



WEST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Issue III - 2026

Strategic Planning Update: Building WVFD's Next Chapter

West Valley Fire Department has completed the public and internal engagement phase of its 2026 Strategic Plan update. Between April and July, we gathered input through member, community, and partner surveys; station and community listening sessions; and a Company Officer workshop. Thank you to everyone who took the time to share feedback.

The Board of Fire Commissioners and District staff reviewed the results during a Strategic Planning Workshop on July 13. The process confirmed that WVFD has a strong foundation built on dedicated members, quality training and equipment, responsible financial management, professional emergency response, and a strong connection with the community. Several areas also emerged for greater attention. These include member and leadership development, accountability, succession planning, useful performance data, sustainable staffing, emergency-response readiness, wildfire preparedness, and continued community education.

At the July 14th regular meeting, the Board provided direction to retain the District's four current Strategic Priorities—Personnel, Financial Management and Accountability, Infrastructure Management, and Community Engagement—while updating their objectives, measurements, and areas of emphasis. Staff will also develop an option for a fifth priority focused on readiness, organizational response, and service delivery for the Board's consideration.

A major theme throughout the workshop was moving beyond simply stating our Mission and Values. The updated plan should help define what those values look like in daily action, establish clear ownership for carrying out the plan, and provide measurable ways to evaluate progress.

The Board also reaffirmed the importance of WVFD's combination staffing model, mission-focused service, "neighbors helping neighbors" culture, and commitment to maintaining capable personnel, reliable equipment, and strong emergency response. Staff will now prepare draft Strategic Plan language, goals, and performance measures. The Board will review the draft before considering final adoption. Updates will continue to be shared as the process moves forward.

Thank you for helping shape the future of West Valley Fire Department.



Fire Prevention Week is October 4-10, 2026. "Charge Into Fire Safety. Safe Charging is a Superpower" focuses on the everyday charging habits that can help reduce the risk of lithium-ion battery fires and keep homes and communities safer. For more information regarding Fire Prevention Week and safety tips on Lithium-Ion Batteries in your home, visit www.nfpa.org.

The Annual West Valley Firefighters Association Baked Potato Feed is in the works.



Follow us on [Facebook.com/wvfd12](https://www.facebook.com/wvfd12), [Instagram.com/wvfd12](https://www.instagram.com/wvfd12), or check out our website at westvalleyfire.com, to stay up to date with all Department events and fire wise information.

WELCOME NEW RECRUITS

Station 51

Brandon Fetuao
Brayden Edris
Todd Pomeroy

Station 52

Austin Ross
Colin Lenseigne

Station 53

Ashlyn Williams
Cade Golbek
Kasey Weishaar
Lucus Montes

Station 54

Justin Wilkins
Larry Bird
Raegan Wellner



Day Crew

Andrew Clark

C
A
R

W
A
S
H

Join us on Saturday, August 15, at Station 51, from 10:00am to 2:00pm for the WVFD Car Wash and Bake Sale. Proceeds benefit the WVFD Firefighters Association, helping support firefighter programs and community initiatives.

Stop in to get your car sparkly clean or browse a selection of delicious homemade baked goods. We look forward to seeing you and thank you for your continued support!



B
A
K
E

S
A
L
E

Wildfire Season: Be Prepared and Stay Alert

Summer in our area brings sunshine, outdoor recreation, and unfortunately, increased wildfire danger. Dry grasses, hot temperatures, low humidity, and windy conditions can allow a small spark to become a fast-moving wildfire in a matter of minutes. Many wildfires start from everyday activities. Equipment operating in dry vegetation, improperly extinguished campfires, dragging trailer chains, discarded cigarettes, and even parking a vehicle over dry grass can all ignite a fire. Taking a few extra precautions can help prevent a wildfire before it starts.

Homeowners can also reduce their risk by creating defensible space around structures. Remove dead vegetation, keep grass green and mowed, trim branches away from roofs and at least six feet from the ground, do not store flammable or combustible materials near buildings. These simple steps can give firefighters a better chance to protect your property if a wildfire occurs nearby.

