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Issue
2023

2023 Newsletter for your Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District



HOT Topics

current topics >>>

How to Enjoy 4th of July Celebrations.

Attend public fireworks displays, and leave the lighting to the professionals.

Fireworks are dangerous to people and pets. Using them puts your property at risk.

Fireworks have been used throughout generations for celebrations and special events. Here in the Great State of Oregon, 4th of July is “Independence Day” and is the busiest time of year for firework sales, displays, and unfortunately, uncontrolled fires!

Keep children away from sparklers.

Sparklers can reach temperatures over 2,000 degrees — hot enough to melt some metals!

“Safe” is relative to the person and the type of firework. ~ Let's not take chances!!

Creating Fire Safe Homes

Fire-resistant Plants for Home Landscapes

Selecting plants that may reduce your risk from wildfire

Protecting your family and home

In the Pacific Northwest, fires are a natural part of the changing landscape. As homeowners continue to build in the wildland-urban interface, they must take special precautions to protect their lives, homes, and property.

One way to do this is to create a defensible space around your home. This is the area between your home or other structures,

where potential fuel (materials or vegetation) have been modified, reduced, or cleared to create a barrier and slow the spread of wildfire toward your home. A defensible space also allows room for firefighters to fight the fire safely.

Three critical steps in creating a defensible space include using fire-resistant building materials (for example, roofing materials), reducing wildland fuels around the home, and using fire-resistant plant material in the landscape.

These actions DO NOT ensure that your home will survive a wildfire, but they substantially increase the chances.

Taking action

When landscaping around a home, most homeowners are interested in creating a landscape that is aesthetically pleasing, complements their home, and has variations in color, texture, flowers, and foliage. When selecting plants, you also should consider the flammability of plants



Figure 1.—A fuel break that includes fire-resistant plants can help protect your home by reducing and blocking intense heat.

(i.e., fuel), particularly if your home is located in or adjacent to a forest or rangeland.

Homeowners should take active steps to minimize or reduce the fuel and fire hazard around their homes, including the use of fire-resistant plants in the landscape. Equally important is proper plant placement, plant spacing, and ongoing plant maintenance. These practices, when combined, can create a fuel break and help protect your home by blocking intense heat (see Figure 1).

Flammable plant material in your landscape can increase the fire risk directly around your home. The 1991 Oakland Hills fire in California is a prime example of how flammable plant material (Eucalyptus trees) can act as fuel and contribute to the intensity of a wildfire. More than 3,000 homes were destroyed in that devastating wildfire.

What are fire-resistant plants?

Fire-resistant plants are those that do not readily ignite from a flame or other ignition sources. These plants can be damaged or even killed by fire; however, their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fuel and, therefore, the fire's intensity. There are several other significant factors that influence the fire characteristics of plants, including plant moisture content, age, total volume, dead material, and chemical content.

Fire-resistant does not mean fireproof

Plants that are fire-resistant have the following characteristics:

- Leaves are moist and supple.
- Plants have little dead wood and tend not to accumulate dry, dead material within the plant.
- Sap is water-like and does not have a strong odor.
- Sap or resin materials are low.

Most deciduous trees and shrubs are fire-resistant.

In contrast, plants that are **highly flammable** generally have several of these characteristics:

- Contain fine, dry, or dead material within the plant, such as twigs, needles, and leaves.
- Leaves, twigs, and stems contain volatile waxes, terpenes, or oils.
- Leaves are aromatic (strong odor when crushed).

- Sap is gummy, resinous, and has a strong odor.
- May have loose or papery bark.

Both native and ornamental plants can be highly flammable. An example of a highly flammable shrub often planted in home landscapes is spreading or upright juniper (see Figure 2). Avoid landscaping with highly flammable plants directly around your home.

Adapted from University of California Cooperative Extension Hortscript, 1996, No. 18.

