

HOT SPOTS



NEWS FROM DESCHUTES COUNTY
RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #2

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM OUR FIRE CHIEF



Todd Riley, Bend's Fire Chief, recently provided some insight into a couple of big issues facing the Fire District. The first one is the latest Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating for the District. The ISO assesses the fire protection capabilities of agencies and grades them on a scale of 1-10, for insurance companies to use as a factor in properly determining property insurance premiums. An ISO rating of 1 indicates that a fire department can provide the highest level of protection possible. The ISO grades agencies approximately every 10 years, and looks at distance from fire stations, staffing, training, equipment, operational efficiency, and water availability.

Engine crew at Pilot Butte Station significantly reduces response time.

IMPORTANT NEWS FROM OUR FIRE CHIEF *(continued from page 1)*

The wisdom of placing stations near the city limits, where resources can respond effectively, has helped the ISO grading improve. This year, parts of the Fire District rating dropped from 3 to 2, while some areas (within 5 road miles of a fire station) are graded at 5, and properties further than 7 miles from a station are graded at 10. For more information, you can contact the District.

The effect of a better ISO grade could be a decrease in insurance premiums, although this is not guaranteed, it is dependent on the insurance company. Perhaps the point is that the District is continuing its efforts to provide the best fire protection it can with the available funding. The second issue that Chief Riley raised is the effect of the recently approved fire levy. You may remember that in 2023, before the levy vote, the City and the District provided “bridge funding” to staff a fire engine at the Pilot Butte Station (306). The effect of this engine placement is that its crew can cover many calls that more distant crews would have covered, thereby increasing the reliability of the entire emergency response system.

The levy replaces the bridge funding and makes the engine at 306 a permanent assignment. On a sustained basis, this has LOWERED overall response times by 29 seconds, which is a significant improvement. Where rural stations’ resources used to get pulled into town for calls, they are now more available for calls in their own response districts.

When the levy funds begin to be collected, they will add an additional Advanced Life Support Medic Unit at the North Station (305), which helps keep the Tumalo Station (302) more available.

The District is grateful to its citizens for approving this funding. It will significantly aid in making emergency response more effective and the community safer.



SOME NEW FACES

The Fire District Board recently lost a member, Gary Cadez, who stepped down after six years of service on the Board. Gary was appointed to the Budget Committee in 2013 and was elected to the Board in 2017. We are grateful for his years of service to the District.

Replacing Gary on the Board is Steve Davidson, a Tumalo resident since 2004, who works for First Interstate Bank. He has long-time roots in Central Oregon. Steve and his wife, who have two teenage daughters, also own The Bite Food Cart pod in Tumalo. He served on the District Budget Committee for two years prior to his appointment to the Board and is a strong community supporter.

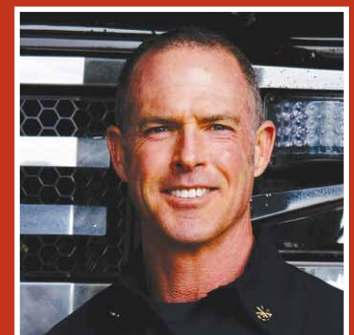
In Bend Fire news, Deputy Chief Bill Boos, who headed the Operations Division, has taken a position as Sunriver Fire Chief. Bill started his career in Sunriver and came to Bend Fire and Rescue in 1997. He worked his way up the ranks and contributed much to the community and the organization at every level he earned.

In November, the department hired Mike Hand, out of Beverly Hills, CA, to replace Bill Boos. Chief Hand comes with 22 years in the fire service, bringing a broad background including EMS (he’s still a Paramedic), fire suppression and prevention, and wildland and rescue operations. Chief Hand worked his way up to Battalion Chief and was a part of the Command organization on the 2018 Mendocino Complex, one of the largest wildland fires in California history.

Mike and his family - his wife and two adult children - are happy to be in Central Oregon, and Chief Hand is proud to be Ops Chief for Bend Fire AND the Fire District.



