

HOT TOPICS

The logo for Corvallis Fire & Rescue is a circular emblem. It features a central fire hydrant and a fire truck. The text "CORVALLIS" is at the top, "OREGON" is below it, "YOUNG AMERICA" is on the sides, and "FIRE & RESCUE" is at the bottom. "EST. 1873" is written in a small circle at the very bottom.

NEWS & INFORMATION FOR DISTRICT RESIDENTS

Visit our Website at <http://www.ci.corvallis.or.us/fire/index.html>

Annual Fire Losses

In a typical year, fire departments in America respond to over 1,600,000 fires. These fires result in an average of 3,700 civilian deaths and 18,000 injuries.

Home structure fires cause 82% of the civilian fire deaths, and 74% of the civilian fire injuries. Children under age 5 and older adults face the highest risk of home fire death; while those over 85 and between the ages of 18 and 34 face the highest risk of home fire injury.

Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Unattended cooking is the leading factor contributing to these fires. Frying is the leading type of activity associated with cooking fires. More than half of all cooking fire injuries occurred when people tried to fight the fire themselves.

Smoking has been the leading cause of home fire deaths for decades. Eighty percent of the home smoking material fire fatalities resulted from fires in upholstered furniture, mattresses or bedding, or clothing. Flammability standards and a decrease in the number of smokers have helped reduce these deaths, and the "fire-safe" cigarette will help prevent many more. Seven percent of home smoking fire fatalities were using medical oxygen.

Heating equipment was the second leading cause of home fires and home fire deaths. Portable and fixed space heaters, including wood stoves, were involved in three-quarters of the home heating fire deaths. Central heat is much safer.

Intentional fires are the third leading cause of home fire deaths. According to FBI statistics, roughly half of the people arrested for arson in recent years were under eighteen years old.

Electrical distribution or lighting equipment was involved in 5% of home fire deaths. A study by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) found that homes with older wiring face an increased risk of electrical wiring fires.

Candles were the second leading cause of home fire injuries. The frequency of these uncontrolled fires tripled from 1990 to 2000 with the increase in candle sales. Despite a recent drop, this cause still remains at 2.5 times the 1990 figure. Candles used for light in the absence of electrical power accounts for one third of the fatal candle fires.

More than half of the children who die playing with fire, occur to those under five years of age. Home fires, deaths and injuries started by children playing with fire have decreased sharply since 1994 when the CPSC required most disposable lighters to be inoperable by children under five. Interestingly, fires and losses from children playing with matches also fell during this period.

Smoke alarms provide the advantage of early warning only if they are maintained in an operable condition. Almost all U.S. homes have a least one smoke alarm, but two thirds of the home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. In home fires, the risk of death is 51% lower in homes with working smoke alarms.

Residential fire sprinkler system are very effective in protecting both lives and property. These systems decrease the home fire death rate by 74%. Unfortunately, it will likely be many years before the majority of U.S. homes have this built-in protection.

Care and Maintenance of Your Smoke Alarm

Did you know?

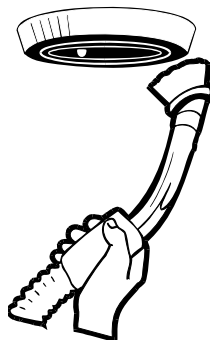
The National Fire Protection Association [NFPA] reports that while 13 out of 14 homes have at least one smoke alarm, almost half of the reported home fires and three-fifths of resulting fire deaths occur in that small fraction of homes with no smoke detection devices. Of note is the trend that there are now more homes with smoke alarms that don't work due to lack of maintenance than homes with no smoke detection devices installed.

A smoke detector will do its job and detect small amounts of smoke and sound an alarm if proper maintenance is provided. Follow the manufacturer's instructions that came with your smoke alarm. We have listed the typical guidelines below to assist you in the care of your smoke alarm.

Once a month

Check the Battery. To find out how to test your smoke alarm, read the manufacturer's instructions. Most smoke alarms have a test button that you press; if the smoke detector is working, the alarm will sound. If you hear only a chirp or nothing at all, you need to replace the battery or smoke alarm.

