



# WEST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE - RESCUE

ISSUE II - 2025

## ★ 2024 AWARDS ★

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

**2024 FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR**

*Eddie Smith*

**2024 EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR**

*Josie Gohl*

**2024 BULL DOG AWARD**

*Jason & Shauna Tupy*

**5 YEARS OF SERVICE**

*Dell Finnell*

*Mckensie Leahy*

**10 YEARS OF SERVICE**

*Brittany Weiler*

*Cindy Davis*

*Jessica Pfaff*

*Tim Wilsey*

**15 YEARS OF SERVICE**

*Kathy McCay*

**20 YEARS OF SERVICE**

*Chris Blanchard*

**30 YEARS OF SERVICE**

*Nathan Craig*

**EMT PINS**

*Brendan Walker*

*Chris Payne*

*Conor Gohl*

*Eddie Smith*

*Hannah Goss*

*Jackson Abrams*

*Jade Johnson*

*Jaden Davie*

*Jake Williams*

*Jarrett Paullin*

*Kathy McCay*

*Travis Schlaman*

**2024 RETIREMENT**

*Frank Woodin*

### Grant Awards Strengthen Fire District Resources in 2025

The West Valley Fire District is proud to announce the successful award of multiple grants during the first part of 2025. These grant funds will help support critical equipment needs, improve operational readiness, and reduce the financial burden on our taxpayers.

**Grants Awarded:**

- **DNR Phase I Equipment Grant** – Funding for essential firefighting tools and gear.
- **DNR Phase II PPE and Radio Grant** – Supports the purchase of personal protective equipment and communication equipment.
- **NVFC Laptop Computer Grant** – Provides laptops for training, reporting, and operational efficiency.
- **NVFC Drinking Water Grant** – Ensures access to clean drinking water for responders during extended operations.
- **NVFC Training Grant** – Funds firefighter training to enhance safety and skill development.
- **WA State Legislature Grant** – Secured funding for emergency power generators at Stations 52 and 54 to ensure operational continuity during power outages.

As part of our ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility, the District regularly reviews available funding opportunities in alignment with our Capital Improvement Plan. We pursue all grants we are eligible for to help offset rising equipment and infrastructure costs, maximizing the value of our taxpayers' dollars.

These grants directly support our Mission to preserve and protect life and property while maintaining a ready, well-equipped, and professional emergency response force.

### Preparing for Wildland Fire Season: Help Protect Your Property and Community

As a residential or commercial property owner in our jurisdiction, there are important steps you can take to support both your safety and the efforts of the West Valley Fire Department in reducing the risk of vegetation fires.

**The key? Create a buffer around your property – also known as a Defensible Space.**

**What is a Defensible Space?**

A defensible space is a well-maintained zone that extends about **30 feet from any structure**. This buffer helps slow the spread of wildfire and reduces exposure to radiant heat, convective heat, and direct flame contact.

Here's how you can create an effective defensible space:

- ☒ Maintain green lawns and use rock or gravel in landscaping.
- ☒ Choose low-combustible plants – think leafy and green, not dry and woody.
- ☒ Remove overhanging tree branches near rooftops or structures.
- ☒ Clear out items stored under or around decks that could catch fire.
- ☒ Move firewood piles at **least 30 feet away from buildings– beyond the 30-Foot Zone.**

Additional precautions for areas beyond the **30-Foot Zone**:

- Cutting weeds and grasses to a **height of less than 4 inches**.
- Creating a **6-foot vertical clearance** between the ground and tree limbs.
- Removing excess leaf litter and debris that can fuel a fire.

By taking these simple steps, you not only help protect your home or business – you also make it safer for our firefighters to defend your property. If you have any questions or need more guidance, don't hesitate to reach out to us. We're here to help!

## Paid-On-Call Members Needed:

The West Valley Fire Department is in need of Paid-On-Call Firefighters and Support Service members. Our Department is a Combination department that utilizes a majority of Paid-On-Call members assigned to our four strategically located stations.

**Apply Today!**



Do you have a medical license such as, EMT, RN, Paramedic, etc? We encourage you to apply for our EMS ONLY program, new this year. Current hiring period applications are due **May 31<sup>st</sup>** with Orientation day scheduled August 4th. Pick up your application at our Administration Office or apply on our website.

### Sign up to become a Safe Sitter

WVFD is offering a Safe Sitter Babysitting 2- day class **June 26th & 27th from 9am-3pm**. This class is for 11-13 year old's and will be held at our Training Center 10000 Zier Road. Students will learn all the fundamentals for creating a "babysitting business". Class cost is \$75 and includes an instruction manual and babysitting business material. Registration and class details can be found on our website or by stop by our Administration Office.