Bill Boos, retired Bend Fire Deputy Chief of Operations



Our new Operations Chief, Mike Hand

THOSE FIRE STATIONS...ARE YOURS!

A central clause of the historic contract between the City of Bend and the Rural Fire District states that the District owns the fire stations...all of them in Bend's response area! The City staffs and equips them, but the District owns them and leases them to the City.

Of course, along with ownership comes maintenance. The Fire Department employs a Logistics Coordinator, Tobin Slaughter, to take care of the facilities maintenance.

It's a big job, so now they are getting some help. Building Maintenance Specialist Erik Pelley has been hired to handle a lot of the critical details of running six fire stations. In addition, since four of the stations are 25 years old, this summer they will receive new high-efficiency water heaters and heating/air conditioning systems. This is part of an effort to keep the operation of the stations at the highest level of cost and energy efficiency and to maintain system resilience.

Stay tuned for future developments and, hopefully, greater efficiency and sustainability in the years to come.



THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

Every 300-500 years, a major subduction earthquake hits the Oregon Coast, causing widespread damage and havoc with a tsunami. The last one occurred in 1700, long before our current infrastructure was even dreamed of.

Many Oregon counties, including Deschutes, have been working to prepare communities for the inevitable devastating event. Of course, the Coast and the Valley will be more seriously impacted, with thousands of casualties and immeasurable infrastructure disruption projected. In this event, all utilities and transportation modes will be brought to a standstill, and the closest

air facility will be Redmond Airport. Deschutes County will be the main source of aid, assistance, and refuge, so DC Emergency Services has been gearing up for several years to meet this eventuality. Although it may or may not happen in our lifetime, the more you know, the better prepared you will be. The "Big One" is known as the Cascadia Event.

Here is some information from Nathan Garibay, Deschutes County Emergency Services Manager:

- Many Central Oregon facilities will be used for logistical support
- St. Charles Hospital is the closest

trauma center and will largely be devoted to the event

- Fuel and grocery supply chains will be disrupted, so ensure a 2-week supply
- We'll likely see thousands of refugees in various conditions
- Focus on community resilience and helping others in need
- Get your family and friends in the Valley and on the Coast to plan and prepare
- If you visit the Coast, understand the potential and what to do.

We'll post more info from the County on the District website, www.dcrfpd2.com.

GRANT SUCCESS!

In 2023, Fire Inspector Melissa Steele applied to the Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) for a fuels reduction grant for the Fire District, and in September 2023 she learned the District had been awarded \$280,000! This is a three-year grant, ending in 2026, for fuels reduction along the railroad right of way in Deschutes River Woods (DRW), with a 10% community educational component which will start in 2025.

Deschutes River Woods, home to about 5,000 people, has long had major wildland fire and fuel concerns. Many residents have worked long and hard to mitigate the fuels in the area, and the addition of this grant funding to support some long-term mitigation and education will be a welcome relief to those who worry every summer about wildfire in the community, neighbors and firefighters alike.

The grant funding will pay for fuels mitigation on the BNSF right of way that will dovetail neatly with community efforts on private property, also funded by an OSFM grant (\$180,000) awarded to the DRW Neighborhood Association.

The educational piece, called “Own Your Zone,” focuses on protecting the “First Five Feet” adjacent to a house. This is a critical factor in preventing house-to-house fire spread. The result of the twin grants will make DRW a safer place for all!



COMING SOON!

The educational component of the recent OSFM grant award!

ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICT GRANT PROGRAM

Every year, the Fire District offers a grant program to individuals and neighbors who wish to reduce the fuels in their community. This year, the grant application period opens July 1, with about an 11-month completion period.

The typical grant amount is around \$2,000 or less, and the funding covers disposal fees, hauling and dumpster costs, volunteer expenses (refreshments, etc.), and mailings. A community fuels abatement project, funded by the District, is a great way for neighbors to collaborate to make their homes

safer from fire. It can be a fun way to get to know people, work for the common good, and protect your piece of the planet.

