



Spring 2020

HOT TOPIC

MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

The Fire Department is an interesting service provider. When needed, it is on the top of everyone's mind, and when someone is not having an emergency, it is understandably not often something people think about. I wanted to take this time to share a little bit about myself and the structure of the fire district we live in.

My name is Ken McCarthy, and I am the new Fire Chief for the City of Corvallis Fire Department and the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District. I retired a year ago after a 23 year career in the San Jose Fire Department. The biggest change for me was trading in a 2.5 hour commute for an 8 minute commute, and yes, I am already getting frustrated by being caught behind a tractor that turns that into a 10 minute drive. I am enjoying every aspect of this community.

So why is there a distinction above between the two fire service areas? They have two different governing authorities. The City of Corvallis Fire Department provides fire protection and medical response services to everyone inside the city limits, including visitors. The City also holds the Ambulance Service Contract for the entire county. If someone were to have a heart attack out in Wren, the local fire department would send a fire engine to begin treatment and Corvallis Fire would send an ambulance to transport the patient to the hospital. The Corvallis Fire Department is governed by a City Manager / City Council system. I as the Fire Chief, along with all other Department Directors, report to the City Manager (Mark Shepard) who in turn serves at the will of the elected City Council Members.

The Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District surrounds the entire City of Corvallis and is in both Linn and Benton Counties. The Rural District provides for fire response and medical aide but does not provide ambulance transport. The Rural District is made up of a five person governing board elected by citizens who live within its borders. I myself live in the Rural District. The Rural District has for many years contracted with the City of Corvallis Fire Department to provide fire protection services, operating personnel out of your Locke Fire Station. Currently 83% of the District's property tax collected is paid to the City to provide these services.

So what does the District get for that amount of money and what happens to the other 17%? The Corvallis Fire Department places a paid Lieutenant at the Locke Fire Station on a 40 hour schedule Monday through Friday. The Lieutenant trains and oversees the Rural Resident Volunteers who staff the station on a 24/7 basis. We also host a training every Tuesday night to help build and maintain the volunteer's skills. The City provides the fire engine and all of the equipment it carries for the Locke Fire Station. The City also provides all personal protective clothing and equipment for the Rural Resident Volunteers. The administrative duties of running a department, such as contracts for needed gear and equipment, are run by the City. With the 17% of budget remaining, the Rural Board looks at specific needs of the District and how best to meet those needs. For example, the Locke Fire Station on Lewisburg is owned by the District as well as three Water Tenders and four Brush Rigs stationed around the City. Recently we have been reviewing water supply options for fire suppression in the Rural District and identifying areas that could use an additional water tank. We have researched different styles and made recommendations to the Rural Board on locations that will require more access to water.



News and information for Rural District Residents

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chief Message Cont	2
Cooking Fire Safety	2
Cooking Safety.....	3
Open Burning Permits	4
Smoke Alarms for People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.....	6
Lock Fire Station's COVID-19 Response	6



Locke Fire Station with Tender 146 and Fire Engine 136

MESSAGE FROM FIRE CHIEF CONT.

I meet with the Rural Board once a month, on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Locke Fire Station at 7pm (except currently we are meeting virtually). The public is always welcome to join us as these are community meetings.

My hope for both the City and the Rural District is to find a way to have more interaction with the communities. Fire prevention and informational classes on how to prevent or deal with medical emergencies are great topics to share with the community. I would like to go beyond that level of interaction and be more of the good neighbor in the neighborhood. One of my goals for fiscal year 2020/21 is to rework the entire volunteer program. I would like to find ways that community members can be a part of their fire department without having to volunteer to be an actual firefighter. Auxiliary partnerships and perhaps logistic volunteers

are some areas we are considering. If you have a neighborhood group, I would enjoy the opportunity to speak at it and answer questions. I look forward to the day where we are not that group of people stuck behind the closed door at the fire station waiting to respond to your emergency, but rather be the neighbor where we know each other's names and share in the excitement of being neighbors in this amazing community.

“My hope for both the City and the Rural District is to find a way to have more interaction with the communities.”

COOKING FIRE SAFETY

Cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking. Cooking fires account for the majority of the property loss fires that Corvallis experienced in 2019.

Here are some things to keep in mind when you are cooking:

What you should know about home cooking safety

Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.

Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.

If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.

Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a cooking fire

Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.

Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.

If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.

Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.

For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.



Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

"COOK WITH CAUTION"

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



Cooking and Kids

Have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet (1 metre) around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

FACTS

- ! The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ! Most cooking fires in the home involve the kitchen stove.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

OREGON FIRE CODE REFERENCES

The OFC requires an operational permit prior to the kindling or maintaining of an open fire or a fire on any public street, alley, road, or other public or private ground (OFC 105.6.32).

It shall be unlawful to deliberately or through negligence set fire to, or cause the burning of, combustible material in such a manner as to endanger the safety of persons or property (OFC 305.4).

Open burning shall only be permitted with prior approval from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) (OFC 307.2.1).

Open burning shall be prohibited when atmospheric conditions or local circumstances make such fires hazardous (OFC 307.11).

NEW FOR 2020—OPEN BURNING PERMITS NOW REQUIRED. GET IT ONLINE FOR FREE.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) declared that updates to the Wildland Urban Interface Program were a strategic priority for 2019. The OSFM effort has focused on the prevention components of the wildland urban interface in order to address persistent life safety issues. There is a direct correlation between the number of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) residents and the number of wildland fires. Human activity caused 65% of the Oregon wildfires in 2018. History tells us that quite often these avoidable wildland fires are the result of daily human activities: a mechanical failure in a motor vehicle, overhead power lines, welding or cutting operations, weed burning, and all too often camp fires or intentional open burning. This year the Corvallis Fire Department will introduce some regulatory assistance to facilitate residents' self-help, while maintaining a reasonable level of safety during the open burn season.

Many of us are familiar with the existing restrictions for the open burning of yard debris, and these are not going to change. A resident may only burn yard debris on "burn days" which are authorized by DEQ during the spring (March 1st through June 15th) and fall (October 1st through December 15th). A property owner's right to burn in a WUI zone is a debate unto itself, and understandably neighbors in WUI areas get very concerned when they see a smoke column rising across a hillside and the wind is blowing in their direction. This concern often results in a call to the Fire Department to investigate the source of the smoke, and it is our responsibility to verify that it is a safe activity.

Beginning July 1, 2020, all residents within the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District and City of Corvallis must obtain, with no fee, an open burning permit from the Corvallis Fire Department in order to conduct backyard burning, agricultural burning, and slash burning.

Note: A recreational fire, the burning dry natural wood, having a total fuel area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height, does not require a permit. A recreational fire is used for pleasure, religious, ceremonial, cooking, warmth or similar purposes.

The Oregon Fire Code (OFC) lists several conditions that residents are required to follow so that they may burn their yard debris safely. A review of our local incidents (complaint responses) revealed that the many of the conditions stipulated for open burning are not being followed, and CFD has to order the extinguishment of the fire. Our intent for the open burning permit is to facilitate self-help, so that our community members may continue to burn on their property safely, with full awareness of the associated guidelines for that activity. It will also provide our concerned community members some piece of mind, knowing that the fire is a planned, and safe activity.

OPEN BURNING PERMIT PROCESS

1. A new open burn permit is required each day as the atmospheric conditions will vary with weather patterns.
2. To determine if it is an authorized burn date/time, visit *the Willamette Valley Open Burn Announcement* at <http://smkmgmt.com/burn.php>
3. Residents can go to <http://corvallisrfdpd.com/> or <https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/fire> to obtain their open burning permit with no fee.
4. Complete the open burning permit application online.
5. Verify each of the conditions of the open burn permit (*see below*).
6. Print the completed open burning permit and have it with you on site.
7. There will be no CFD pre-burn inspections associated with this permit. It is the responsibility of the attendee on site to ensure that all of the permit conditions have been followed.
8. Burn responsibly during the prescribed open burning date/time.
9. At the end of the day, extinguish your fire with water to ensure that it is dead out.

OPEN BURNING PERMIT CONDITIONS

Open Burning Permit Conditions

- Obtain a permit prior to ignition of the fire, and keep it onsite during the entire burn.
- If the responsible party is not the property owner, the property owner must provide written permission to conduct an open burn on the premises.
- Ensure that there are no burn bans in effect on the proposed date of the open burn.
- Ensure that the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has declared this as an authorized burning day, and the time of the open burn is within the authorized hours.
- Ensure that the location for open burning is not less than 50 feet from any structure, property line, or right of way (OFC 307.4).
- Provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure (OFC 307.4).
- Establish a water source onsite for emergency extinguishment of the open burn (OFC 307.5).
- Ensure the burning of clean, dry, natural vegetation only.
- Maximum of 1 burn pile per acre.
- Maximum individual pile size of 8 feet in width, 8 feet in length, and 8 feet in height.
- Piles must be separated by no less than 50 feet.
- The fire must not produce noxious smoke that is a substantial and unreasonable interference with another's use and enjoyment of real property, or the substantial and unreasonable invasion of a right common to members of the general public.
- The open burn must be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished (OFC 307.5).
- The piles must be extinguished by the end of the burn day.

