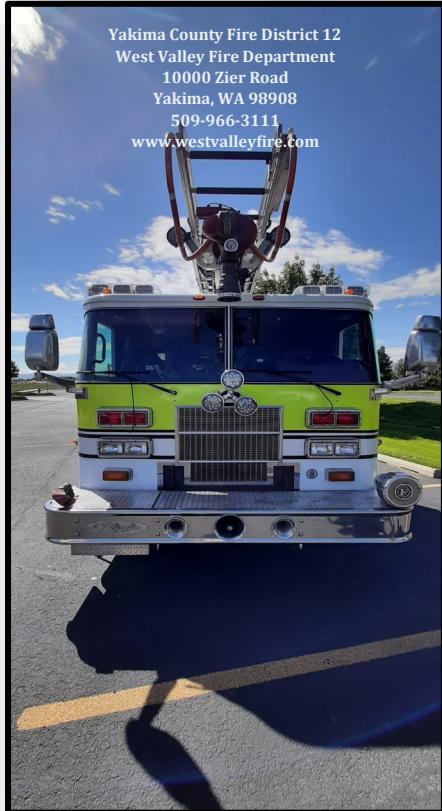




WEST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE - RESCUE

ISSUE III - 2024



Yakima County Fire District 12
West Valley Fire Department
10000 Zier Road
Yakima, WA 98908
509-966-3111
www.westvalleyfire.com

Fire Levy Lid Lift



FIRE - RESCUE

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.

Levy Limit Laws

Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 458-19 establishes limits on property tax levies.

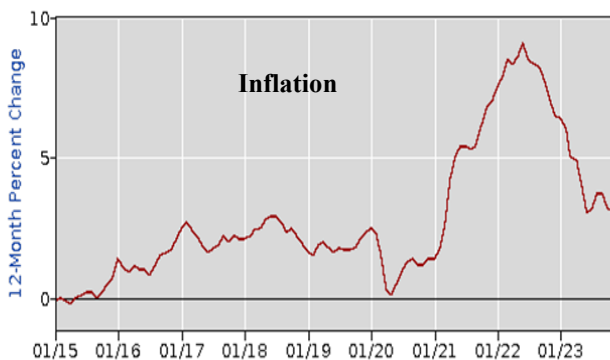
District-wide total regular tax collected on existing property and improvements cannot exceed the total collected the previous year by more than 1%. Voters may authorize tax levies exceeding the 1% increase limit.

Levy Limit Effects

The 1% levy limit law does not keep up with inflation. Each year we review and adjust our Capital Improvement Plan. For the past several years, due to inflation diminishing our ability to save for major projects, we have adjusted according to how and when we will fund replacing equipment.

Annual Inflation 2015-2023 *Source US Bureau of Labor Statistics

From 2015 to 2020 annual inflation averaged just under 1.5%, going as low as 0.1% and as high as 2.4%. 2021 jumped to 4.7%, 2022 to 8.0% and 2023 was 4.5%.



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.

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		

Find more information at www.westvalleyfire.com.
Fire Chief Nathan Craig welcomes your questions at chief@westvalleyfire.com

Fire District 12 Wildfire Danger HIGH – Residential BURN BAN

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 District by mid-August and possibly reach **EXTREME** Fire Danger.

Due to current fire danger Yakima County has imposed a **BAN** on residential outdoor burning through September 30th. This ban applies to open burning of vegetation, brush, and yard debris. Burn barrels have been outlawed for many years in Yakima County as well as burning milled lumber and trash. Please follow this fire safety ban and refrain from burning. Chip it, don't burn it by dropping off your yard waste at our event September 21st at Station 53 (more information on the back).

Residential outdoor burning in violation of the local restrictions may be subject to a fine of \$1,000, arrest, and/or jail and should be reported to Yakima County Sherriff's Office at (509) 574-2500.

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"

Remember SHADE

Shelter indoors or in the shade

Hydrate!!!

