

HOT SPOTS



NEWS FROM DESCHUTES COUNTY
RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2



FIRE LEVY BRINGS BIG REWARDS

The District and City voters approved a new Local Option tax levy to support fire protection in our community in 2014, and in 2018 this levy was renewed by a wide margin. The Management Team, including now retired Chief Langston and District Executive Director Tom Fay, had a carefully thought out plan before the levy ever appeared on the ballot.

The increased funding targeted the issue of response time, the amount of time it takes for responders to arrive on the scene of an emergency call. The following are two examples that would illustrate the critical nature of response time.

First, a house fire – for every minute a structure burns the fire doubles in size. A fire will grow big enough to escape the room in which it begins within 8 minutes. When that happens, occupants' lives are in jeopardy, the firefighters' work becomes far more dangerous, and the house will most likely be lost.

Second, a sudden cardiac arrest – irreversible damage begins within 4 minutes. Without intervention, the odds of survival disappear within 10 minutes. First responders arriving within 4-6 minutes can start procedures such as CPR which will buy the patient precious time until the ambulance reaches the hospital.

FIRE LEVY BRINGS BIG REWARDS *(continued)*

Bend Fire and Rescue used the funding to hire Limited Term Employment Basic Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to operate two Basic Emergency Life Support (BLS) ambulances which respond to the majority of ambulance calls, those of a lower level of urgency. Accompanied by one Paramedic, these EMTs can readily handle the vast majority of these type of calls without further assistance. This matches resources to call requirements and preserves availability of Advanced Life Support Paramedics for true emergencies. Before the Local Option Levy passed, fire engines (staffed with Firefighters and Paramedics) routinely responded to assist the ambulance crews, effectively removing them from fire response. Now the BLS units handle lower level emergency calls, leaving the fire engines available for fire calls.

The levy also funded a service unit staffed with one fire prevention person. This unit handles smoke smells, illegal burning complaints, alarm malfunctions, etc. which used to be the job of an engine with 3 people, keeping that engine in the station and available for rapid response when needed for a fire.

The levy funded a 26% increase in personnel and in return response times dropped 38 seconds, or 7%, which is something we're proud of factoring in a 21% increase in total call volume over the past 3 years. The funding has allowed Bend Fire and the District to maximize our crews' skills by placing the right resources on the right calls. By approving the tax levies of 2014 and 2018, the District voters became true partners in protecting our community.

BIG STAFFING CHANGES AT BEND FIRE



Bend Fire and Rescue members retiring in 2020 left to right: Batt. Chief Dave Howe; Engineer Paul Swaggerty; Capt. Tom Edwards, Capt. Mike Baxter; Deputy Chief Bob Madden; Engineer Scott Seaton

There have been some momentous staffing changes at Bend Fire in the past year. At the top of the agency, we bid longtime Fire Chief Larry Langston a fond farewell last October as he left behind a monumental legacy of transformation and progress. Training Battalion Chief Todd Riley was promoted to lead the Department. Chief Riley came from Sacramento to Bend in 2000 as a Firefighter/Paramedic and has been dedicated to serving the community since he arrived. Todd has a deep respect for the people and environment here in Central Oregon and an optimistic view of life and service. With Chief Riley at the helm, the City and District community can rely on a team-oriented, innovative and resilient Bend Fire and Rescue.



Chief Todd Riley

Simultaneously, six longtime members retired with a total of 189 years in the department and 216 total fire service years! Deputy Chief Bob Madden (33 BFR years), Battalion Chief Dave Howe (42), Captains Mike Baxter and Tom Edwards (both 31 years), and Engineers Paul Swaggerty and Scott Seaton (both 26 years) all left for greener pastures and new horizons.

Additionally, Judi Norris, Bend Fire's Administrative Manager, retired at the end of September after a stellar 31-year career of keeping the organization running smoothly behind the scenes.

To fill the vacancies provided by the retirements, Bend Fire hired a rookie class of Firefighter/Paramedics in March, 2020. The new people are now on shift, working their way through the probationary year with intensive training and oversight.

It's always a bit nostalgic to see longtime veterans leave an organization after contributing so much, but these changes will provide opportunities to build the organization, refresh its vision and strengthen its resolve to protect the community from harm by bringing our best to each call.



Judi Norris

FIRE RESPONDERS ADAPT TO THE PANDEMIC

As soon as the COVID-19 pandemic was recognized as a threat to our health and safety, Bend Fire put response safeguards in place for crews so the potential for infection and contamination could be minimized.

Since Bend Fire provides emergency medical services (EMS) to the District, it's important to know the crews take the pandemic seriously and do everything they can to protect patients from the virus. About 82% of Bend's call volume are medical calls. For 2019, that 82% was almost 9,500 calls, 26 medical calls per day!

When the bird flu became a concern in 2006, the EMS Management at Bend Fire collaborated with a consortium of agencies such as St. Charles Hospital, tri-county public health departments, and school districts to develop a plan for response safety

FIRE RESPONDERS ADAPT TO THE PANDEMIC *(continued)*

during a pandemic. The result was a comprehensive regional blueprint for future pandemics which had us well prepared for 2020.