Vacuum Your Smoke Detector. Dust often collects in the smoke sensing chamber, and it can cause the smoke alarm to generate a false alert. The easiest way to remove this dust is to take the top off of the smoke alarm, if removable, and vacuum the inside, using the soft brush end cleaning attachment. Some units will need to be vacuumed without removing the outer case.



Every ten years

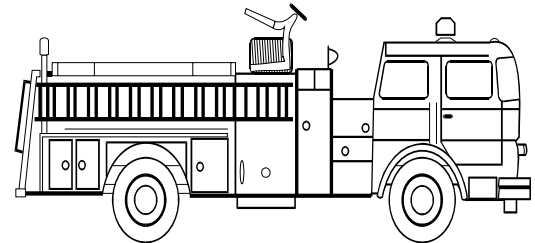
Replace the Smoke Alarm. Even with good maintenance, smoke alarms have a life span of ten years. After ten years of use, remove the smoke alarm and follow the manufacturer's directions for recycling the unit. Replace it with a new smoke alarm. Most new smoke alarms have their ten-year anniversary or manufactured date imprinted on the cover or base of the unit. If you are unsure of your smoke detector's age, it is best to err in favor of life safety and replace the unit.

Do you know that in the United States a:

- * fire department responds to a fire every 20 seconds?
- *structure fire is reported every 62 seconds?
- *residential fire is reported every 83 seconds?
- *fire injury occurs every 29 minutes?
- *fire death occurs every 2 hours and 23 minutes?
- *an uncontrolled fire outside a structure occurs every 39 seconds?
- *vehicle fire occurs every 109 seconds?

Please take action today to help educate and protect your family and friends from becoming a fire statistic.

It's the LAW! Move Over or Slow Down



According to national statistics, a record number of traffic incidents are occurring. During the last ten years, more than 700 first responders have been killed by passing vehicles while working existing highway incidents. Oregon's Move Over law has been in effect for more than four years, yet during each of those years, an increasing number of emergency personnel working incidents have been injured or killed by passing vehicles.

Oregon's "Move Over Law" states that if you are driving up behind or next to any type of emergency vehicle — police car, fire engine, ambulance, or other public safety vehicle — working on the roadside with emergency lights flashing, **you must move over** into another lane if one is available. If you cannot move over into another lane safely (you are on a road with only one lane in each direction), then **you must slow down** and give the emergency vehicle and personnel as much room as is safely possible.

Locke Fire Station - Lewisburg

Locke fire station was constructed in the rural district to reduce response time from city stations to the Lewisburg area. The station was opened in 2001 and is staffed by nine interns and one paid 40 hour per week, lieutenant. It is the sixth fire station in Corvallis.

What is an Intern and Community Volunteer?

An Intern is a volunteer firefighter who lives at the Locke Station. In the fire service, Interns might be known as “sleepers,” meaning they will sleep at the fire station because it is their primary residence. The volunteer intern program is well suited to students, enabling them to serve the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District and the City (CRFPD) by providing coverage around the clock. Each Intern is assigned to one of three shifts and follows a 24 hours on shift , 48 hours off shift schedule. This schedule equates to a minimum of 168 volunteer hours per month, in addition to a minimum of 12 hours of training. Most Interns are college students and are eligible to receive scholarships for up to 12 credit hours paid by the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District.

A Community Volunteer (CV) lives in his or her own home within the city limits or the boundaries of the CRFPD and is assigned to a shift at a fire station. Currently three Community Volunteers are assigned to the Locke Fire Station.

Interns / CV's are trained to perform the duties of Firefighter/ EMT's, Apparatus Operators, and Crew Leaders. Locke Station responds to calls in its own response district and sometimes to calls within the city limits. The department's Interns / CV's are the “cutting edge” youth of the fire service and live by the motto, *Experience is a Function of Frequency*.

