



# WEST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE - RESCUE

ISSUE VI - 2023

Did you know that cooking fires are the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries?  
Cooking safety starts with YOU.

**NFPA FIRE PREVENTION WEEK** Pay attention to fire prevention.

Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in the United States. During Fire Prevention Week, children, adults and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. Firefighters provide lifesaving public education in an effort to drastically decrease casualties caused by fires.

In a fire, mere seconds can mean the difference between a safe escape and a tragedy. Fire Safety education is not just for children. Teenagers, adults and the elderly are also at risk in fires, making it important for every member of the community to take some time every October during Fire Prevention Week to make sure they understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.

This year's Fire Prevention Week theme is, "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to prevention". This works to educate the community about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking.

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. Nationally, cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. Last year in Washington State, cooking was eighth among causes of ignition for all fire incidents with a total of 2,121 and total dollar loss of over 10 million. For more information regarding Fire Prevention Week and cooking safety tips visit [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

**RECRUITING PAID-ON-CALL MEMBERS**

Did you know the West Valley Fire Department is comprised largely of Paid-on-Call Members? Our current members come from all walks of life: students, trades people, medical people, professionals, retired people, we are a very diverse group of individuals operating on a "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" principal. We are actively recruiting in the West Valley area those that would like to give back to their community, one area in particular is the Tampico Community. The Tampico area is a community where Neighbors Helping Neighbors really is an understatement, help from other West Valley stations and private Ambulance companies are a minimum of 20 minutes away. By having sufficient trained personnel operating out of our Tampico Fire station we can drastically improve those response times. If 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 have helped another human in their worst possible time. 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 in our 90 square mile Fire District.

If firefighting isn't for you, we also have 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 – and is a very valuable asset to our Department.

A little about us: The West Valley Fire Department is a Combination type fire department, what does that mean? Our Department consist of seven fulltime members (a Chief, a Finance Officer, a Deputy Chief, and four Firefighters) and one parttime Administrative Assistant, which support our 80+ Paid-on-Call members who respond out of our four strategically located stations within the district boundaries. The following link is a YouTube video that we created showcasing our dedicated team of members during some training evolutions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOtv8aZGC3Q>

## Apply Today!

Applications for membership are due no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>. Recruit physical ability testing and interviews will take place on December 16<sup>th</sup> with an Orientation scheduled on February 1<sup>st</sup> of 2024. For more information please contact us at 509-966-3111.

**WEST VALLEY YCFD**  
FIRE - RESCUE  
[www.westvalleyfire.com](http://www.westvalleyfire.com)

*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

Monday—November 6, 2023

1:00pm-6:00pm



**American Red Cross**

*Give blood. Help save lives.*



To make an appointment log on to:  
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

**NOVEMBER 7TH**  
**YOUR VOTE COUNTS!**

**Homespun Crafters Bazaar**  
Sponsored by the WV Firefighters Association

10000 Zier Rd.  
11/11/23 9am-3pm

Bring your bags, family, and friends!  
Sweets, Soap, Stuffed animals, and SO much more!

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

*"Protecting And Serving Our Community"*

The high price of fuel, goods and services is hitting us all, your fire department is not immune from inflation, every aspect of our budget has been affected by inflation over the past few years. While home values have gone up, increasing the property taxes you pay, your fire department is still limited to no more than a 1% budget increase annually. Doing more with less is a common theme in the fire service and we are no exception. We take the use of your tax dollars seriously and ensure we are spending your money on things that improve safety in West Valley and most of all assist us in meeting our Mission of protecting life and property.

In 2015 our tax rate per \$1000 of assessed value was \$1.50, over the past nine years this rate has dropped to \$1.03 in 2023. During this period, we have been able to complete some major capital projects using our general levy dollars without raising taxes:

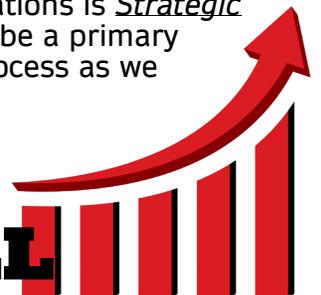
Addition at Station 52 – Addition at Station 51 – New Engine 52 – New Engine 51 – New Rescue 52 – Re-Chassis Rescue 54 – 2 New Command Vehicles – Upgraded on-scene air support – Replaced all nozzles – Replaced all hose – Replaced all mobile and portable radios – Replaced all Thermal Imagers – 88 new sets of turnouts.

For sustainability adjustments are made annually to our Capital Improvement Plan. Our most recent adjustments due to inflation stretched apparatus and equipment replacement as far as we feel is possible to ensure we can meet our Mission of protecting life and property safely.

Our 2024 budget projects our tax rate at .90/\$1000 of assessed value. Capital improvements total \$317k in 2024 of which \$215k will be funded from our \$350k in savings to balance the budget. As you have seen in the news recently several fire districts in Yakima County have gone to their voters for levy lid lifts or bond measures. Currently we are reviewing our Capital Improvement Plan against our expected revenues to determine how best to fund capital projects in the future without compromising public safety. Inflation has been from 5-10% over the past few years but our budget by law can only increase 1% annually, affecting all aspects of our budget to the point apparatus and equipment needs will require additional funding soon. Sustainable funding for Capital Improvements and Operations is Strategic Priority 2: Financial Management and Accountability in our Strategic Plan and will be a primary focus as we start 2024. We will keep our constituents informed throughout the process as we determine the most cost effective way to close budget shortfalls.

To view our Capital Improvement Plan, Strategic Plan and Business Plan visit our website [www.westvalleyfire.com](http://www.westvalleyfire.com) under Quick Links on the right side.

**INFLATION AFFECTS US ALL**



## FALL PREVENTION: Simple tips to prevent falls.....

Fall prevention is an important topic to consider as you get older. Physical changes, health conditions, and sometimes the medications used to treat those conditions make falls more likely as you age. In fact, falls are a leading cause of injury among older adults. Still, fear of falling doesn't need to rule your life. Instead, consider these six simple fall prevention strategies:

1. **Make an appointment with your health care provider to assess your risk.**
2. **Keep moving, physical activity can go a long way towards fall prevention.**
3. **Wear sensible shoes, properly fitting, sturdy, flat shoes with nonskid soles.**
4. **Remove home hazards**

Look around your home for potential fall hazards. To make your home safer:

- Remove boxes, newspapers, electrical cords and phone cords from walkways.
  - Move coffee tables, magazine racks and plant stands from high-traffic areas.
  - Secure loose rugs with double-faced tape or a slip-resistant backing — or remove.
  - Repair loose, wooden floorboards and carpeting right away.
  - Store clothing, dishes, food and other necessities within easy reach.
  - Immediately clean spilled liquids, grease or food.
  - Use nonslip mats in your bathtub or shower, consider using a bath seat for showering.
5. **Light up your living space. Keep your home brightly lit to avoid hazards that are hard to see.**
  6. **Use assistive devices such as canes and walkers to keep you steady. Handrails, nonslip treads, raised toilet seats and grab bars are all inexpensive additions.**

### **GRAB BARS**

If you live in the West Valley Fire District and are in need of a bath / shower grab bar, please contact us at 509-966-3111 and we will give you the bar compliments of West Valley Fire and can help you with install if needed. Limited supply available.