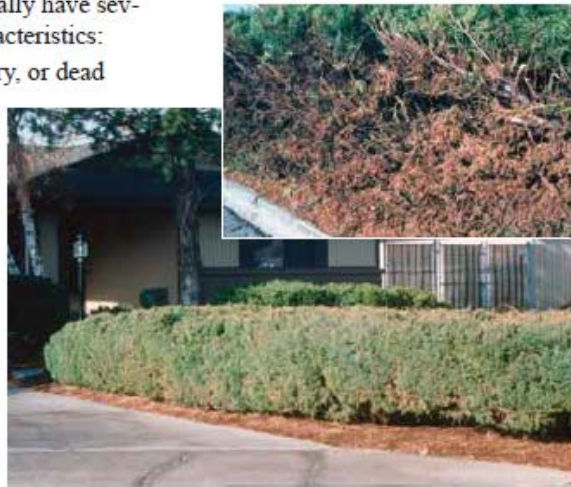



Figure 2.—Juniper is one example of a highly flammable plant, due to the accumulation of old, dead needles within the plant (see inset photo) and volatile oils in the foliage.

Fire-resistant does not mean fireproof!
Even fire-resistant plants will burn if not well maintained. Be sure to keep all of your landscape plants healthy with appropriate watering, proper pruning, etc.



Plant small, high moisture plants near your home's windows instead of large plants or bushes.

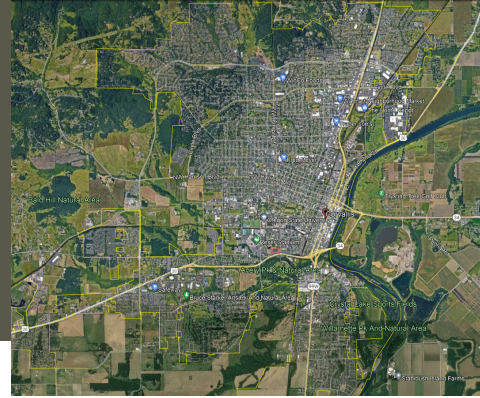
This will keep them from catching fire and spreading fire to your home.



Use nonflammable mulch, like stones, rocks or sand if you are placing it within 5 feet of your home.



Getting "Buy-in" From Your Neighbors



From the desk of your Fire Prevention Division

Following the 2020 Oregon Wildfires the term Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), and the catastrophic damage those fires caused have created significant awareness of the potential wildfire threat in many communities. Though we reside within the WUI, we are at lower risk of natural-caused wildfires such as those started by lightning. This does not mean that we are “risk-free”, or that human-caused fires or reckless behaviors cannot wildly kick off a spreading fire. Our district’s varying risk of wildfires is captured by the Oregon Department of Forestry Public Use Restrictions which are updated daily. We must go above and beyond our area’s natural resistance to wildfires, by bonding together and preventing fires originating from one’s personal property to possibly spreading onto other properties.

Your Fire Department has been diligently working to address concerns about fire danger by proposing changes to the Fire Code. In May 2023, the Corvallis City Council approved our proposed changes and updated the Fire Code. The Fire Code is now aligned with the Oregon State Fire Marshal and the Oregon Department of Forestry. The changes made to the Fire Code will help to ensure our community has the mechanisms needed to regulate and enforce fire hazards and fire threats. Enforcing the changes will minimize the possible spread of fires into our community, and into our timber and grasslands. We are keen on the desires of the rural district and have carefully balanced some changes without impinging on the rural community’s rights to dispose of their landscaping and agricultural debris.

We ask that you develop relationships with your neighbors, your neighborhoods, and neighborhood associations to tackle independent behaviors that put us all at risk. Neighbors can be your best ally when it comes to fire alerting, fire prevention, and life safety. Block meetings and neighborhood associations can assist those whom you may not know or have a chance to discover someone who may not be able to manage their property and could use a little help. Helping one another makes for better fire-safe neighbors.

Please contact your Fire Prevention Division for all of your fire code and technical needs. 541-766-6961 / FirePrev@CorvallisOregon.gov

Jonathon A. Jones
Fire Marshal

Creating Your Home Safety Plans



Emergency Planning Manager



Dave Busby
CFD Emergency Planning Manager



Benton-Corvallis Emergency Operations Center

I wanted to share the good news on what the City of Corvallis and Benton County are doing for our community members. We are proactively training our Emergency Operations Center – Incident Management Team (EOC IMT) staff! This is to better prepare for response to any man-made or natural disaster. Imagine that, County and City employees working together to coordinate support responder efforts, collect and share accurate information, and collaborate with our community partners. All to ensure that all community members' needs are supported on our collective worst days.