Current Staff

Adolf, George	Intern Volunteer Firefighter
Bigam, Braydon	Intern Volunteer Firefighter; Crew Leader; Apparatus Operator;
Hinckle, Will	Community Volunteer Firefighter
Hunt, Aaron	Intern Volunteer Firefighter
Jordan, Tim	Community Volunteer Firefighter; Crew Leader; Apparatus Operator
Loveland, Rory	Intern Volunteer Firefighter; Crew Leader, Apparatus Operator
Morgan, Shawn	Lieutenant; Paramedic
Muravez, Joey	Community Volunteer Firefighter
Opsal, Bruce	Intern Volunteer Firefighter; Apparatus Operator
Sams, Darryl	Intern Volunteer Firefighter; Crew Leader; Apparatus Operator
Thompson, Corey	Intern Volunteer Firefighter; Crew Leader; Apparatus Operator
Weir, David	Intern Volunteer Firefighter; Crew Leader; Apparatus Operator
Williams, Stephen	Intern Volunteer Firefighter
White, Eric	Intern Volunteer Firefighter



Corvallis RFPD
c/o Corvallis Fire Department
400 NW Harrison Blvd.
Corvallis, OR 97330

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Thank you for reading the current edition of your newsletter, Hot Topics. This publication is produced once a year. We value your comments. Please let us know if the information provided was interesting, practical, and/or useful. If you would like to see a topic covered in the next edition or have any comments, please contact us at (541) 766-6961 or by e-mail at neil.hall@ci.corvallis.or.us.



These signs assist visitors to your home and emergency service personnel in easily locating your home. Please allow 6 weeks for ordering, assembly, and installation. If you have any questions, please contact the Locke Station at 766-6476.

SIGN IT SO THEY SEE YOU!

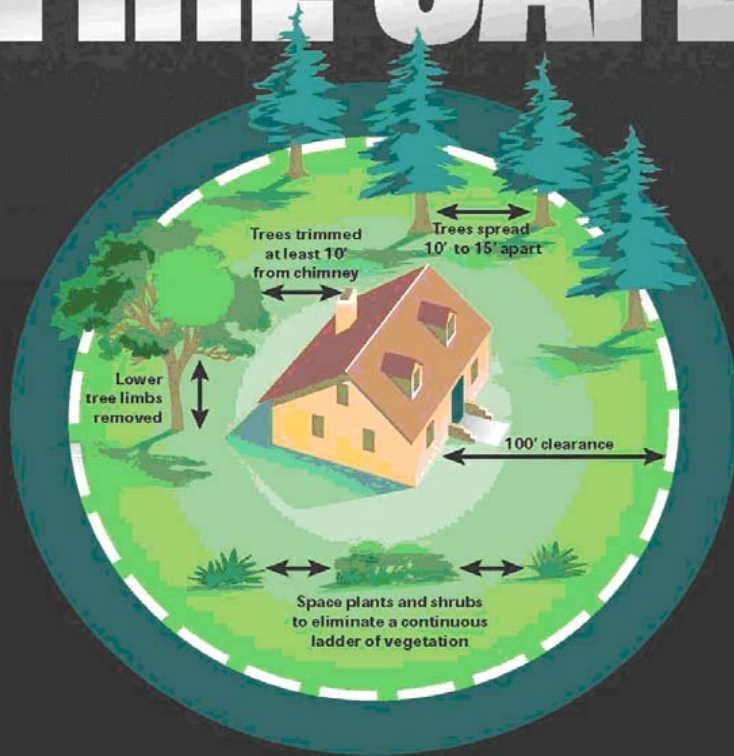
Send order form & payment to: **Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District**
Attn: Address Sign
544 NW Lewisburg Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97330

Name: _____
Street Name and Number: _____
Daytime Phone: _____
Evening Phone: _____
If you would like your E-mail included in the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District e-mail list please include your e-mail here: _____



RURAL ADDRESS SIGN ORDER FORM
I would like to order an address sign for my property, which is located within the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District. I have enclosed a check for \$15.00 made out to the: Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District.

