



# WEST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE - RESCUE

Issue III - 2022



## Yakima County EMS LEVY

*A proposal to continue the countywide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy will be on the November 2022 general election ballot.*

***Yakima County voters first approved the EMS Levy in 1991 at 25-cents/\$1,000 of assessed property value.***

*The Levy was renewed in 1995, 2001, & 2012.*

### FACTS:

The purpose is to renew the current EMS Levy at a rate of 25-cents/\$1,000.

Renewing the EMS Levy will ensure the continued level of emergency medical and trauma care by local fire departments throughout Yakima County, including WVFD.

The law requires that EMS Levy funds can only be used for emergency medical care, medical training, and supplies to provide EMS and rescue operations.

Fire departments throughout Yakima County respond to nearly 20,000 medical emergencies annually.

The EMS Levy provides annual EMS training to our firefighters.

The total costs to certify our firefighters as Emergency Medical Technicians is paid using EMS Levy funds.

EMS Levy funds also support the Yakima County Department of EMS, which provides training, continuing medical education, EMS certifications, quality assurance, and EMS system analyses throughout the County.

**WVFFA**  
**Potato Feed**  
 Friday, October 7th  
 5:00pm-8:00pm  
 10000 Zier Rd



Please join us for our annual fundraiser and help support the WVFFA. Price is \$10.00, and includes potato with all the fixings and a drink. Desserts will be available for \$1.00. To pre-purchase tickets, scan the QR code above or go to:  
<https://ticketscandy.com/e/359/embed>

### Community Block Watch Meeting

The YVCOG is wanting to hear from the Yakima Valley to see what you feel is a priority and/or concern regarding safety in your community. Your thoughts are important to us, please take a moment to fill out the survey at [www.yvcog.org](http://www.yvcog.org) or scan the QR code below, and join us for the West Valley Area Block Watch Meeting:

Thursday, August 18th  
6:30pm-7:30pm  
WVFD Training Center  
10000 Zier Rd

The Yakima County Sheriff's Office will also be available to answer any law enforcement questions you have.



Yakima Valley  
 Community Safety &  
 Crime Prevention

**WHAT'S YOUR #1 CONCERN?**



Take the survey NOW!  
 Survey is also available at [www.yvcog.org](http://www.yvcog.org)



**American Red Cross** | **Blood Services**

Our next Red Cross blood drive is coming up! If you would like to donate please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: WestValleyFire to schedule an appointment.

Monday, September 12th  
 12:00pm to 5:00pm  
 WVFD Training Center  
 10000 Zier Rd

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

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*"Protecting And Serving Our Community"*

# Fire District 12 Wildfire Danger: **HIGH**

Summer has taken a little longer to get here this year however, in mid-July we are at **HIGH** Fire Danger level in the District. With the upcoming weather pattern, we are expecting to approach **VERY HIGH** Fire Danger levels in the District by mid-August, and possibly even reach **EXTREME** Fire Danger. Below is what each level means:

- HIGH** — Wildfires are likely. Fires in heavy, continuous fuel, such as mature grassland, weed fields, and forest litter, will be difficult to control under windy conditions. Control through direct attack may be difficult, but possible, and mop up will be required. Outdoor burning should be restricted to early morning and late evening hours.
- VERY HIGH** — Fires start easily from all causes and may spread faster than suppression resources can travel. Flame lengths will be long with high intensity, making control very difficult. Both suppression and mop up will require an extended and very thorough effort. Outdoor burning is not recommended.
- EXTREME** — Fires will start and spread rapidly. Every fire start has the potential to become large. Expect extreme, erratic fire behavior. **NO OUTDOOR BURNING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN AREAS WITH EXTREME FIRE DANGER.**

As relative humidity in the air continues to decrease, fuel moisture will also decrease, making vegetation more susceptible to catching fire from just a spark. It is highly recommended outdoor burning be put on hold until later in the fall when temperatures decrease and relative humidity increases, however, if you must burn during the summer, keep your pile small, start your fire early in the morning, have water on hand ready to go and monitor your fire until it is cold to the touch. If winds put your fire out, or if you have burned within the past 24 hours, check your ashes to ensure it is cold to the touch, use water to stir the pile.

As a reminder, unless a burn ban is in place it is not uncommon to see smoke columns throughout our District, especially on weekends, from people conducting outdoor burns. **Please help reduce false alarms by verifying what is burning before calling 911, as not all smoke columns are emergencies.** Do not leave fires unattended, have water readily available, and be aware of wind conditions. Be respectful of your neighbors. The quickest way to resolve an issue is face to face conversation.

|   |                           |                                 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Calendar of Events</b>   | <b>August</b>             |                                 |
|   | 9                         | Commissioner Meeting 5pm*       |
|   | 18                        | WV Area Block Watch 6:30pm      |
|   | 24                        | West Valley First Day of School |
|   | <b>September</b>          |                                 |
|   | 5                         | Labor Day (Office Closed)       |
|   | 12                        | Red Cross Blood Drive 12pm      |
|   | 13                        | Commissioner Meeting 6pm*       |
|   | 27                        | Commissioner Meeting 4pm*       |
|   | <b>October</b>            |                                 |
|   | 7                         | WVFFA Potato Feed 5pm           |
|   | 11                        | Commissioner Meeting 6pm*       |
| 24  | Commissioner Meeting 4pm* |                                 |
| *All Commissioner Meetings are held at 10000 Zier Road, Yakima, WA. Those wishing to attend via phone, please call 509-966-3111 to make arrangements ahead of time. |                           |                                 |

## Summer Safety for Every Body

**We all need some sun to produce vitamin D**, which helps our bodies absorb calcium for healthier bones. But excess exposure to the sun's ultraviolet radiation can damage your skin and immune system and cause cataracts. At the current rate, about 9,500 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with skin cancer every day.

**Basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma are the most common types of skin cancer.** Both tend to be relatively low-risk cancers when treated promptly. Melanoma is a much more dangerous kind of skin cancer. Watch for skin changes and see your health care provider if you notice unusual skin blotches, including a wavy bump, white or red, thick, scaly patch, a new or unusual bump or any spots changing, growing or bleeding.

### At the height of outdoor summer activities, practice sun safety six ways:

1. Avoid getting a tan outdoors. It injures your skin, and it won't protect you from sunburn.
2. Slather on the sunscreen, even if you are sitting in the shade. Use one ounce of **broad-spectrum, water resistant** sunscreen with a sun protective factor (SPF) of at least **30** to all exposed skin, and reapply every **two** hours, especially after swimming or sweating.
3. Use sunscreen on cloudy days, too, as 80% of the sun's UV rays can penetrate clouds.
4. Don't use tanning beds and sunlamps, which expose you to high levels of UV radiation.
5. Wear sunglasses and hats with wide brims to shade your face, head, ears and neck.
6. Avoid sun exposure when it's hottest, especially between 10am and 4pm

Learn to relax and **enjoy the shade** – one of the best ways to limit UV exposure.