Remember to

- **Get the required permits.** Contact the Corvallis Fire Department and obtain the proper permits and associated conditions prior to any open burning.
- **Check weather conditions.** Prior to igniting your burn pile, visit <http://smkmgmt.com/burn.php> to determine if it is an authorized burn day.
- **Constantly attend your fire.** A responsible person must constantly attend all open burnings until the fire is extinguished.

Daylight Hours. Open Burning is only allowed during “daylight hours”, Defined by OAR 340-264-0030 as “the time between 7:30 a.m. and two hours before sunset”.





RRV Eisenbeiss testing a standard smoke detector

SMOKE ALARMS FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING

Working smoke alarms save lives. However, people who are deaf or hard of hearing may not be able to depend on the traditional smoke alarm to alert them to a fire. Smoke alarms and alert devices are available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom. They should also be outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.

Safety Tips

Strobe light smoke detectors flash when the smoke alarm sounds. The lights warn people of a possible fire.

When people who are deaf are asleep, a pillow or bed shaker can wake them so they can escape. The shaker is activated by the sound of a smoke alarm.

Be sure to test your smoke alarms once a month using the test button.

Research the products and select the ones that best meet your needs. Search home improvement store websites or use a general search engine to look for strobe light smoke alarms. Find smoke alarm accessories such as pillow or bed shakers, transmitters, and receivers from most manufacturers. Choose devices that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.

LOCKE FIRE STATION'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

This October, the Locke Fire Station will celebrate 20 years as an in service fire station here on Lewisburg Avenue. Our Station Log Book records the first call in the Station's history:

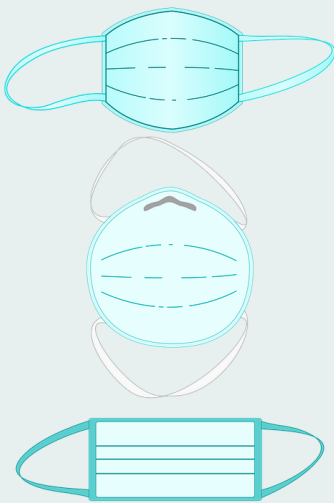
"Monday, October 9, 2000, 0800, Code 3, Motor Vehicle Accident on NE Highway 20"

On duty those first shifts were Lieutenant Roy Emery and five Volunteer Firefighters: Aaron Harris, Isaac McLennan, Mike Caven, Bob Schaffer and Tom Porter. Roy Emery went on to rise through the ranks of the Corvallis Fire Department, serving as the Fire Chief from 2007 until his retirement in 2019. Aaron Harris is currently the Fire Chief of the Adair Fire District. Isaac McLennan is a Firefighter and Hazmat Tech with Portland Fire/Rescue. Mike Caven is a Battalion Chief with Eugene/Springfield Fire and Rescue. Bob Schaffer is a Captain with the Salem Fire Department. And our own Tom Porter is an Engineer/EMT at Station 2 on SW 35th Street. These early members set the tone of high achievement, as scores of subsequent Locke Station resident volunteers have gone on to successful professional fire service careers all across the state.

A lot has changed since then. However, what hasn't changed is our desire to serve our community with Courage, Honor, Commitment, and Teamwork.

Your Locke Fire Station staff continues to fulfill our mission amidst the global coronavirus pandemic. Fourteen individuals currently comprise the Station Team: 12 Rural Resident Volunteers ("RRVs") call the station their primary residence, while one Community Volunteer and one 40 hour career Lieutenant round out the cadre. The RRVs work a rotating schedule of 24 hours on, 72 hours off, all the while juggling their schoolwork. Many also have part time jobs as they pursue careers in Emergency Services.

