



WEST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT



Working
SMOKE ALARMS
SAVE LIVES
Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery
"Dedicated to Life Safety"

ISSUE I - 2024

STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2023 we once again updated our Strategic Plan to add a new fifth year, 2028. While we have long-range goals established, our Strategic Plan only covers a five-year period due to emergency services constantly evolving to meet community expectations, legislative constraints, and new threats as the world changes. This constant evolution makes long range planning difficult especially with unknown future requirements, budgetary restrictions, and regulations. The Fire District has outlined several broad long-range goals to guide our shorter five-year strategic planning to ensure our short-range plans assist in reaching our long-range goals.

This Strategic Plan is focused on continuous improvement through four Strategic Priorities that are key to the continued success of the District. Each Strategic Priority has goals and specific objectives identified for continuous improvement of the District's ability to meet our Mission of preserving and protecting life then property.

Strategic Priority 1: Personnel retention, development, recruitment, and selection.

Strategic Priority 2: Financial management and accountability.

Strategic Priority 3: Infrastructure management.

Strategic Priority 4: Community Engagement.

Our long-range Vision is:

- Remain an on-call fire department with full-time support.

Measurements- Consistently meet response goals. Apparatus appropriately staffed for response type 90% of the time meeting SOG 2-2 Incident Response 3.1 Apparatus Staffing minimums.

- Remain a stand-alone fire district, no mergers, RFA's etc. so long as we are meeting our Mission.

Measurements- Funding keeping up with Capital Improvement Plan for equipment/supply needs to meet Mission and sufficient personnel to meet service demand.

- Measure the District's capabilities against a WSRB 4 rating and NFPA 1720 Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression Operations, Emergency Medical Operations and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Fire Departments.



2024-2028

For an in-depth understanding of how the District plans to address each Strategic Priority identified please visit our website www.westvalleyfire.com under "Quick Links" click on Strategic Plan to view the entire plan, you can also view our Capital Improvement and Business Plans there.

Fire District Insurance Rating Score Remains a Class 4

Yakima County Fire District 12 has recently been informed by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB) that our community's insurance rating score will remain a 4. WSRB is Washington State's source of property underwriting and rating information for the insurance industry. Their services are available, through a subscription service, to all companies that are licensed to sell property insurance in the State of Washington. WSRB calculates a community's protection class based on more than 70 criteria broken into four categories: water supply, fire department capabilities, communications, and fire control.

The WSRB evaluates fire protection capabilities of all Washington communities and rates them on a protection class scale of 1 to 10, where 1 indicates exemplary fire protection capabilities, and 10 indicates very poor or no capabilities. As a 4, there are only 92 fire departments in the state rated better than West Valley and 478 rated lower.

For more information on WSRB and the rating schedule visit their website at:
<https://www1.wsrb.com/resources/public-protection>.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Saturday
March 30, 2024
Promptly at 10am
10000 Zier Road
Ages 2-10

Bring your own basket.
Meet Sparky and the Easter
Bunny!!

FEBRUARY

13	Commissioner Meeting	5pm*
19	Presidents Day (Office Closed)	
27	Commissioner Meeting	4pm*

MARCH

10	Daylight Savings—SPRING FORWARD	
11	Blood Drive (redcrossblood.org)	1pm
12	Commissioner Meeting	5pm*
26	Commissioner Meeting	4pm*
30	WV Firefighters Egg Hunt	10am
31	Easter	

* 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

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"

2024 BUDGET = \$2,264,175

Revenue

Property taxes generate the largest portion of our revenue. We also rent space to an ambulance company and lease land for a cell tower. We apply for all grants we are eligible for to support our budget as much as possible. **We do not charge for responses!**

