



WEST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE - RESCUE

ISSUE II - 2024

★ 2023 AWARDS ★

We would like to recognize & thank the following members for their continued dedication to our Department and Community:

2023 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Justin Nickolaus

2023 EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

Leah Taylor

2023 BULL DOG AWARD

Chris Blanchard

5 YEAR

*Andrea Ely
Josie Gohl
Kiann Jaeger
Chris Payne*

*Shauna Tupy
Justine Vetsch
Ben Whitehurst*

10 YEAR

Michael Rhine

15 YEAR

Mat Weiler

20 YEAR

*Mike Gohl
Jim Johnston*

*Josh Wellner
Scott Wellner*

30 YEAR

Chris Pedersen

Ray Thomas

EMT PINS

*Devin Duthie
Ben Hartmann*

*Tatum Jarvis
Isaac Shaw*

2023 RETIREMENT

Jim Mickelson

Ray Thomas

2023 CPR SAVE

*Jackson Abrams
Kyle Bell
Jack Cobb
Jaden Davie
Conor Gohl
Randy Gohl
David James*

*Justin Nickolaus
Chris Pedersen
Dylan Shuler
Edward Smith
Brittany Weiler
Mat Weiler
Kyle Weishaar*

OPEN BURN SEASON

Outdoor burn season runs from March 15-October 15. Burn permits are **REQUIRED** by Clean Air (who regulates burning) for the season and can be purchased at Stein's Ace Hardware or the Clean Air Agency. If you see smoke in the distance, but can't determine what is on fire, odds are it is an outdoor burn, please verify before calling 911. If you plan on doing any outdoor burning, please give us a courtesy call to help prevent false alarms.

NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

- *WV Fire Dept. 509-966-3111 (non-emergency)
- *Stein's Ace Hardware 509-965-2622 (burn permits)
- *Clean Air Agency 509-834-2050 (burn status/complaints)

You can also log onto their website for daily burn conditions and more burn information.

www.Yakimacleanair.org

Spring

FLEA MARKET

Sponsored by the WVFD Association

9am-3pm June 1st 10000 Zier Rd.

Lunch available from 11am-2pm!

70+ vendors! Variety of new, used, antiques, and crafts!

Bring your bags, friends, and family!

Yakima County Fire District 12 is asking voters to consider a 25-cent fire levy lid lift in the August primary election to maintain and enhance service levels.

HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

We are funded through two separate property tax levies for fire and emergency medical service (EMS).

WHAT IS ON THE BALLOT?

We are asking voters to consider increasing our fire levy 25-cents from \$0.89 to \$1.14 on the August 6, 2024, primary election ballot. This will help us keep up with Capital Improvements despite inflation.

WHY ARE WE ASKING FOR THIS?

Inflation has diminished our ability to fund capital projects. 2021-2023 inflation averaged 5.7% annually. By law our budget can only increase 1% without a vote for a levy lid lift leaving revenue short of expenses.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE TO COMBAT INFLATION?

- Adjusted our Capital Improvement Plan to stretch apparatus and equipment dollars without compromising safety and service as far as we safely can.
- Applied for all grants we are eligible for, to supplement our budget.
- Not backfilled administrative staffing, the last time we were fully staffed was August 2015.
- Sold land to Nob Hill Water and leased land for a cell tower.

WHAT WILL THE LID LIFT FUND?

- Ensuring our Firefighters have safe, reliable equipment and apparatus.
- Ensuring fire stations are maintained and functional.
- Enhance firefighter training and abilities to keep up with industry standards and new hazards.
- Maintain Capital Improvement Plan without affecting staffing levels.

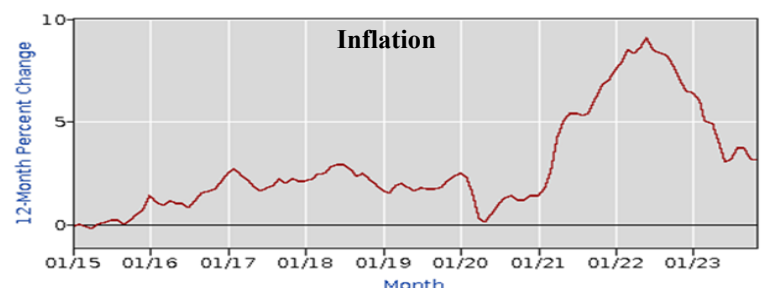
WHAT WILL THIS COST? The owner of a \$400,000 home (considered average) would pay an additional \$100 per year or \$8.33 per month.



