human fire starts by restricting some activities related to forest operations and open burning.

Recreational fires will be allowed within the landscaped footprint of a residential yard so long as recreational fire regulations are followed. Recreational fires must be in designated fire pits and can be no larger than 3 feet in diameter with flames not to

exceed 2 feet in height and should be a minimum of 25 feet from any combustible material. Only clean, natural wood that is short enough to fit within the fire pit is allowed to be burned. Recreational fires must be attended at all times by a responsible, sober, non-impaired adult with suitable on-site fire extinguishing equipment such as a working garden hose. Burning of garbage or yard debris is not considered recreational burning. Backyard barbecues including charcoal and propane power units are allowed.

Open burning of yard debris will be prohibited as of July 1 until fall rain returns. Open burning within the city limits of the fire districts are regulated by those local government entities.

We are encouraging the public to avoid burning on dry, windy days

when fires are more likely to escape. Fine fuels such as green grass can easily ignite when the humidity is low and winds are strong.

When drier weather conditions result in a more significant fire hazard, recreational burning may be more tightly regulated or banned completely. Escaped fires of any kind resulting in property damage may result in fines and individual financial responsibility.

Commercial burning such as slash burns regulated by the Oregon Department of Forestry will be closed.

For more information regarding campfires, recreational burning, and debris burning please visit the following, depending on which district you are in:

Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District (503) 429-8252
Columbia River Fire & Rescue www.crfr.com and click on "Burn Permits"
Scappoose Fire District www.srfd.us and click on the "Outdoor Burning" link
Clatskanie Fire District <http://www.clatskaniefire.org/burn-permit>
Oregon Department of Forestry <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/index.aspx>
Mist Birkenfeld Fire District <https://www.mistbirkenfeldrfd.org/outdoor-burn-information>

If you are within the city limits of any city please visit their website or contact them by phone for additional burning regulations.

Training Burn

As some people have seen in the community our hands-on training is slowly starting to take place again. Due to COVID-19, the Fire District was limited on in-person training activities. You will start seeing us more and more in the community working on our skills.

Recently we were donated a structure to train on. The house will eventually be a burn-to-learn house, but for the time being we will use every opportunity we can to train inside and outside the house to practice multiple skills. Everything from ventilation to Mayday drills will be practiced in the house before we finally burn it.

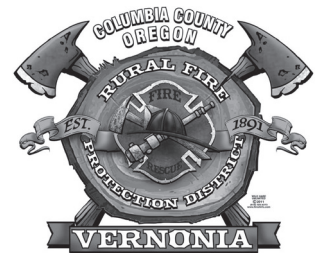
We also will be using the house as a way to get our recruits the necessary training for them to be certified Firefighters. If everything goes as planned we will be holding the training burn sometime in September.

The District staff has spent a lot of time recently going over the needs of our volunteers to help them progress in the fire service. We will be working hard to make sure that the training program is always the best it can be for our volunteers. We would not be in the position we are without the amazing support of our community and the hard work of our volunteers.

Calls responded to May 1-31

Fire	3
Emergency Medical Service	37
Hazardous Condition	0
Service Call	5
Good Intent	1
False Alarm	2
Total	48

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

Rob Davis

Volunteer Recruitment & Retention
Vernonia Fire & Mist-Birkenfeld Fire
503-429-8252 (Vernonia)
503-755-2710 (Mist)