Expenses

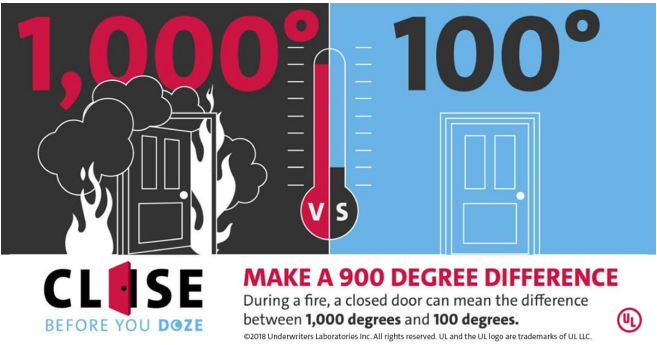
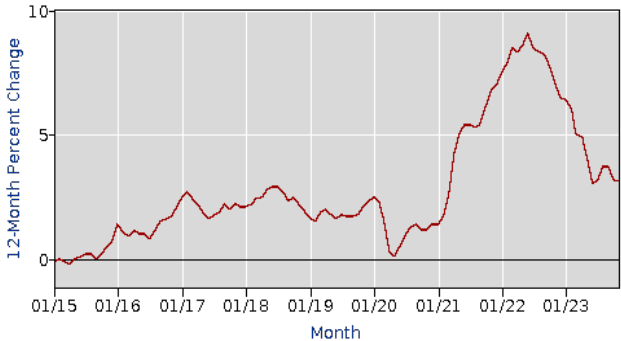
Due to the overall cost of fire apparatus, we save money over years to make timely purchases based on our Capital Improvement Plan, the last fire engine we purchased cost \$700,000. Outside of fire apparatus, our biggest annual expense is personnel costs for wages and benefits; we spend the most money on the people providing your service. We budget each year for capital maintenance and replacement as well as professional services like dispatching, air analysis, software maintenance, instructor fees and web page hosting. Our general operating costs include things like tools, supplies, fuel, utilities, insurance and safety equipment. The costs of all these things have risen significantly in the past few years due to inflation.

Inflation

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 is averaged around 4.5%.

Inflation has diminished our ability to fund capital projects and grant funds are increasingly harder to acquire. We have adjusted our capital improvement

plan to stretch apparatus and equipment dollars without compromising safety and service, even with these adjustments we are quickly approaching the inability to maintain the plan. In 2015 our levy rate was \$1.50/thousand, in 2023 it is \$1.03/thousand and is \$0.89 in 2024.



2023 Department Report

There were a total of 947 alarms in the Fire District for 2023 of which 72% were emergency medical calls and 11% were fire calls. The other 17% of calls were a mix of hazardous conditions, service calls, good intent calls and false alarms. Losses totaled **\$1,166,900** for the year and property saved was valued at \$2,460,000, the average loss per fire was \$55,566. A total of 161 acres burned in the District due to wildland fires.

We continue to have incidents in homes without working smoke detectors. Please take a moment to check your detectors and ensure they are less than 10 years old and are working properly.

Our members are the backbone of our service to you. In 2023 our members put in 4,687 hours on incidents and 7,468 hours training. 23 members responded to more than 100 alarms in 2023 with Captain David James topping the on-call Member list with 191 responses.

Starting out 2024 we have a total of 91 members, 80 on-call, 4 administrative staff, 4 full-time firefighters and 3 Commissioners. Our average length of service is 8.6 years in the department with 25 members having more than 10 years in the department. If you are interested in joining our team visit our website to apply before May 31st.

For an in-dept look at our 2023 report, including our 2023 accomplishments, visit www.westvalleyfire.com and click on 2023 Department Report on the right side of the homepage under "Quick Links". You can also view our Strategic Plan, Capital Improvement Plan and Business Plan there.

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	103	10.88%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	688	72.65%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	13	1.37%
Service Call	60	6.34%
Good Intent Call	47	4.96%
False Alarm & False Call	36	3.8%
TOTAL	947	100%

CONGRATULATIONS!

The Member of the Month recognizes an individual for an exceptional contribution to the progress of the District, extraordinary performance or outstanding customer service during the previous month.

The Members selected for **2023** are:

January: Lt Jim Petersen
February: FF Chris Payne & FF Tim Wilsey
March: Cadet Conor Gohl
April: FF Ross Wilson
May: FF Leah Taylor
June: Lt Chris Blanchard & FF Chris Payne
August: FF Mandy Wellner
September: Lt Mike Gohl
October: Support Member Catherine Finnell
November: FF Kayleigh Finnell
December: Lt Andrew Pfaff