If you see flames, a vegetation fire, or any fire posing an immediate threat to life or property, call 911 immediately. However, 911 should not be used to ask about smoke in the area, current fire locations, evacuation information, or fire updates. During wildfire season, dispatch centers must remain available for emergencies where lives and property are at risk.

Wildfires can start quickly and spread even faster. By staying aware of fire conditions, following burn restrictions and burn bans, and keeping your property maintained we can all help keep our community safe this fire season.

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"

Stacked Heat Exposure: Give Your Body a Break

Heat exposure isn't just about the temperature outside—it's about how long your body stays hot. During the summer, many people move from working or playing outdoors to a warm house, garage, or vehicle, then head back outside again. This "stacked" heat exposure gives your body little time to cool down, increasing the risk of dehydration, fatigue, and heat-related illness. Help your body recover by spending time in an air-conditioned or cool indoor space, drinking water regularly, and taking breaks between outdoor activities. Even 20–30 minutes in a cool environment can help lower your body temperature before heading back outside. Whether you're working in the yard, attending summer events, or enjoying time with family, remember that recovery time is just as important as time spent outdoors. Stay cool, stay hydrated, and enjoy your summer safely.



CONGRATULATIONS

We are proud to announce our newest full-time Training Captain, Justin Nickolaus. Captain Nickolaus officially took his Oath of Office and participated in a badge pinning ceremony on July 1, 2026, marking the beginning of his service as our full-time Training Captain. Since joining West Valley Fire Department in June 2016 at Station 52 as a high school Cadet, Justin has demonstrated a strong commitment to training, service, and the continued development of our Members.



Congratulations, Captain Nickolaus!

CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 11 COMMISSIONER MEETING 4PM
- 15 CAR WASH @ STATION 51 10AM TO 2PM
- 25 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (WVSD)
- 26 BLOOD DRIVE @ STATION 51 1PM TO 6PM

SEPTEMBER

- 7 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED
- 8 COMMISSIONER MEETING 4PM
- 13 HAPPY GRANDPARENTS DAY
- 14 BLOOD DRIVE @ STATION 51 1PM TO 6PM
- 22 AUTUMN BEGINS

OCTOBER

- 12 COLUMBUS DAY
- 13 COMMISSIONER MEETING 4PM
- 31 HALLOWEEN

Back to School Means Back to Busy Streets:
Safety Starts With All of Us

Summer break is coming to an end, and on Monday, August 25th, West Valley School District students will be heading back to school.

That means buses return to the roads, neighborhoods become busier, and children will once again be walking, biking, and riding to school each day. For first responders, the first few weeks of school often bring an increase in preventable crashes. A few simple changes can help keep everyone safe.

The biggest adjustment is remembering that the roads are different than they were all summer. Children can be unpredictable—they may chase a ball, hurry to catch a bus, or step into a crosswalk when drivers least expect it. Give yourself a few extra minutes in the morning so you're not tempted to rush.

Put the phone away while driving through school zones and neighborhoods. At school-zone speeds, even a brief distraction can mean the difference between stopping safely and not seeing a child until it's too late.

Parents can also help by talking with their children about crossing streets safely, putting phones and earbuds away while walking, and making eye contact with drivers before entering a crosswalk. If your child rides a bike or scooter, make sure they wear a properly fitted helmet every trip.

It's about more than simply following the rules, back-to-school safety isn't just about avoiding tickets or following traffic laws. It's about protecting neighbors, classmates, teachers, crossing guards, bus drivers, and the families who trust all of us to help get their children to school and home safely each day. As the new school year begins on August 25th, let's work together to make every trip to and from school a safe one. From all of us at your WV Fire Department, we wish every student, teacher, staff member, and family a safe, successful, and exciting school year.



Turnout & Response

What We Measure:

Turnout Time: Dispatch to enroute, based on National Fire Protection Association standards (NFPA 1710 for staffed crews) an a district standard for on-call response. This includes a 20-second call processing adjustment.

Structure Fire Response: Firefighters on scene using NFPA 1720 rural standard.

PERFORMANCE

CATEGORY	GOAL	Q2	ANNUAL
On-Duty Crew	80-100 sec	72%	73%
On-Call Response	≤ 360 sec	77%	77%
Structure Fire Response	6 FF ≤ 14 min	33%	71%