



# West Valley Fire Department

*"Protecting And Serving Our Community"*

**FIRE - RESCUE**

**Issue IV 2021**

## NEIGHBORS *helping* NEIGHBORS

Have you ever wanted to be a Firefighter? If the answer is yes, and you have the desire and drive to serve others in their time of need – we are interested in meeting you! There is no greater feeling than walking away from an incident where you helped another person. Currently the West Valley Fire Department is recruiting more members to support our Mission in providing services to our 14,000 plus residents that reside within our 90 square mile Fire District. If firefighting isn't for you, we also have the need for members in our Support Services division. What is Support Services? It's a dedicated team of members that provide rehabilitation to our firefighters on longer lasting incidents. This group provides shelter, nourishment, rest, measures vitals, and fills air bottles – this group is a very valuable asset to our Department. A little about us: The West Valley Fire Department is a combination fire department. Meaning we are made up of eight fulltime members (four firefighters, a Chief, a Finance Officer, a Secretary, and a Deputy Chief) which support our on-Call members who respond to our four strategically located stations within the District boundaries. Our hiring process is open now with applications due no later than November 30<sup>th</sup> with an Orientation on February 1<sup>st</sup> of 2022. **For more information please contact us at 509-966-3111.**



## COVID-19

A hot topic in the news lately has been the Governor's COVID-19 vaccination mandate for health care providers. There are many concerns regarding a loss of service due to the mandate. West Valley Fire Department does not expect any reduction in service to our citizens, 69% of our operational personnel have been vaccinated or received an exemption. While we are hoping this number increases as the deadline approaches, rest assured, we have contingency plans in place to ensure we can continue response to medical emergencies. Because, the mandate only applies to medical care, our fire response capabilities are unaffected.



**Unfortunately, due to the lack of ghost and goblins the Haunted Firehouse has been canceled for this year. Look for us in 2022!!**

### Thank YOU!



We cannot thank our West Valley Community enough for the generous donations over the past few months. We are forever grateful for our communities continued support!!

## Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives

On November 7<sup>th</sup> daylight savings ends and we "fall back" an hour. This is a great time to check your smoke detectors. Batteries should be changed annually and tested monthly. Dust your detector to keep the sensors clean. If your detector is 10 years or older, it's time for a new one. Detectors are now available with a non-replaceable 10-year battery! And while you're at it, check your Carbon Monoxide detector it needs maintenance too (follow the manufactures suggestions)! More information can be found at: [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)



*Working*  
**SMOKE ALARMS**  
**SAVE LIVES**  
*Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery*

## Homespun Crafters Bazaar

*Sponsored by West Valley Firefighters Association*

**October 30, 2021 9a-3p**

**10000 Zier Rd**

**Over 35 vendors with handmade items!!**



## DRIVE-THRU BAKED POTATO FEED

- DATE:** Friday—October 22, 2021
- TIME:** 5:00-8:00pm
- COST:** \$6.00 per Potato
- LOCATION:** West Valley Fire Department  
10000 Zier Road  
Yakima, WA 98908
- INCLUDES:** Baked Potato with all the Fixing's, Chili, Cornbread and a Drink



**Pre-Sale tickets are available from any Association member, or stop by the Fire Station on Zier Road.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!**

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

## CHANGE YOUR CLOCK CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

### Improve Your Kitchen and Food Safety

Spending time in your kitchen should be enjoyable. But it could be a hazard to your health and your family's. More than 40% of home fires start in the kitchen. Following a few safety guidelines, however, can keep your kitchen and food safe.

#### Cook with Care and Attention

Take 5 simple steps to improve kitchen safety:

- Never leave cooking food unattended. Stay in the kitchen if you are frying, sautéing, or broiling foods. Check regularly on boiling foods on the cooktop or foods baking in the oven. Do not leave the house while food is cooking.
- Turn pot handles in to prevent pots being knocked over.
- Use heat-resistant potholders and oven mitts to handle pots and pans.
- Avoid distraction while cooking. Do not talk on the phone or watch television.
- Do not hold a child while stirring a pot or checking the oven.



