



Alfalpa Fire & Rescue

Spring Newsletter

January – March 2017

Fire station plans moving ahead

Final plans are being completed and should be back to the Board for approval and to be advertised to prospective bidders. It is estimated that the overall cost of the project will likely exceed our ability to finance the complete facility construction all at once. In an effort to stay within our current income and budget the goal is to do the station in phases that will allow initial use. Some items may not get finished immediately and will be prioritized for completion. We hope to have a “warm shell” to be in use by late in the fall or early winter. This will allow storage for all of our apparatus to be ready for operational response.

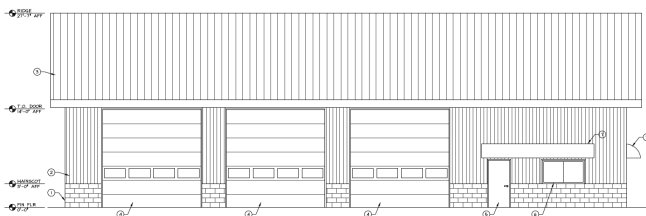
Thank You!

Local residents Susan and Chuck Cook recently presented AFD with a check for \$100 in appreciation for the response they received in early 2017 for a structure fire on their property. Several AFD volunteer firefighters braved near-zero degree weather to prevent a well-established shop fire from spreading to other structures. AFD appreciates the recognition and the donation!

WATER TENDER PURCHASE

In mid-February AFD completed a \$15,000 transaction with the Jefferson County Fire District to acquire their 1983 3500-gallon water tender. This piece of apparatus is a welcome addition as it will help provide much needed water within the district. It will nearly double the amount of water that can currently be provided to the scene of a fire with our previous apparatus combined. A photo of the truck is seen in the header of this newsletter.

A big “thank you” to Chief Brian Huff and the Jefferson County Fire District Board of Directors for making this purchase possible.



Burn Policy for AFD

- Check weather, *especially wind*, before lighting your fire.
- Do not burn prohibited materials (see list at right.)
- Keep piles small and manageable.
- Have fire tools (charged hose, shovel, bucket) at your burn site.
- Do NOT leave your burn unattended; must be attended by an adult.
- Extinguish your fire before leaving.
- If your fire escapes call **911**.

For a complete set of guidelines and recommendations please pick up a handout available at the Alfalfa Store.

Spring burning

Some of you may be doing some spring debris or field burning once the conditions allow. Please remember to have a plan on what to do if your fire escapes. Check for potential windy conditions and don't take chances of your fire escaping. **Wind is the biggest variable and risk relating to wild fire. BE SAFE!**

Department of Environmental Quality Burn Material Restrictions

Burning the following materials is illegal anytime, anywhere in

- ✓ Asbestos
- ✓ Asphalt
- ✓ Auto parts (including frames)
- ✓ Dead animals
- ✓ Plastic and rubber products
- ✓ Tires
- ✓ Waste oil and petroleum products
- ✓ Wet garbage and food waste
- ✓ Any material creating dense smoke or noxious odors

**DEQ – Bend Office
541-388-6146**

FIREFREE RECYCLING EVENT

The dates for "FireFree" this year are May 6th through 14th. Take advantage of hauling your yard debris to Knott Landfill for *free* recycling. Hours will be 7 AM to 5 PM. This event is set up to encourage the removal of burnable or recyclable vegetative waste. It is a great opportunity to rid your property of burnable yard debris and avoid the risk of having a wildfire. Knott Landfill is located at 61050 SE 27th in Bend.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

AFD firefighters and Chief Thompson were recently interviewed by both KTVZ and KOHD in an effort to inform the community of what has been happening in the past 9 months since fire and medical services were initiated in the Alfalfa Fire district. As news worthy events occur within the district we will reach out to the local media to get coverage in an effort to better keep you informed. We still plan to get newsletters out 3 or 4 times per year.

Chief's Corner



Fire Chief Ron Thompson

Welcome to the Alfalfa Fire District's spring newsletter!

Currently we have 15 volunteer firefighters and 4 medical responders serving our community. This is a big commitment and I would like to thank all of them for their hard work. We are always looking for members of the community who would like to join.

Recently we have had difficulty locating emergencies because properties did not have the proper address sign. The AFD can have an all-weather reflective green address sign made and installed for you. For more information please contact Firefighter Chad LaVallee @ 503-910-6129

Spring is here and that means fire season is just around the corner. Now is the time to prepare by establishing a defensible space around your home. A defensible space is a buffer zone that will give you and firefighters a chance to defend your home in case of a fire. Please go to our website for more information.

Please feel free to call or email me if you any questions or concerns.

541-280-7362 rthompson@afdistr.org

CALLS FOR SERVICE - 2017

Total calls for service to date: 15

- 1 Structure fire
- 3 Smoke checks
- 1 Motor Vehicle Accident
- 10 Medical Aid

2016 total calls for service (April through December): 33

Operational Goals for 2017

- Apply for additional grants for equipment and training.
- Create a fire prevention plan and promote community awareness for fire safety.
- Continue to establish operational policies for firefighters and medical responders.
- Obtain ISO rating which will help reduce insurance rates.
- Obtain Personal Protective Equipment for firefighters and to train for interior structure firefighting.
- Establish mutual aid agreements with outside agencies.
- Start construction on a facility that will allow apparatus storage and training.
- Continued training to advance the skills of the firefighters and medical responders.

Board of Directors

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Keep up to date by visiting our website at :
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