Bend paramedics use masks, safety goggles, and gloves on every call, adding protective gowns if the risk appears higher. All members have their temperature taken twice a day and they decontaminate all equipment after every call. Since many infected people have no symptoms yet can still spread the disease, these precautions are a significant step in reducing infection on scene and during transport to the hospital. The principle which guides our paramedics is “do no further harm,” and by taking these precautions our crews can continue to provide top patient care and District residents can be confident that contact with Bend Fire will be as safe as humanly possible.



YOU CAN BE A PARTNER IN PROTECTION

The recent fires on the west side of the state have caused a lot of concern here in Central Oregon. How vulnerable are we? Can I protect my property? My family?

If you and your neighbors work together you can protect your neighborhood and the entire community. And, the Fire District is here to help.

The Bend area has all the ingredients for a large wildland-urban fire, as we have experienced over the years. We have the summer weather patterns, the topographic variations, and the fuel loads to create significant damaging fires. However, we also have a fairly fire-aware community and highly-motivated and collaborative fire agencies.

We can't do anything about the weather or the topography, but we can focus on prevention by fuels mitigation. This is the day by day, week by week maintenance operation of clearing what can burn; keeping all fuels (dead leaves, needles, bark mulch, etc.) 5 feet from combustible parts of your house, trimming up low-hanging branches, cutting limbs away from the deck, screening attic vents, etc.

Research shows most structures that burn in a wildland fire setting are not ignited by a “wall of flame,” but by embers which have landed in nearby combustible fuels such as bark mulch or dead leaves collected in a corner. Read that again - embers! Remove anything around your house that can burn. Once one structure ignites, the heat released can easily ignite neighboring houses.

The District has a grant program to assist groups of neighbors with funding for community fuels mitigation projects. This can help offset the costs of hauling debris to the landfill, equipment, and other expenditures. You can find all the information you need to submit a proposal to the District Board at (<https://www.dcrfpd2.com>).

The District's highest value is protecting our community through awareness, action, foresight, and collaboration. Fire prevention is a homeowner's first defense against wildfire. Everyone can be involved in this effort. We do not have to be victims; we are not helpless! Get together with your neighbors and start planning those community fuels mitigation projects this fall. Contact the District for advice and assistance. You can be a partner in protection!

QUICK FACTS

Outdoor Burning requires you have a copy of the burning regulations. (Available at any fire station or online at our website, www.dcrfpd2.com.) You need to call the burning information number on the day you intend to burn.

Burning Information
(541) 322-6335

Deschutes County Rural Fire Protection District #2 Office
(541) 318-0459

Bend Fire Department Business
(541) 322-6300

Information
Fire inspections, plan review, hazardous materials and fire prevention.
(541) 322-6300

Address Sign Applications
Applications available online at www.dcrfpd2.com
(541) 318-0459

To report fires, including illegal outside burns, call 9-1-1.

Board Meeting Dates
Second Tuesday of 2nd full week of the month, 11:30 am
1212 SW Simpson Ave
Bend Fire Admin
see website for agenda

Address Sign Info
Our goal is to have VISIBLE and LEGIBLE addresses. The District produces 6" x13" reflective address signs for all interested property owners. Details are on the District website.

INFORMATION ONLINE

website: www.dcrfpd2.com
This site contains information on address signs, annexation to the District, open burning, neighborhood grant opportunities, and wildfire and fuels mitigation.

Email: gmarshall@bendoregon.com
Email: mgr@dcrfpd2.com

Facebook: Deschutes Rural Fire District #2

BOARD & ADMINISTRATION

George Roshak: President
Karl Scronce: Vice President
Kent Haarberg: Secretary/Treasurer
Ray Miao: Director
Gary Cadez: Director
Gary Marshall: Executive Director



DESCHUTES COUNTY RURAL
 FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2
 1212 SW SIMPSON AVE.
 BEND, OREGON 97702
 (541) 318-0459

PRSRRT STD.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 BEND, OR
 PERMIT NO. 348

1/2 PRICE YARD DEBRIS RECYCLING

During a wildfire, most homes are lost when falling embers smolder and ignite vulnerable areas. Follow the 10 FireFree Tips to reduce the risk of losing your home to wildfire and take advantage of 1/2 PRICE recycle days at Deschutes Recycling.



Bend
 Deschutes Recycling at Knott Landfill
 61050 SE 27th Street

October 26-31
 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Closed November 1

November 2-7
 7:00 am – 4:30 pm

- ### TEN TIPS
- 1 Define your defensible space - at least 30 feet.
 - 2 Reduce flammable brush around your home and under nearby trees.
 - 3 Prune or remove trees.
 - 4 Keep grass and weeds cut low.
 - 5 Clear wood piles and building materials away from your home.
 - 6 Keep your yard and roof clean.
 - 7 Keep address signs visible.
 - 8 Choose fire-resistant building materials and lawn furniture.
 - 9 Recycle yard debris - avoid burning.
 - 10 Be prepared to respond to wildfire.

For more info: Call 541-322-7129
 or visit www.FireFree.org

COVER YOUR LOADS!