



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 31st** 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**

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"

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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.