#### Prevent Kitchen Fires

- Do not wear clothing with loose, floppy sleeves or anything that dangles while preparing food. Tie long hair back.
- Turn off burners on the stove before removing pots.
- When frying or cooking with oil or fats do not leave the stove.
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy in the kitchen. It should be rated for kitchen or grease fires.
- Do not overload electrical outlets or use extension cords.
- Put out small fires by sliding a lid over the top of pot. You may also smother the fire with baking soda or salt.
- If you use a fire extinguisher, direct the stream at the base of the fire, not the flames. If the fire is larger, get yourself and the family out of the house and call 9-1-1.

### 6 Tips to Avoid Home Heating Fires

December, January, and February are the leading months for home heating fires. Overall, heating equipment is the second leading cause of U.S. home fires and home fire deaths. There are between 350,000 and 400,000 house fires in the United States every year that result in almost \$8 billion in annual damages, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

**Here are 6 tips to keep you and your family safe from home heating fires this winter:**

**Inspect Your Furnace:** Contact an HVAC professional to inspect your furnace and clean all the ducts. Remember to change your furnace filter each month during the winter and to remove all flammable material from the area around your furnace.

**Clean your Chimney:** If you use your chimney a half-dozen times or more each year, it is a good idea to have it cleaned of soot and creosote every year. If you don't want to hire a chimney sweep, consider a Creosote Sweeping Log, which can be bought at any home improvement store.

**Check your chimney for structural damage:** Make sure your chimney doesn't have any cracks. If your chimney does have air leaks, it can change the flame in the fireplace and possibly ignite and cause a fire outside the fireplace.

**Be careful with space heaters:** According to the U.S. Fire Administration, space heaters are involved in 74 percent of fire-related deaths. The best way to prevent a home fire caused by a space heater is to purchase one with an emergency cut-off so that it will automatically shut off if tipped over or accidentally knocked down. Otherwise, if it falls on the carpeting and doesn't turn off, it could easily ignite a fire.

**Check your water heater:** As your water heater gets older, the thermostat and the heating element inside will start to deteriorate and the flame will become inconsistent. This could cause a flash fire, particularly if the water heater is in the garage where it is susceptible to wind or changes in air supply that could be caused by someone opening or closing a door.

**Don't forget about the laundry room:** Most homeowners don't realize the laundry room can be a source of home fires due to the duct that connects to the back of the dryer and collects flammable lint. Homeowners should have their duct cleaned at least once a year. Your dryer doesn't capture 100 percent of your lint and some of it ends up in the ducts, and that material is very flammable. If you have enough dryer lint built up in the duct you can have a fire.

# Calendar

## October

22nd Drive-Thru Potato Feed	5:00-8:00 PM
25th Red Cross Blood Drive	1:00-6:00 PM
26th Commissioner's Meeting	4:00 PM
30th Craft Bazaar	9:00 AM-3:00 PM

## November

7th Daylight Savings Time Ends	
9th Commissioner's Meeting	7:00 PM
11th Veteran's Day—Office Closed	
23rd Commissioner's Meeting	4:00 PM
25th Thanksgiving—Office Closed	

## December

14th Commissioner's Meeting	7:00 PM
24th Christmas Observed—Office Closed	
31st New Years Day Observed—Office Closed	

## Shake the Winter Blahs

Some people become extra tired and moody this time of the year. When dark, cold winter days keep you indoors, less sunlight can disrupt your circadian rhythm (internal clock). In some people, the condition may produce seasonal affective disorder (SAD), a form of depression.

#### **How to drive away the winter blues:**

- To boost mood experts recommend at least 20 minutes a day of sunlight or daylight; sit near a window when possible. For SAD, light therapy may be helpful.
- Exercise. Take indoor classes, work out at home with videos, or put on winter gear and walk.
- Go to bed and wake up at the same time daily to normalize your circadian rhythm.