

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Increasing Service

Vernonia Fire has been telling our community for a while that our number one focus is to increase staffing, while subsequently increasing our ability to provide service to our community. Well, we did it. Starting July 2 of 2022 Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District hired two additional firefighter EMTs bringing our career staff to four personnel. We welcome Kendrick Leaverton and Earl Horning to the fire district as our full-time firefighters!

What does this mean to our community? It means that 7 days a week, 12 hours a day, we now have someone on shift and in the station! Our firefighter EMTs are working a schedule that has them on for 4 days and off for 4 days from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm. Combined with our chief officer staff Monday through Thursday we will have at least two people on shift and in the station during normal business hours. This is a huge upgrade to our service delivery to the community of Vernonia and our surrounding rural district residents!

On top of this great news, we applied for, and received, a staffing grant for \$35,000 from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office, and with that money we have accepted two applications for seasonal firefighters. We anticipate having these folks onboard in the next couple of weeks, again increasing staffing by one additional firefighter 6 days a week. These positions will remain with us into October, and will help supplement staffing for Oregon's fire season.

We have also had the opportunity to meet with our Regional Risk Reduction Specialist from the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office and plan on getting her involved in community wildfire reduction activities here in Vernonia!

We have a lot of great things coming together, all to support our community, and support all of those that have supported us! We can't wait to see all of you at Jambo-ree this year!

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 7:00 pm

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**
3. **MEMBERS PRESENT:**
4. **VISITORS PRESENT: (Please Have Visitors State Name)**
5. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** ORS 192.660(2)(i) - To review & evaluate the performance of an Officer
6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** ORS 192.660(2)(i) - To review & evaluate the performance of an Officer
7. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. Rob Davis's Employment Contract (Action Item)
8. **Good to the Order -**
9. **ADJOURN MEETING:**

NEXT MEETING:
Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 7:00 pm - Regular Board Meeting

Calls responded to June 1-30

Fire	2
Emergency Medical Service	34
Hazardous Condition	0
Service Call	6
Good Intent	7
False Alarm	0
Total	49



DO YOU KNOW



DEFENSIBLE SPACE TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE

- 1 Remove dead and combustible vegetation, mulch, and other materials, especially within the first several feet from the home. Replace with decorative rock or gravel.
- 2 Remove leaves, pine needles, and other debris from the roof, gutters, and on and under the deck to help prevent embers from igniting the home.
- 3 Cover exterior attic vents, soffit vents, and areas below decks and patios with 1/8" metal wire mesh to help prevent sparks from entering the home.
- 4 Replace combustible plants, furniture, and cushions on decks with non-combustible types.
- 5 Enclose eaves to help prevent ember entry. Remove any vegetation growing directly under your eaves.
- 6 Inspect the roof and replace missing shingles or tiles, make sure the valleys are in good repair.
- 7 Keep lawns mowed and all plants watered. Keep it "Lean and Green".
- 8 Move construction material, trash, and woodpiles at least 30 feet away from the home and other outbuildings.
- 9 Trim trees and remove or trim brush/bushes and ground cover plants under trees or next to structures or decks.
- 10 Chip, compost, or haul yard debris to a recycling center. Follow local fire regulations if burning yard debris.

For questions or more information about defensible space, contact the Office of State Fire Marshal at oregon.sfm@osp.oregon.gov.

BE READY. BE SET. GO NOW!

Know evacuation levels and follow the advice of emergency officials. Make the best decision for your safety. Don't wait to evacuate if you feel unsafe.

LEVEL 1 LEVEL 1 - BE READY to evacuate.

Prepare to evacuate:

- Be aware of danger in the area and stay informed. Sign up for local emergency alerts with your county at ORAlert.gov.
- Check for updates through local city, county and emergency service websites, social media, TV and radio.
- Have your emergency plan and go-kit ready with supplies for health, safety and identification.
- Act early if you are older or have children, disabilities or limited access to transportation.
- Consider moving pets and livestock early.
- Plan possible evacuation routes. Use TripCheck.com or call 511 for road closure information.
- Plan for emergency shelter. Call the American Red Cross at 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCross.org.
- If you can do so safely, check with your neighbors and share information.
- Don't wait to evacuate if you need extra time to leave or if you feel unsafe.

LEVEL 2 LEVEL 2 - BE SET to evacuate.

Be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice:

- There is significant danger in the area. Stay informed and be alert. Continue to check for updates through local city, county and emergency service websites, social media, TV and radio.
- Time to act - follow your emergency plan and grab your go-kit of supplies.
- If you have livestock, put your animal evacuation plan into action.
- Inform loved ones of your evacuation plans.
- Conditions can change rapidly. You do not need to wait for another evacuation notice.
- Leave if you feel unsafe.

LEVEL 3 LEVEL 3 - GO NOW!

Evacuate immediately:

- There is extreme danger in the area. Leave without delay. It is unsafe to stay and threatens the safety of you, your family and emergency responders.
- Emergency responders may not be available to help if you choose to stay.
- Do not stop to gather belongings or protect your home.
- Follow your emergency plan and grab your go-kit.
- Leave as fast as safely possible. Drive carefully. Turn on your headlights. Follow traffic safety warnings and instructions from local authorities.
- Once you are safe, check with friends and family.
- Do not return until public safety officials announce the area is safe.

RESOURCES:
Local emergency alerts: ORAlert.gov
Oregon Wildfire Resources: Wildfire.Oregon.gov
Current incidents in Oregon: OEM.RAPTOR.Map
American Red Cross disaster assistance: RedCross.org
Local resources: Call 211 or 1-866-698-6155 or visit 211info.org



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
Operations Division Chief
503-429-8252