Both the County and the City leaders support this effort, providing over 80 combined staff to train on the process of disaster response. This is in addition to all the first responders on the scene. The EOC IMT staff get trained on the functions and processes required by the State Dept of Emergency Management and FEMA. We also exercise as a group every quarter to test if the training is understood. Many of our staff have taken additional FEMA Position Specific courses to prepare them for leadership roles within the EOC.

We include key community partners like 509J, OSU, GSRMC, Corvallis Clinic, HP, CPI to name a few, and responders from surrounding areas so all of us are on the same page. We have also conducted an active shooter response exercise with City and County responders and our partners, and wildfire response and coordination planning for the same reason. We are working hard to ensure we are as prepared as we can be to respond to any situation!

Wildfire Preparedness and Evacuation Webinar 25 July 6-8 pm

Benton and Corvallis Emergency Managers are hosting a community webinar to review wildfire preparation and home assessment guidance, and review the 2019, 2021, and 2022 Community Evacuation Exercises. The lessons from those exercises are valuable, and highlight topics that every community member should be aware of. This will help ensure you have accurate plans for your own evacuation. Community alerts are a key part of our ability to keep you all informed, we will brief you on the status of Oregon Alert, Linn Benton Alert, and Corvallis Alert. We will also be briefing a new software program called Zonehaven! This will be a great tool when we get it all built for both Corvallis and Benton County. Watch the CFD, or CRFPD websites for the invite to this meeting and plan to spend some time with us so we can all be as prepared as we possibly can.

Welcome New Board Members



Heidi Hagler- Board Member
Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District

My husband and I are California natives. Our daughter attended OSU and in her sophomore year we realized we'd fallen in love with Corvallis - even when she was studying abroad, we found ourselves looking for excuses to come back. It was a slow migration until the COVID lockdown when "work from home" for us meant home in Corvallis.

Following college at UC Berkeley and grad school at University of London I made my career working for an actuarial consulting firm specializing in long term financial projections in healthcare plans where collective bargaining agreements are involved. My husband is an engineer with a career in consumer electronics product development. Both of us are now retired.

As relative newcomers to the area, my husband and I provided an easement to the CRFPD for the construction of a 30,000 gallon water cistern on our property. This led to my interest in the workings of CRFPD and other ways in which I might help support the Board and Corvallis Fire Department. I began attending meetings on a regular basis and was appointed to the budget committee. As part of that role I developed a planning tool that illustrates potential long range financial outcomes based on different assumptions (such as increased/decreased tax income, expenses or interest rates) for the Board's use.

Outside of the CRFPD I'm interested in other safety-related issues like evacuation and public safety power shut offs. I was raised by a crime scene investigator and an emergency department nurse, so our dinner table conversations often centered on how multiple things can go wrong at the same time.

For fun I swim on the Masters team at Osborn and hike with friends. No longer active in martial arts, I'm still certified to teach the radKIDS children's safety program and RADsystems self-defense program for women.

The importance of cooperation, collaboration and engagement between the District, District constituents and myriad other stakeholders may never be more important than it is in this moment as we face the challenges of climate change. My goal as a new CFRPD Board member is to support planning and community engagement activities which will now and into the future enhance the safety of District constituents and their property.

Welcome New Board Members



**John "JT" Taylor - Board Member
Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District**

Hello, I'm John Taylor "JT" and happy to share some of my background as one of the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District's (CRFPD) new directors. I have a mechanical engineering degree, studied business, and have found broad problem solving came naturally for me by believing there are solutions to problems when creativity is coupled with tenacity. I believe suggestions and input from those close to the problem are high in value and should be listened to and incorporated where possible to achieve win-win outcomes.

I'm interested in finding solutions and improving the safety processes for the residents of Benton County while maintaining the rural lifestyle within the CRFPD. As a woodland tract landowner, I'm very aware of the import of things like slash and litter spring burning is, and the risks that come with such action. It is a race every year to best prepare one's property prior to fire season. It's a big job.

After taking an early retirement from HP Inc as a technical lead, I have been active in the Oak Creek Valley Safety Action Group (OCVSAG). A couple of things I'm proud of getting accomplished while in OCVSAG is ensuring Oregon's office of the State Fire Marshal and Oregon Department of Forestry agreed on, wrote and communicated to wildfire incident management teams a guideline to interact with Homeowner Insurance carriers' wildfire mitigation contractors. Having people knowledgeable of the insurer's contractor efforts and guidelines for interactions with the state will help make it safer for everyone during a wildfire emergency. OCVSAG also was able to convince Oregon's Division of Financial Services to have the insurance industry improve the wording of home insurance wildfire mitigation policy notices to be clearer and improved it more in favor of the homeowner policy holder.