**Space is limited to the first 12 registered & paid students – Must attend BOTH days**

**THE BEST SITTER IS A SAFE SITTER**

### Questions, Comments or Feedback?

**Please call our office at 509-966-3111 or  
visit our website [westvalleyfire.com](http://westvalleyfire.com)**

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

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Yakima, WA  
Permit No. 1

\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*  
Postal Customer

*"Protecting And Serving Our Community"*

Strategic Planning Community Forum Invitation

Each year, the West Valley Fire Department updates its Strategic Plan—our roadmap for the future. This plan sets clear goals, ensures resources are used efficiently, and guides decision-making to best serve our community. It also helps us adapt to evolving needs, address emerging challenges, and remain accountable to both residents and department members. As part of this process, we invite you to participate in our Strategic Planning Community Forum on Wednesday, June 4, at 10000 Zier Road.

Two sessions will be offered to accommodate your schedule:

12:00 PM - Includes a light lunch

6:00 PM - Includes appetizers and dessert

Your input is essential as we shape the future of the Fire District together. To help us plan accordingly, please RSVP to Nikki at (509) 966-3111 by June 2.

Chip It, Don't Burn It  
Yard Waste Recycling Events

The West Valley Fire Department will be hosting several Yard Waste Recycling events throughout the summer.

These **FREE** events are intended to provide residents with a safe and environmentally responsible alternative to burning vegetation. By participating, you can help reduce the risk of wildfires, protect your home and our community.

Each event will run from 9am to 1pm  
Please no dumping outside event hours



May 31st @ Station 52      9102 Ahtanum Road  
June 28th @ Station 53      14901 Tieton Drive  
July 12th @ Station 54      11 North Fork Road  
August 2nd @ Station 53      14901 Tieton Drive  
September 13th @ Station 51      10000 Zier Road

We CAN accept: Bricks, Masonry, Cardboard, Carpet, Construction debris, Electrical wiring, Glass, Landscaping debris, Vegetation, Wood/ wood pallets.

We CANNOT accept: Ammunition, Appliances, Batteries, Chemicals, Computers, Electronics, Hazardous waste, Oil or Gasoline, Paint, Spray cans, or Tires.

PLEASE load trucks & trailers with base end of branches to the rear.

FARM DAYS 2025

West Valley High School FFA invites you to attend FARM DAYS 2025 @ WV Fire Station

Farm Days is a community event geared toward elementary students to help open their eyes to different facets of agriculture and careers in a fun way. Student participants will enjoy a hay ride, petting zoo, face paint, agricultural games, and interactions with fire fighters and other community members.

For more information contact: [Smithkaitlyn@wvvsd208.org](mailto:Smithkaitlyn@wvvsd208.org)

West Valley Fire  
Station  
10000 Zier Road  
MAY 20 9am to 2pm  
May 21 9am 11:30am

SPRING  
FLEA  
MARKET



9am-3pm      May 31st  
10000 Zier Rd

Sponsored by the West Valley Firefighters Association

Lunch available for purchase!



Contact Mandy  
Wellner for more info  
at  
[mandysue20@aol.com](mailto:mandysue20@aol.com)



70+ Vendors with all kinds of  
handmade crafts, antiques, yard  
sale items and so much more!

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 preventative 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 detailed plan on how to reduce the risk of your home being lost from a wildfire. Site visits are performed outside your home, visually inspecting your property and vegetation surrounding your property. Visits are available now so sign up today! Call us at 509-966-3111 and ask for a wildfire property inspection or visit our website and click on *contact us* to request a visit.

More information can be found at  
[wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov](http://wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov)

CALENDAR

May

13	Commissioner Meeting	4pm*
20	WV FFA Farm Days @ST. 51	9am to 2pm
21	WV FFA Farm Days @ST.51	9am to 11:30am
26	Memorial Day (Office Closed)	
31	Spring Flea Market @ST. 51	9am to 3pm
31	Yard Waste Recycle Event @ST. 52	9am to 1pm

June

4	Planning Forum @ST. 51	12pm & 6pm
10	Commissioner Meeting	4pm*
28	Yard Waste Recycling Event @ST. 53	9am to 1pm

July

4	Independence Day (Office Closed)	
7	Blood Drive	1pm to 6pm
8	Commissioner Meeting	4pm*
12	Yard Waste Recycle Event @ST. 54	9am to 1pm

\*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.