The Station's Team commits to a three part Mission: Response, Readiness, and Stewardship. *Response* means that when the alarm tones go off, we respond quickly and safely, exhibiting an exceptionally high level of both technical expertise and customer service. *Readiness* means continuing our training and never being complacent, as well as always maintaining a "state of readiness" in regards to both personal protective gear and first out apparatus. *Stewardship* encompasses our commitment to maintaining the Locke Station facility and grounds, as well as assembling and installing residential rural address marker signs, providing public education in person and over the phone, and performing commercial fire and life safety inspections.



LOCKE FIRE STATION'S COVID-19 RESPONSE CONT.

The global pandemic has resulted in a massive change in our daily station operations. In person college classes have been cancelled, meaning the RRVs remain on site at the station more often than not, pursuing their studies online. We are also strictly adhering to the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, hunkering down at the Station, continuing our projects and training. Many of the RRVs are using their off time to exercise, read a book, or learn a new game. Catan has emerged as a favorite.

Your Station staff continue to respond on fire calls, motor vehicle accidents, medical calls, and all sorts of other emergencies and non emergencies, as we have for nearly 20 years. That being said, our daily routine has changed amidst the pandemic. The day starts with a "Self Check", where we take our temperature and vital signs, followed by rig checks and a briefing from the Battalion Chief. During this time, we are informed of the latest CDC, Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and Benton County Health recommendations. During rig checks, careful attention is paid to inventorying our advanced PPE. Twice daily, we perform a station decontamination, focusing on shared spaces, doorknobs, and other high risk areas of the station. Throughout the day, proper social distancing is practiced, whenever possible. We are used to living in very close quarters, but in these times we are adjusting and changing the way we live together.

During the pandemic, you may notice your firefighters dressed differently on medical calls. To the right is a picture which illustrates our current Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for a medical call triaged with possible or suspected coronavirus. The ensemble includes our normal uniform, boots, and



RRV Posey modelling full COVID-19 PPE

“Your Station staff continue to respond on fire calls, motor vehicle accidents, medical calls, and all sorts of other emergencies and non emergencies...”



RRV McKinley practicing hose deployment off Fire Engine 136 at the Locke Fire Station while Staying Home, and Staying Safe

disposable gloves, but now includes an N95 face mask, medical grade eye protection, a medical gown, and a splash mask. These measures are meant to keep your responders healthy and safe on medical calls, during which we only know what we may be dealing with AFTER having completed a full patient assessment.

Once again, I'd like to say "Thank you" to you, our Community, for your continued support and encouragement. It is an honor for us to serve you in your times of need. Please do not hesitate to call us. We are a team of well trained, highly motivated people who enjoy helping our public in any way we can. Whether your emergency is medical, fire, or something else, we are here to help you as best we are able. Additionally, please don't hesitate to call the station with questions you may have about your Fire Department and the services we provide. In the future, as we hope social distancing restrictions are lifted, we would enjoy welcoming you to our Fall Open House and providing you with a tour of your fire station and our firefighting apparatus. On behalf of the entire Team, thank you, and please continue to stay healthy in these challenging times.

DID YOU KNOW?

Station 6 provides Residential Wildfire Assessments in the CRFPD? We will come to your property and provide education on defensible space and recommendation on what you and your neighbors can do to prevent the spread of wildfire. Please contact us to arrange a time.

SIGN IT SO THEY SEE YOU!

Order an address marker to help visitors and emergency personnel locate your home. Signs will be placed as soon as ground conditions allow.



FIREMED

FireMed is a way to defray or lessen costs of medically necessary ambulance transports. Learn more about the FireMed program and complete and application to become a member.

WHO ARE YOUR BOARD MEMBERS, AND WHEN DO THEY MEET?

The Board generally meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Locke Station. The meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to come and learn more about your fire district.

The Board members are:

Bob Conder, Chairman

Bob.Conder@corvallisrfd.com

George Mears, Vice Chairman

George.Mears@corvallisrfd.com

Phil Sollins, Treasurer

Phil.Sollins@corvallisrfd.com

Alex Polikoff, Secretary

Alex.Polikoff@corvallisrfd.com

Don Barton, Member at Large

Don.Barton@corvallisrfd.com



Corvallis Fire Station 1 with Fire Engines (from left to right) 132, 134, 133, 136, and 131

CORVALLIS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

544 NW Lewisburg Ave, Corvallis, OR 97330
541-766-6476

CRFPD Burn Advisory 541-757-6971

<http://www.corvallisrfd.com/>

CORVALLIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

400 NW Harrison Blvd, Corvallis, OR 97330
541-766-6961

<https://www.corvallisoregon.gov/fire>