This win-win team-oriented listening and leadership began for me as an Eagle Scout and Senior Patrol leader corralling teenagers. In my first career design engineering position with Emerson Electric, I learned ASME's safety rules and applied them to design as all designers did, but I would literally work with the production machinists, welders, and operators to learn how to make more efficient manufacturable designs which also could be easily maintained. This background served me well as I moved to Ford Motor Company and looked for a solution to a century-old, confined spaces safety problem. Utilizing my capabilities to work with code best practices such as ASME, I worked with the National Fire Protection Association code to understand how we could eliminate the hazards of confined spaces. I redesigned the factory elements, received approval from the UAW, Ford's insurer, the local fire department and Ford management. The outcome was an elimination of the hazardous confined space work areas entirely and all parties were happy. A true win-win, less expensive, safer for union workers, and much improved production uptime. I hope that through this tenure the residents within the rural fire district will attend the public CRFPD meetings, share their thoughts and participate to help us generate better solutions.

OREGON

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSESSMENT



OVERVIEW

Creating defensible space can help all Oregonians be prepared for wildfire.

Defensible space is the buffer you create between your business or home and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surrounds it. Proper defensible space can slow or stop the spread of wildfire and help protect your home or business. This checklist provides recommendations for getting started and includes actions you can take in the short term, such as over a weekend, and options to consider when upgrading your home or landscape.

Defensible space can offer protection from firebrands and embers that can travel several miles from the firefront. Studies show that well-maintained defensible space increases a structure's chance of surviving a wildfire, providing protection even if firefighters cannot reach it.

Following these recommendations can increase the likelihood of your home or business surviving a wildfire. For personal safety, it is important to follow all evacuation orders in the event of a wildfire.

If you have questions about this tool, would like assistance with completing your assessment, or want to learn more about defensible space, please contact your local fire agency or the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal at 503-934-0874 or OSFM.defensiblespace@osp.oregon.gov.

MORE INFORMATION

DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROGRAM

Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal
503-934-0874
osfm.defensiblespace@osp.oregon.gov

HOME HARDENING

(new construction or additions/alterations)
Building Codes Division
503-378-4133
bcd.info@dcbs.oregon.gov

INSURANCE

Division of Financial Regulation
503-947-7980
DFR.InsuranceHelp@oregon.gov

LOCAL BURN RESTRICTIONS

Contact your local fire agency

EVACUATION INFORMATION

Oregon Wildfire Response & Recovery
503-378-2911
oem_publicinfo@oem.oregon.gov

FIREWISE USA®

Scan the QR code to learn more.



FIRE-RESISTIVE PLANTS

Oregon State University's plant guide:



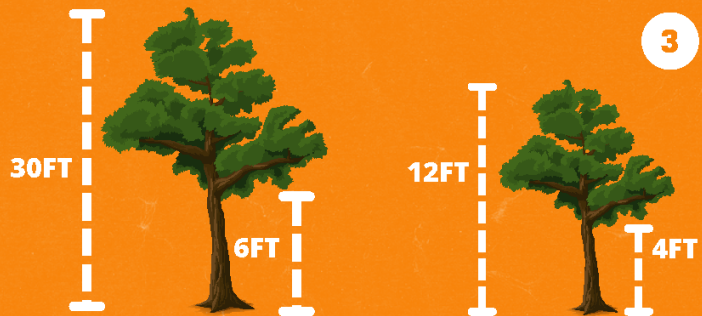
OREGON

DEFENSIBLE SPACE ASSESSMENT



- 1 Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from powerlines.
- 2 Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from buildings and chimneys.
- 3 For trees and vegetation more than 18 feet tall, remove branches six feet from the ground.
For trees and vegetation less than 18 feet tall, remove branches up to 1/3 the height of the tree.
- 4 Trees and vegetation should be 10 feet from other trees.

LIMBING TREES



Trees and vegetation more than 18 feet, remove limbs up to six feet.