When inflation averages 1.5% the 1% lid limit can keep up through high and low years, however, when inflation averages 5.7% over a three-year period the 1% lid limit cannot sustain fire department operations which is why we are requesting a voter approved lid lift.

Historical Fire District 12 Levy Rates per \$1000 Assessed Value

2015- \$1.50	2016- \$1.49	2017- \$1.47
2018- \$1.43	2019- \$1.36	2020- \$1.27
2021- \$1.19	2022- \$1.11	2023- \$1.03
2024- \$0.89		



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"

Is Your Home Ready For Wildfire?

JOIN WILDFIRE READY NEIGHBORS: Reducing wildfire risk starts with our community. That's why we've partnered with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to help every homeowner take action to get wildfire ready.

Every neighbor who signs up will receive a FREE step-by-step Wildfire Ready Plan. West Valley Firefighters will come to your property, evaluate it for wildfire risk, and provide you with a plan of steps you can take to reduce the risk of your home being lost by a wildfire. Call us direct 509-966-3111 and ask for a wildfire property inspection or visit our website and click on contact us to request a visit. Site visits are only performed outside your home looking at the property and vegetation around your property. Visits are available now so sign up today!

More information can be found at:
wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov

Wildfire Ready Day -Station 54 Tampico

April 21st 11am-3pm we are holding an informational wildfire preparedness day at our **Station 54 - 11 North Fork Rd.** Members will be available for site visits as well as providing information on how you can reduce the risk of losing your home in a wildfire.



Yard Waste Recycling Event!!

June 22nd we will have dumpsters available for FREE dumping at **Station 54—11 North Fork Rd,** for you to clean up your property and get rid of flammable vegetation WITHOUT burning it. We are planning a yard waste dumpster, regular dumpster and a metal recycling dumpster. Clean up your property to reduce wildfire risk and improve firefighter safety by removing clutter hidden in the grass.



FUTURE DATE TO REMEMBER:
JR SAFETY ACADEMY -AUGUST 16TH



HELP US PLAN THE FUTURE OF FIRE PROTECTION IN WEST VALLEY

Annually we update our Strategic Plan. The 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.

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. Additionally, if you would prefer to offer comments directly to the Board of Commissioners please attend a regular business meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5pm or the 4th Tuesday at 4pm.

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 1st.



Sign up to become a Safe Sitter!!

WVFD is offering a Safe Sitter babysitting class **July 29th & 30th from 9am-3pm.** This 2-day class is for 11-13 year old's and will be held at our Training Center at 10000 Zier Road. You will learn all the fundamentals for creating your "babysitting business". The cost is \$75, which includes an instruction manual and babysitting business material. Registration and class details can be found on our website at www.westvalleyfire.com or by stopping by our Administration Office. Space is limited to the first 10 paid registered students. **You must attend BOTH days.** For more information (509)966-3111.

THE BEST SITTER IS A SAFE SITTER!!

Paid-On-Call Members Needed:

The West Valley Fire Department is in need of Paid-On-Call Firefighters and Support Service members.

Apply Today!



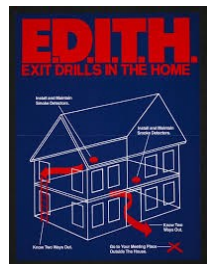
Our Department is a Combination department that utilizes a majority of Paid-On-Call members assigned to our four strategically located stations. Our fire department protects a 90 square mile area with 15,000+ residents.

Our current hiring period applications are due **May 31st** with Orientation day scheduled August 1st. For more information please contact us. 509-966-3111



EDITH (Exit Drills In The Home)

When a fire occurs, there is no time for planning. Sit down with your family NOW and make a step-by-step plan for escaping a fire. Draw a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, especially in the sleeping areas. Agree on a meeting place your family can meet at once safely outside. Make sure it is out of the way of incoming responders and traffic. Once outside, **NEVER** go back inside for any reason. Practice your escape plan with a fire drill at least twice a year. Play it safe, make sure your home has working smoke detectors and the batteries are fresh every year. Smoke detectors are your best defense for getting out of a fire safely. For more fire prevention information, log onto www.westvalleyfire.com



Calendar of Events

April		
9	Commissioner Meeting	5pm*
21	Wildfire Ready Day St 54	11am
23	Commissioner Meeting	4pm*
May		
6	Blood Drive	1pm
14	Commissioner Meeting	5pm*
27	Memorial Day (Office Closed)	
28	Commissioner Meeting	4pm*
June		
1	Spring Flea Market	9am
11	Commissioner Meeting	5pm*
22	Yard Waste Recycling Event	

*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.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 21-27, 2024