Details and the grant application form can be found on the District website, www.dcrfpd2.com under the Information and Programs tab.

Mark your calendars now to start that application! It's easy to complete, and the District is anxious to fund your project and may advise you on the best approach.

SKYLINERS AND THE DISTRICT

DCRFPD#2 surrounds the City of Bend north past Tumalo, east to Dodds Road, and south to Deschutes River Woods. However, there is one notable island to the west near Tumalo Falls, the Skyliners community of about 50 homes.

Up Tumalo Creek, several decades ago, there was a ski hill, a lodge, the Anderson Mill, and the City's water intake at Bridge Creek. A few houses were built after WWII when the mill subdivided its property, but most were cabins and not occupied full-time. In the 1970s, people started building more permanent houses, and it became a living community.

On July 25, 1979, a fire was reported in the City of Bend Watershed, west of the small community. Bend Fire units responded with US Forest Service firefighters and found a roaring conflagration bearing down Tumalo Creek toward Skyliners. Although there was no stopping the fire, they were able to nudge it away from the houses. This was Bend's first really big wildfire (3500 acres) in many years, and it definitely got our attention!

Over the next decade or so, there were occasional structure fires in the unprotected community of Skyliners, and concerned citizens considered finding a way to join the Fire District. Whenever negotiations started, the Fire Department agreed to protect the area, but generally, after a while, the issue was tabled. Finally, in the early 1990s, the District and the community were able to come to an agreement, and the little area 8 miles up Skyliners Road was annexed into the Fire District.



Skyliners Subdivision, about 8 miles west of Bend

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES UPDATE

In 2023, Bend Fire and Rescue responded to 13,488 calls for service, including 1,716 in the District. Of these, 1,293 were emergency medical calls, 75.3% of the total. It's worth remembering that Bend Fire and Rescue is the sole Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provider within the city of Bend and the District, so when you see an ambulance in your neighborhood, it is staffed by Bend firefighters, most of whom are also paramedics.

In Oregon, becoming licensed as a Paramedic involves a two-year college degree, extensive clinical experience, and ongoing training and education. Bend Fire and Rescue contracts with two Emergency Room doctors, who function as Physician Advisors overseeing the medical aspect of the response and continually push the crews to improve. While the national average for survivability from a cardiac arrest is around 30%, Bend's survivability rate is consistently above 50%, earning our crews professional recognition every year.

As EMS Deputy Chief Drew Norris says, "Station 306 has been huge in helping reduce response times, and low response

times are a key to survivability and better patient outcomes."

Norris notes that a key feature of Bend's EMS response is the Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulance program, which employs basic-level Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) to operate two ambulances for a lower level of medical call, like a broken arm or a minor accident. This allows the Paramedics to remain available for the more severe calls. In addition, the BLS program allows BLS employees a chance to see what the fire service is all about, and Bend Fire has hired many of them as full-time firefighters/paramedics. BLS employees work the same 48-hour schedule as the full-time crews, and they quickly become proficient at caring for patients, maintaining their equipment, and being members of the response team.





FIREFREE

SPRING 2024 FIREFREE INFORMATION

See below for 2024 dates, times, and locations of the annual Spring FireFree Event!
Dispose of your needles, leaves, branches, and brush for FREE!

- Grass clippings, brush, plant prunings, pine needles, pine cones, weeds, trimmings and branches, stumps or trees (no larger than 12" diameter).
- NOT Accepted: Sod, dirt, rocks, lumber, metal, trash or plastics of any kind, including plastic bags, and any stumps or trees larger than 12" diameter.

FREE YARD DEBRIS COLLECTION

The Deschutes County Knott Landfill will be accepting yard debris this Spring for FREE!