Trees and vegetation less than 18 feet, remove limbs up to 1/3 height

POWER LINES



Removing or trimming trees near powerlines is dangerous. Only use an experienced, licensed contractor to perform this work.

CHECKLIST

DATE _____

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

NAME _____

PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

DEFINITIONS

DEFENSIBLE SPACE: Any area where combustible materials are treated, cleared, or modified to slow and reduce intensity of wildfire and allow space for fire suppression operations to occur.

FIRE-RESISTIVE PLANTS: Plants that can be used to reduce the likelihood of fire spread. See OSU's guide on page 1 for characteristics of fire-resistive plants.

LADDER FUEL: Low-hanging branches, leaves, needles, and other combustible plant matter that may allow wildfire to spread from low-growing plants to high-growing plants.

CONDITION:

DEFENSIBLE SPACE: *(Within 100 ft of structures OR to property line, whichever is closer)*

Recommendation
Provided

1) Flammable vegetation is removed from growing directly under the eaves. A minimum of five feet from the structure is recommended.

Recommendation(s): Cut back palm tree or fully remove. Cut vegetation on back side of home discussed during visit. Limb bush on side of the home to create a wider path and fire break.

Recommendation
Provided

2) Leaves, conifer needles, deadwood, bark mulch, and other debris removed from the surface of, around, and below decks and fences.

Recommendation(s): Clear debris off roof of all structures and out of screened gutters. Recommend screening eaves and area under deck with 1/8th inch metal screening to lessen chance of ember sparking a fire under deck and home.

Recommendation
Provided

3) Trees spaced and pruned following the example on page 2.

Recommendation(s): Limb fir trees up along driveway and others in the project area. 6ft from the ground, but no more than 1/3rd of the tree height. Space trees out 12-18ft.

CHECKLIST

DEFENSIBLE SPACE



Recommendation
Provided

4) Leaves, conifer needles, deadwood, bark mulch, and other debris removed from within 100 feet of the structure or to the property line.

Recommendation(s): Remove dead/dying vegetation and trees (Burn/chip/mulch). Clear understory brush and small oaks in areas discussed during site visit and defined in the provided map.

Meets Guidelines

5) Fire-resistive plants are spaced within the designated defensible space area. Grass is mowed to less than four inches.

Recommendation(s): N/A

Recommendation
Provided

6) Firewood piles and lumber at least 30 feet from any structure.

Recommendation(s): Move firewood piles from under deck and other structures to an indoor space where embers cannot reach the pile, or store outdoors away from any structure.

Meets Guidelines

7) Combustible vegetation 10 feet away from permanent propane tanks.

Recommendation(s): N/A

Meets Guidelines

8) Small BBQ tanks, not in use, are stored at least 30 feet away or in an outbuilding.

Recommendation(s): N/A

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS:

CHECKLIST

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS



- ◆ Roofs and gutters are clean from leaves, conifer needles, and other debris.
- ◆ Exterior attic vents, soffit vents, and areas below combustible decks are covered with 1/8" metal wire mesh.
- ◆ Siding and skirting are in good condition.
- ◆ Fence attachments have a non-combustible alternative such as a metal gate or fence, five feet away from the home.
- ◆ Debris is taken to a recycling center or chipped/composted. Local regulations are followed if burning yard debris.
- ◆ The driveway is accessible to first responders (e.g., clear of debris and obstructions; meets local height and width requirements; has clearly marked road signs, bridges, & culverts).
- ◆ The home has an address sign at the entrance to the property.

IF MAKING HOME CHANGES OR UPGRADES, CONSIDER:

- Roofing:** Install a fire-resistant or noncombustible roof made of materials such as asphalt, metal, clay tile, slate, or concrete products.
- Siding:** Install noncombustible or ignition-resistant siding such as brick, stone, fiber cement, plaster, or metal.
- Fencing:** Install a 5-foot fire-resistant buffer such as metal fencing or other non-flammable material when replacing fencing within five feet of a home or structure.