Adjust activity levels

Dress in loose fitting, cool clothing

Evaluate for the signs of heat stress



**BALLOTS DUE
 AUGUST 6TH!**

Summers fly by, so it's important to make the most of every warm, sunny day. To help ensure you remain safe while enjoying the summer, here are ten crucial safety tips worth following.

- **Wear sunscreen:** Protect your skin from harmful UV rays by wearing sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30. Reapply every two hours, especially when swimming or sweating.
- **Take breaks in the shade:** Avoid the hottest part of the day and take breaks in the shade. If you must be outside, wear a hat and lightweight, breathable clothing.
- **Drink plenty of water:** Dehydration can lead to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Drink plenty of water, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- **Stay safe in the water:** Never swim alone and always supervise children near the water. Wear life jackets when boating or participating in water sports.
- **Watch out for bugs:** Mosquitoes, ticks, and other insects can carry diseases like West Nile virus and Lyme disease. Use insect repellent and wear long sleeves and pants when outdoors in wooded or grassy areas. If you've been outdoors, check yourself and your pets for ticks. Remove ticks promptly with tweezers and wash the area with soap and water.
- **Be careful on the road:** Summer is a busy time for traffic accidents. Drive defensively and never drink and drive. Always wear seat belts and use car seats or booster seats for children. On your bike? Always, always wear a helmet.
- **Stay cool:** Use air conditioning or fans if possible to stay cool during heat waves. If you don't have air conditioning, visit public places like libraries, movie theaters or shopping malls to beat the heat. Try some other practical tips for staying cool.
- **Grill safely:** Never leave a grill unattended and keep it away from flammable items like furniture and plants. Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to start a grill. The same goes for fire pits.
- **Protect your eyes:** Wear sunglasses that provide 100% UV or UV400 protection in a wraparound style that blocks the sun's rays from entering through the sides. In addition, a broad-brimmed hat offers further protection.
- **Know the rules:** Know the outdoor burning rules, which includes bonfires and campfires. Not everyday is a burn day.

Enjoy your adventures this summer. As you do, remember the potential risks that may come along. Guard yourself from the sun with sunscreen and take breaks in the shade to stay hydrated. Practice water safety and be watchful of hazards on the road. When the heat is high, keep cool and ensure safe grilling habits. And after spending time outside, remember to check for ticks. By following these guidelines, you can keep your summer happy, healthy, and safe.

Yard Waste Recycling Event!

September 21st we will have dumpsters available for free yard waste dumping at Station 53 (Stone Rd & Tieton Drive). This is a great opportunity for you to prepare your property now for wildfire and dispose of the yard waste without burning it when the burn ban is lifted. We will be available from 9am until 1pm to chip your yard waste, no dumping outside of those hours please.

Levy Lid Lift Informational Meeting



**July 17th 6:00 PM
 Station 51 Training Center
 10000 Zier Rd**

An informational meeting regarding the Levy Lid Lift proposed on the August 6th Primary Election Ballot. This meeting will provide you an in-depth look at why the Fire District 12 Board of Fire Commissioners are requesting a levy lid lift for 2025.



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

July		
17	Levy Lift Informational Meeting @ St 51 TC	6pm
Aug		
6	Primary Election Ballots Due	
13	Commissioner Meeting	5pm*
16	Jr Safety Academy	9am
Sept		
2	Labor Day (Office Closed)	
9	Blood Drive	1pm
10	Commissioner Meeting	5pm*
21	Yard Waste Recycling Event @ St 53	9am
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.

Calendar of Events



**FRIDAY AUGUST 16, 2024 9AM- 3PM
 AGES 10-13 \$30/ATTENDEE**

- T-shirt
- Bike Rodeo (bring your own bike)
- Bike Helmet Give-Away (While supplies last)
- Mini Firefighter Combat Challenge
- Home Escape Planning
- Tug-A-Hose
- Knot Tying
- Fire Scene Craft
- Hands only CPR
- Lunch and Snacks-Hot Dogs, Chips & Salad + dessert
- Spray Down Finale

