



YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #12  
WEST VALLEY FIRE-RESCUE  
10000 ZIER ROAD  
YAKIMA, WA 98908

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Yakima, WA  
Permit No. 1

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*  
Postal Customer

## How to protect your home from wildfire

The frequency and severity of wildfires is growing throughout the United States. Wildfire season traditionally spans from July to October, but climate change is expanding the season far outside its boundaries. According to CAL FIRE, the fire season across the West is beginning earlier and ending later each year. The growth of the wildland-urban interface (WUI) in the U.S. also plays an important role. According to the U.S. Forest Service, the WUI saw a 41% increase in homes and a 33% increase in land from 1990 to 2010. Making it the fastest growing land use type in the contiguous U.S. Data. Verisk's 2019 Wildfire Risk Analysis show that more than 4.5 million homes in the western U.S. are currently at



As climate change and the WUI growth trend continue, wildfires become an increasing problem for fire departments across the country.

high or extreme risk of wildfires. Local fire departments can work with homeowners and residents to ensure they follow these measures to protect their communities: 1. **CLEAR YOUR ROOF AND DECK:** Burning embers and small flames are the main reason that homes and other structures ignite during a wildfire, according to the NFPA. The use of Class A roofing material is recommended if you live in a wildfire-prone area. Perform regular roof inspections and maintenance. Embers can enter any rooftop opening, so make sure you repair or replace any broken, loose or missing shingles or tiles and caulk any cracks. 2. **KEEP EMBERS OUT OF YOUR EAVES AND VENTS:** Prevent embers from entering your home and burning it from the inside-out. Box-in open eaves, and screen and/or seal vents and other openings. If you have a pet door, make sure it has an effective seal and keep it closed during fire season. 3. **CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE AROUND YOUR HOME:** Your defensible space includes your home and everything within a 100-foot radius. Radiant heat can ignite your home from up to 100 feet away, a nearby

combustible material can serve as a conduit for flames to reach your home. Only safeguarding the 5 feet around your home leaves you at substantial risk if you live in a wildfire-prone area.

Today's firefighters, however, face the complicating factors of rapid and pervasive climate change and the expansion of communities into the WUI. Given that neither issue is likely to be mitigated in short order, the logical path forward is for fire departments and the communities they serve plan, prepare and collaborate to protect their homes and property from the risk of wildfires.



Our next Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for July 14th from 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm. We have 32 spots and they tend to fill up fast. If you would like to donate, please go to URL below and sign up today.

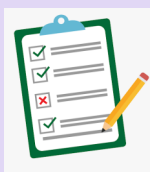
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=WestValleyFire>

## Online Survey

The Fire District is in the process of updating our Strategic Plan. As a Citizen of our District, you are a major stakeholder and your opinion regarding the future of our District matters. Our Strategic Plan provides guidance and direction to the District as it frames what we are, what we do, and how we will accomplish our Mission. As a Fire District, to meet our Mission and achieve our goals we must know where we are going, the environment we must operate within, and identify how we will get there.

This year we are updating the 2021-2025 and adding a new fifth year 2026. We have developed an online survey to gather the opinions of our constituents, please take a few minutes to provide input to our plan through this online survey.

The Strategic Planning survey is available on our web site [www.westvalleyfire.com](http://www.westvalleyfire.com) on the right side of the page under "Quick Links" the survey will be available on our site until May 31<sup>st</sup>.



## New Truck!!!



Through strategic planning, several years ago the District identified the need for an elevated master stream to increase our firefighting capabilities. The cost of a new apparatus outweighed the benefits and would not fit within our Capital Improvement Plan. So we have been keeping an eye out for just the right used apparatus. In February a 2000 Pierce 55-foot Skyboom with only 27,000 miles on it came up for sale in Northern California. The truck was in good condition, with a 1500 gmp pump, 500-gallon water tank and a generator in addition to the aerial with water pipe and nozzle. Truck 51 is housed at Station 51 on Zier Rd for District wide response and will be in service within the next month or two when we finish testing, training, and making a few upgrades to the Truck.

## Spring Flea Market

May 8th 2021

9am-5pm

10000 Zier Rd  
Grassy area beside WVFD Admin Bldg  
**LOTS OF VENDORS!!**  
Come enjoy some time  
strolling outside to find that  
perfect Mother's Day gift!!