ASSESSMENT COMPLETED BY:

NAME

Oregon Department of Forestry

AGENCY

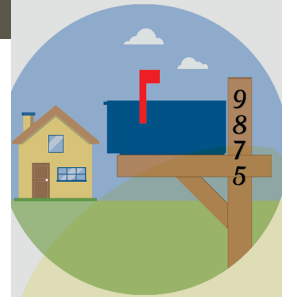
CONTACT INFORMATION:

Jacob.T.RUHL@odf.oregon.gov

(541) 929-9165

Letters from your Fire Department

Locke Station Fire Lieutenant



Make sure your house number can be seen from the road.

Clearly display your house number so emergency responders can quickly find you.



ORDER A SIGN TODAY

<https://www.corvallisrfd.com/rural-sign-program>

Lieutenant Gabe Gurule
Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District



It has been almost a year since I returned to Locke Station 6 after almost 16 years away. Though there have been many changes, I would like to focus on one of the constants that makes Station 6 special: the firefighters who serve as Rural Resident Volunteers and serve at the Lock Station. As a community, we ask much of these Volunteers. Most come into the program with little to no fire experience, and over the course of 24 months, each of them gains the knowledge, skills, and abilities to serve as EMTs, Firefighters, Wildland Firefighters, Apparatus Operators, and Crew Leaders. They commit to providing 168 duty hours a month, where they respond to all hazards in our community. This workload is accompanied by a full-time course load at either a Community College or University. I am continually impressed by the professionalism and dedication they bring to their positions as Rural Resident Volunteers. Their pursuit of excellence and dedication to something larger than themselves brings me hope for the future of the Fire Service, especially the Corvallis Fire Department. The success of our program depends on individuals who are looking to serve. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining the Corvallis Fire Department as a Rural Resident Volunteer, please see the Corvallis Fire Department website and submit an application. If you would like information on becoming a firefighter or about the Station 6 program, please reach out to me by emailing: Gabe.Gurule@corvallisoregon.gov.

An illustration of a hand holding a smartphone. The screen shows the number "911" and a numeric keypad. A green call button is visible at the bottom of the keypad.

When in doubt, call.

Don't wait to call 911 or your local emergency number for medical help. Seconds count.

The logo for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).The logo for the U.S. Fire Administration.The logo for the Oregon Department of Emergency Services.

Letters from your Fire Department

Your EMS Division Chief



To treat a burn:

1. Put it in cool water immediately for 3 to 5 minutes.
2. Cover with a clean, dry cloth.
3. Get medical help right away.



Mike Kissell
Division Chief - Emergency Medical Services

I would like to take this opportunity to not only introduce myself but to share some of the ways the EMS Division of Corvallis Fire Department is helping the community and members of the CRFPD. My name is Mike Kissell, and I was honored to have been selected and hired into the position of Division Chief of EMS in May of 2022. I come to Corvallis from nearby Polk County Fire District No.1 in Independence, OR where I spent 18.5 years working as a Firefighter/Paramedic, Captain/Paramedic, and interim EMS Chief Officer. Throughout my time, I have served in leadership both for administration as well as labor. I have experience working with student members (RRVs), community volunteer members (RV), as well as career members. I pride myself in my ability to foster positive working relationships with persons regardless of backgrounds, beliefs, and service levels.

Corvallis Fire Department EMS covers not only the City of Corvallis, a vast majority of Benton County, and includes part of Linn County east of the Willamette river for EMS response and transport of the sick and injured. Working collaboratively with CRFPD personnel, we provide a high level of emergency response to the sick and injured.

If you have any questions, concerns, praises, or comments regarding our EMS delivery or our personnel, I always welcome open and honest conversations. I look forward to serving the area for many years to come and have received nothing but warm welcomes from everyone I have met in the area. Thank You for your time in reading this.



STOP THE BLEED

Prepare now to stop life-threatening bleeding from injury. Put bleeding control kits next to the automated external defibrillator (AED).



Letters from your Fire Department

Your Fire Chief



Greetings,

In February I completed my first full year as the full-time Fire Chief for the City of Corvallis. I had served four months as the Interim Fire Chief prior to being appointed in February of 2022. As you can imagine, it has been a whirlwind of a year with a lot of transitions taking place here at the Corvallis Fire Department (CFD).

CFD has been experiencing a historically significant change over in staff at all levels of the organization over the last five years. We have been in a nearly constant and recurring recruitment cycle for employees at all levels of the organization. To that end, I am happy to report that on March 16, 2023, we were able to hire the largest recruit class in the history of the Corvallis Fire Department. That recruit class consisted of 11 firefighters/paramedics. Those firefighters are now embarking on a very challenging probationary period to see if they can meet the standard required of a Corvallis Firefighter.