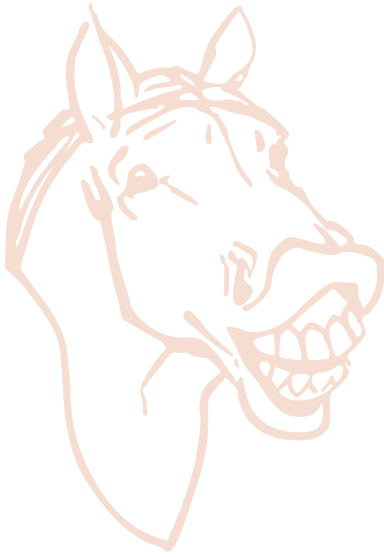
During regular scheduled business hours and days, listed below:

Bend
Knott Landfill
May 3 – May 12
7 days/week
7 AM – 4:30 PM
61050 SE 27th Street, Bend

COVER YOUR LOADS!

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

FIRE SEASON OUTLOOK...FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH



I recently contacted Meteorologist John Saltenberger with the National Weather Service at the Portland office, asking him about his outlook for the 2024 fire season. He stated that nothing stands out as unusual, we appear to be heading for a "normal" fire season, at least through July. He emphasized that in Central Oregon, we will get fires no matter what conditions are forecast, so no matter what the forecast may be, preparedness still needs to be at the top of your list.

To stay on top of the fire situation this summer, go to www.centraloregonfire.org for fire updates.

To sign up for alerts on your phone, go to www.deschutes.org/911 and follow the link.

OUR CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Left to right: Gary Marshall, Executive Director; Oliver Tatom, Kent Haarberg, George Roshak; Steve Davidson; Ray Miao, which are elected board members.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

Just a reminder that the monthly District Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Tuesday of the month at the Bend Fire & Rescue Admin Building at 1212 SW Simpson in Bend. The meeting is called to order at 11:30 AM, and all are welcome. A Chief's Report, Old and New Business, and Financial updates are always on the agenda.

QUICK FACTS

Outdoor Burning
requires you have a copy of the burning regulations (available at any firestation 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) 322-6377

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

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

Board Meeting Dates
Third Tuesday of the month, 11:30 am
1212 SW Simpson Ave
Bend Fire Admin

Address Sign Info
Our goal is to have VISIBLE and LEGIBLE addresses. For \$25 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, board meeting minutes, neighborhood grant opportunities, and wildfire and fuels mitigation.

Email: gmarshall@bendoregon.gov

BOARD & ADMINISTRATION

Ray Miao: President
Oliver Tatom: Vice President
Kent Haarberg: Secretary/Treasurer
Steve Davidson: Director
George Roshak: Director
Gary Marshall: Executive Director



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

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
BEND OR
PERMIT NO 473

BEHIND THE SCENES: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MAKE THE CALL

As anyone who has had to call 9-1-1 for an emergency can tell you, it can feel like forever until the crews arrive to give you a hand. But for the right equipment to show up at the right place, a lot of things must happen between the time you call and the time the crews get on their way.

First of all, 9-1-1, or Dispatch, has one or two call takers and perhaps as many as four radio dispatchers on duty at any given time. They handle about 1,000 calls per day, over 300,000 per year, serving nine fire departments and five police agencies, as well as coordinating communications with state and federal wildland agencies and Oregon State Police.

HERE IS AN ABBREVIATED TIMELINE FOR A TYPICAL EMERGENCY 9-1-1 CALL:

- You make the call
- The call is routed through the phone system to 9-1-1, with the caller's GPS location and ID
- The call taker determines the location and nature of the emergency and verifies caller info
- The call taker uses a scripted question algorithm to triage the call and gather information
- When sufficient info has been gathered, all is routed to the Dispatcher, who reviews the call
- The dispatcher enters the call into the "Unit determination screen," which recommends the appropriate response units: the closest units and numbers matched to the call type.
- Finally, the Dispatcher activates the alert tones for the appropriate crews. This sets off the tone alarm in the appropriate stations and turns on the lights.
- The crew slides down the pole, dons the gear they need, the Captain confirms the location, and out the door they go.