

VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

2022 Jamboree Staffing

Vernonia Fire had an unprecedented number of staff on duty to protect our community and our visitors for Jamboree 2022. Our staff was able to come together and provide 24-hour a day protection to this significant community event. Saturday was our most heavily staffed day with one engine staffed by four members including one paramedic, and a heavy brush engine staffed with three firefighters. Volunteers also took part in the Jamboree parade and other community events throughout the weekend. The hiring of two full-time firefighter/EMTs and the gracious grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal that allowed us to hire two

more seasonal firefighters has made a tremendous impact on our ability to provide staffing seven days a week to protect our community. Just before Jamboree, Columbia County deployed a wildland interface task force to the Miller Road Fire just outside of Maupin, Oregon. Even with sending one career firefighter and one volunteer we maintained a level of staffing here at home that our District has never seen before. We are excited to be able to make announcements like this, as we continue to put our community first, and ensuring that we have personnel to serve you, our citizens.



Calls responded to July 1-31

Fire	1
Emergency Medical Service	40
Hazardous Condition	2
Service Call	23
Good Intent	31
False Alarm	0
Total	97

Report from the Miller Road Wildland Fire

On August 3, 2022 Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District deployed Water Tender 452 as part of a Columbia County Wildland Task Force to Maupin, Oregon to fight the Miller Road Fire. The Water Tender was staffed by probationary firefighter/EMT Leaverton and volunteer firefighter/EMT Abney. Scappoose Fire Chief Jeff Pricher sent out this report following the return of the Columbia County team on August 7.

Day 1 - August 3

Initial Attack (IA) responsibilities blending in with the other task forces, USFS, ODF, and local fire resources. Provide structural protection for the Juniper Flats Fire station.

Day 2 - August 4

Mop up around structures. Mop up is a systematic method of making sure that all hotspots are identified and mitigated. Mop up includes strengthening firelines by putting out fire from the fire edge to different interior distances depending on safety factors and fire intensity. Depending on the slope, water bars are created to prevent erosion from fall rains on the newly created firelines. In some instances, several miles of hose are established. One of the bigger challenges is the movement of water from the limited water sources to the fireline to help suppress the fire.

Cold trailing and continued securing of the firelines. Cold trailing is another systematic method that firefighters use to make sure the fire is completely out. In many cases this involves firefighters using their bare hands to make sure there is no heat. This can include digging out of root systems and making

sure any trees that were felled or that had fallen near the fire control lines are devoid of smoke and heat.

Day 3 - August 5

More cold trailing and mopping up further off the fire control line and into the fire area. There was a small flare up and the crews responded to that to prevent any further spread of the fire. Crews completed over three miles of cold trailing.

Looking at the statistics, this was the first large fire for five of our county firefighters. They were all shadowed (watched over) by experienced firefighters. Columbia County thankfully does not experience fires of this magnitude regularly. For all of our crews to be able to obtain this valuable experience will only strengthen our county capabilities in the future. While it is hard on our families, the fire districts, and can be challenging for day to day responses, this practical experience is worth every minute. Having the ability to work on large scale incidents will allow for those experiences to be put to good use in other emergencies (winter storms, flooding, etc.).

Our Columbia County crews were responsible for 10 road miles of fireline.

In general, the progression of a fire is Initial Attack, Extended Attack, Fire Containment (this is generally referenced in percentages until the fire is completely surrounded by control line), Fire Control (Even if the fire is contained, control may not occur until all of the hotspots are mitigated. Fire Control does not mean the fire is out.), and the final phase is Fire Out.

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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.oralert.gov)
Oregon Wildfire Resources: [Wildfire.Oregon.gov](https://www.wildfire.oregon.gov)
Current incidents in Oregon: [OEM RAPTOR Map](https://www.oem-raptor.com)
American Red Cross disaster assistance: [RedCross.org](https://www.redcross.org)
Local resources: Call 211 or 1-866-698-6155 or visit [211info.org](https://www.211info.org)



VOLUNTEERS WANTED



VERNONIA RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Here's What We Do!

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

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