Make Your Home FIRE SAFE



100' DEFENSIBLE SPACE

Contact the Corvallis Fire Department
(541-766-6961) for information

Why 100 feet?

Following these simple steps can dramatically increase the chance of your home surviving a wildfire!

A **DEFENSIBLE SPACE** of 100' around your home is required for adequate protection. The goal is to protect your home while providing a safe area for firefighters.

① "Lean, Clean and Green Zone"

-Clearing an area of 30 feet immediately surrounding your home is critical. This area requires the greatest reduction in flammable vegetation.

② "Reduced Fuel Zone"

-The fuel reduction zone in the remaining 70 feet (or to property line) will depend on the steepness of your property and the vegetation.

Spacing between plants improves the chance of stopping a wildfire before it destroys your home. You have two options in this area:

A-Create horizontal and vertical spacing between plants. The amount of space will depend on how steep the slope is and the size of the plants.

B- Large trees do not have to be cut and removed as long as all of the plants beneath them are removed. This eliminates a vertical "fire ladder"

When clearing vegetation, use care when operating equipment such as lawnmowers. One small spark may start a fire; a string trimmer is much safer.

Remove all build-up of needles and leaves from your roof and gutters. Keep tree limbs trimmed at least 10 feet from any chimneys and remove dead limbs that hang over your home or garage.

This article provided by CAL FIRE

Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District now has a Website

Thanks to a matching summertime grant by the Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO), some ground work, and construction by Interns Corey Thompson and David Weir, the Corvallis RFPD Website is up and running. Both interns, who are part of the firefighter's training program at Locke Fire Station, met with Website consultant Al Lake to map out its design before contributing photographs and content. With the initial Website constructed, the CRFPD Board hopes to bring more fire safety and budgetary information to the public in a timely manner. Logon at: www.corvallisrfpd.com

Thanks again to Corey and David!



Corvallis Fire Department



Our History

In 1922, a group of interested citizens began a fund raising campaign to purchase the area's first ambulance (a 1922 Dodge). Since that time, the Corvallis Fire Department Ambulance Service has continued to grow and change in an effort to provide the highest quality out of hospital care to the citizens we serve. The Corvallis Fire Department currently provides Advanced Life Support Ambulance coverage to over 765 square miles of Benton and Linn Counties, serving a population of over 78,000.

What is Corvallis FireMed?

In 1988 the Corvallis Fire Department initiated an ambulance membership program in an effort to assure the affordability and stability of ambulance transport services. For an annual membership fee of \$50.00, members are able to defray costs in excess of any medical or insurance benefits for medically necessary emergent and non-emergent ambulance transports. In addition, fees paid work to keep personnel trained and equipped to provide the highest level of care possible.

Why should I become a member?

Ambulance services have not been immune to the high costs of providing healthcare. As a result, fees associated with out of hospital care and transportation continues to increase. It is not uncommon for the cost of ambulance services to reach \$1500 and more. Unfortunately, many medical benefits seldom pay the full costs of an ambulance. The FireMed program takes the "bite" out of rate increases for those who are on fixed incomes or in high-risk user groups. As a member of FireMed, you pay nothing for emergent ambulance transport services and nothing for non-emergency ambulance transport when medically necessary and pre-authorized by a physician.

What's not covered?

The focus of the FireMed program is on assuring stable ambulance transport funding, and systems support. As a result, membership in the FireMed program will not defray costs associated with Medi-van, wheelchair coach, stretcher car, or any non-covered, or non-medically necessary conditions where ambulance transport is utilized.

What if I am out of town?

Corvallis FireMed has reciprocal agreements with other FireMed agencies throughout the state of Oregon. This, in turn, makes membership far more attractive to our mobile society. With over forty providers participating, the FireMed program is the largest ambulance membership program in the country.

For More Information please contact:

Corvallis Fire Department
400 NW Harrison Blvd
Corvallis, OR 97330
(541) 766-6952

Email: fire@ci.corvallis.or.us

Or visit us on the web at: www.ci.corvallis.or.us

