



West Valley Fire Department

Issue II- Summer 2021



"Protecting And Serving Our Community"



Join Us.....

Wednesday May 26th from 7pm-9pm

All four stations will be open to the public. Stop by and meet the men and women who proudly serve our Community.

*10000 Zier Road
9102 Ahtanum Road*

*14901 Tieton Drive
11 North Fork Road*

Ribbon cutting ceremony at 7pm at Station 51, 10000 Zier Rd to dedicate the new addition. Fun activities for adults and kids at each station. Applications will be available for anyone interested in joining the Department. Please wear masks while attending the Open House as well as socially distance.

We look forward to seeing you!

2020 WVFD Awards Banquet

March 27th we held our annual awards banquet to thank our on-call members for their continued dedication and support of the District. Special recognition goes to the following members:

2020 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Jacob Hanses was selected as the Firefighter of the year. He was nominated for his willingness to assist with "hands on" training. Jacob has taken great strides in his level of training since he joined us in June of 2017. He has continued to develop himself outside of our Department by taking additional classes. He is very engaged with the recruits, very professional in his viewpoint on performance. Congratulations, Jacob Hanses!!



2020 EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

Amber Tupy was selected as the EMS Provider of the Year. She has been a very responsive member of the team with her call and drill percentages even while attending an academic schedule, and in general by being an excellent leader at the station. With the fact that a majority of our calls are medical related, it is always comforting to know that we have several of our Members that work full time in the medical field. Congratulations, Amber Tupy!!



Service Pins

We would like to recognize & thank the following members for their continued dedication to our Department and Community: **5 Years:** Justin Nickolaus, Natalie Rivera, Kasey Robbins, Shain Scribner, Aaron Sutton, Amber Tupy, Chris Willette, Jason Wood, Paul Barham, Jim Borst **10 Years:** Cameron Haubrich and Chris Lyons **15 Years:** Miranda Wellner **20 Years:** David James & Jim Mickelson **25 Years:** Christy Boisselle

Retiree

Ross Long was recognized for his 22 years of service with our Department. He received a plaque in recognition of his service. Thank you for your many years to the Department. Enjoy your retirement!



NEIGHBORS helping NEIGHBORS

Yakima County Fire District 12 is currently accepting applications for the positions of Paid-On-Call Firefighters and Non-Combat Support Services. Applications are due by May 31st. If you are a self motivated individual that is looking for a way to serve your Community in a fast paced, hands-on environment we encourage you to apply! The position of firefighter requires physical endurance. Firefighters respond to all types of incidents including structure and wildland fires, hazmat, all-risk incidents and emergency medical situations. If the physical aspect of firefighting does not appeal to you but you would still like to serve your Community, our Support Services team is also looking for members. Support Services, also known as "Rehab", primary function is to take care of our own members on extended incidents. This includes monitoring vitals, keeping members hydrated, as well as many other aspects of firefighter health and safety. If you are interested in either of these roles, please turn your application in, before 5PM on May 31st. Applications can be found online at www.westvalleyfire.com, or picked up/dropped off at our Administration office, located at 10000 Zier Rd, Yakima, WA 98908.

Calendar

May

- 8th Spring Flea Market 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
- 11th Commissioner Meeting 7 PM
- 25th Commissioner Meeting 4 PM
- 31st Memorial Day-Office Closed

June

- 8th Commissioner Meeting 7 PM
- 22nd Commissioner Meeting 4 PM

July

- 5th July 4th-Office Closed
- 13th Commissioner Meeting 7 PM

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

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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 on the right side of the page under "Quick Links" the survey will be available on our site until May 31st.



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!!