



Alfalfa Fire & Rescue

Fall Newsletter

October - December 2016

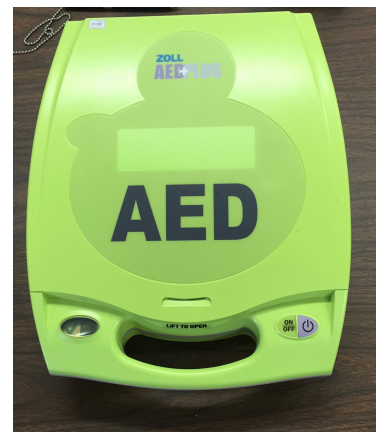
Fire District secures land for station!

After nearly two years of searching and going through a partitioning process the Alfalfa Fire District completed a land transaction that will be home for the future fire station. The 2.72 acre parcel located just west of the COI canal along Alfalfa Market Road will be home to a planned 5600 square foot building and physical plant. Tentative plans call for construction starting in the spring of 2017 with a move-in date anticipated in the fall. The fire district wishes to thank the **David and Tamara Pike family** for making a piece of their land available as an option for the district to purchase. THANK YOU!!!!



Local resident Larry McCormack hands Fire Chief Ron Thompson a check for \$500 to be used for AED's for the district.

Thank You!



AED (Automated External Defibrillator) Used by our firefighters and EMS responders in conjunction with CPR to shock cardiac patients.



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, and a 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.

Email vs. “snailmail” for your newsletter?

To help trim our mailing costs we encourage any of you who can receive the AFD newsletter electronically to please call or email Carolyn Chase (541-312-2600 or cchase6132@aol.com .) Any name or address corrections can be done through Carolyn as well. As we grow as a district there will be more info to share. Thanks!

Department of Environmental Quality Burn Material Restrictions

Burning the following materials is illegal anytime, anywhere in Oregon

- ✓ 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**



Winter operations

The fire district was pleased to enter into an agreement with Kerry Newell for winter storage of two pieces of fire apparatus. This will allow the district to respond to fires during winter months more quickly rather than having to drain the apparatus due to freezing weather and refill it while responding to a fire call. Thank you, Kerry and Julie!

Chief's Corner



Fire Chief Ron Thompson

With 2016 coming to a close we can look back with pride on our accomplishments. With the past 6 months we have become a functional fire district! While we will continue to improve our training and service to the community in the months and years to come we are off to a great start. A big “thank you” to the volunteers in the community who have stepped up to make this a reality.

We recently submitted a grant request through FEMA for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that will give our firefighters proper protection on structure fires and other hazardous calls. We are also part of a regional grant that is attempting to get updated communications equipment.

In addition, we are also submitting a grant request for a new water tender that is the major piece of apparatus still needed.

District residents are encouraged to visit the alfalfafiredistrict.org website to get more up-to-date information than is available in our quarterly newsletter.

As a reminder, any calls for fire or medical assistance should go through **911** as our personnel are dispatched more efficiently using that method.

Deschutes County 911 is introducing a new feature of texting for 911 services in addition to calling. Become familiar with its features and when to properly use it.

CALLS FOR SERVICE TO DATE

- 1 Structure fire
- 1 Vehicle fire
- 3 Vegetation fires
- 1 Rubbish fire
- 1 Lightning strike
- 16 Medical Aid calls
- 6 Unauthorized burns
- 2 Smoke investigations

Total calls for service -- 31



Fires During Holiday Season

Recent information released by the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office indicates most fires occurring during holiday season are caused by chimney (30%), cooking (13 %) with Christmas decorations, trees, and candles making up only 1 or 2% of the fires.

Helpful hints:

Chimney Fires

Clean and maintain your chimney or vent yearly, burn only seasoned wood, never use gas, kerosene, or charcoal light fluid to start your fire.

Cooking Fires

Bring cooking oils up to temperature slowly and never put frozen items into hot oil. Keep a lid handy to cover a pan should it accidentally catch fire.

Never leave burning candles unattended!

Wanted: Information Technology specialist

The Alfalfa Fire District is in need of someone with a good background in computer systems willing to volunteer a few hours occasionally to assist us with computer and information technology needs. Particular tasks would be to help with mail systems on personal computers and various questions about applications and programs being used or planned to be used in the future by the district. Contact a board member or the fire chief for more information. Thank you.

Board of Directors

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