Last year, the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District (CRFPD) and the City signed a new six-year contract for service. This will keep CFD providing Fire and Rescue services to all in the CRFPD through June of 2028. We at CFD are excited to continue our partnership with all of you in the CRFPD for the next six years.

An exciting development that took place at the end of 2022 was that the Corvallis City Council approved an increase in the Fire Service Fee. The increase in this fee will be paid by those residing in the City of Corvallis who pay city services fees. The increase in the fee will allow CFD, once fully staffed (Early 2024), to staff a third dedicated medic unit at Fire Station 1. Staffing the third dedicated medic unit will reduce the number of times Stations 2 and 3 are out of service and will leave them available for calls in the City and the CRFPD. The enhanced Fire Service Fee will increase daily coverage for emergency calls in our community, provide for better coverage in all areas in the city and CRFPD, as well as reduce the reliance on the either or staffing which is the practice of staffing either an engine or a medic unit based on the call type.

As you may recall from last year, the CRFPD Board has placed an order for two new Type 3 Wildland Engines. Unfortunately, due to delays in the chassis manufacturing process, we have not taken delivery of these units yet. It is our hope that they will arrive sometime in 2023. These two new engines will be replacing Type 3 Wildland Engines that are from the 1980s. We are anxiously awaiting their arrival.

Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District - 544 NW Lewisburg Avenue, Corvallis OR 97330.



Last year the CRFPD Board approved, funded, and installed a new 30,000-gallon water tank near Fawnee Drive in the Oak Creek area. The site is now up and running and crews from CFD and the Oregon Department of Forestry had training on it last Fire Season. This is a great piece of infrastructure for those living in the upper Oak Creek area.

CFD has been very active in pursuing grants and programs to assist in the response, wildfire fuel reduction, and apparatus. Last fire season, CFD was awarded a staffing grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) that allowed CFD to up-staff with additional firefighters during high fire danger days. This was a significant benefit, as these firefighters were not tied to a structure engine or medic unit as they would be during a normal shift. Instead, they were able to train and deploy exclusively in the wildland setting. If this grant is offered again this coming Fire Season, our intention is to re-apply for it.

Additionally, we have applied for a Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant that if awarded, would allow CFD funding to set up fuel collection points to encourage the removal of fuels around homes, and collect, transfer, and recycle them to mitigate the need for back yard burning and improve air quality; as well as provide funds to support Community Members who need help with fuels reduction landscaping, or addressing trees that place their homes at risk.

Finally, CFD applied for and was awarded an apparatus grant through the Oregon State Fire Marshal. Once delivered, this would place a new State Owned Type 6 Wildland Engine here in Corvallis. Having this vehicle will not only provide an additional engine for us to use but would allow CFD to send resources out to assist in large wildfire conflagrations without decreasing the service we provide here at home. Being awarded this piece of apparatus is very exciting and we are looking forward to taking delivery of it sometime in 2024.

Fire Station 3 on Circle Blvd has been closed since September while it undergoes a major remodel. This is the first major remodel of this station since it opened in 1977. This remodel will provide individual dorm rooms and shower facilities for firefighters, as well as adding an additional apparatus bay, workout room, decontamination room, and turnout storage facility at the station. We are excited to have this project underway and are hoping to be moved back in sometime during the late summer of 2023. In the meantime, three of the five crew members that staff an engine and backup medic unit are relocated to the vacant Fire Station 5 near Martin Luther King Park. This provides increased fire protection for the homes in the Northwest part of Corvallis and in the CRFPD on the West side of town including homes in the Oak Creek and Skyline West areas. The dedicated two-person medic unit at Station 3 has been reassigned to Fire Station 1 during the construction project.

It has been my pleasure of being a part of the Corvallis Community for nearly 47 years and to serve you in the fire service for the last 22 years. It is humbling beyond words to be the Fire Chief of such a great organization and to serve such an amazing community. CFD is working hard to improve our service and be there for you when you need us. If you're on social media, be sure to follow Corvallis Fire on Instagram and Facebook, as it is a great way to see what we are up to.

Regards,

Ben Janes
Fire Chief
Corvallis Fire Department