

Applegate Valley Fire Dist. #9  
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# Fireside

2016

The Fire District's Newsletter Packed with Information & Tips

Winter

## From the Chief

### Tis the Season

Welcome to the Applegate Fire District #9 newsletter. We strive to deliver the ultimate professional service possible to our citizens. We accomplish this through Duty, Honor, and Integrity. From all of us to all of you, thank you for your continued support.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally wish everyone in the Applegate Valley and afar, a safe and happy Holiday Season. As you may have noticed, we have become very festive this Holiday Season here at Headquarters. The membership has been very busy decorating and spreading cheer and I could not be prouder. We are elated to hear all the positive comments from those that have stopped in and thanked us for participating in the Holiday Season.

Now we need to address some very important issues that should be occurring this time of year. We want to remind everyone that this is the time that you should be preparing your properties for the upcoming fire season. Waiting until Spring, is not recommended. As property owners, we have the responsibility to maintain our properties in a fire safe manner. I know I am preaching to the choir for most of you. However, if I do not mention it, I would not be doing the District justice. Here are a few things we recommend.

- Prune back vegetation along property lines.
- Cut overhanging branches on your driveways.
- Clean dead vegetation around residence.
- Maintain fire breaks around your properties.

By doing so, you are assisting the Fire District and helping us help you.

For many of you this may be difficult due to time and funding. There are many private companies and government agencies that can assist you with this process. For example, Jackson County residences can utilize the Jackson County fuels mitigation crews. There is a price for this, however, it is a simple and easy way to get a lot of work completed. If interested, please contact Tallie at District Headquarters for more information.

The next big issue is dying trees. Many of you have seen the death rate increase over that last couple of years. There are two contributing factors.

- The drought
- Beetle kill

I have spoken with Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and they have some funding available to assist in tree removal on district properties. ODF stated "they are going to concentrate on properties that are two and a half acres or larger at first". Please contact ODF Nick Haile at 541-664-3328 for further assistance.

Thanks for being diligent and making this past fire season safe here in the Applegate Valley.

## From the Board of Directors

by Sandy Shaffer, Board Vice President, Applegate Valley Fire District

2016 has been a year of change for our Applegate Fire District, with Chief Fillis retiring and our new Chief Mike McLaughlin taking over the reins in March. And, this fall long-time office manager Carey Chaput retired, and Tallie Jackson has taken her place. It seems like change was in the stars, because two veteran Board of Director (BOD) members also recently retired!

This past summer long-time volunteer and BOD member Bob Ettner retired after 19 years, saying "it was time to give someone else a chance". And, Ed Temple had been on the Board of Directors for 22 years, but this October he and his wife Lynn said it was finally time to live their dream, and they retired to Arizona.

The BOD's primary duty is watching over the District's finances; it also sets policy and hires one employee: the fire chief. So finding new members is a very serious undertaking. Oregon state requirements (ORS478.050) for a special district such as ours is singular: that the person be a resident or a land owner of property within the District. Our fire district also has one further stipulation - that firefighters or employees of the District (or their spouses) may not serve on the BOD.

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**Welcome Aboard & Best Wishes**

Welcome to our new Office Manager; Tallie Jackson. Board Members; Michael Parker and Lori Cooper. Volunteers; Nicole Armstrong, Nate Carroll and Julian Ramirez . Farewell and thank you to our recently retired Office Manager, Carey Chaput, Board Members; Ed Temple and Bob Ettner, Volunteers; Nina Kiskadden and Bob Zeigler.

**Board of Director**

*Craig Amann  
Sandy Shaffer  
Rich Halsted  
Michael Parker  
Lori Cooper*

**Fire Chief**

*Mike McLaughlin*

**Operations Chief**

*Chris Wolfard*

**Division Chief**

*Brad Barnes*

**Office Manager**

*Tallie Jackson*

**Shift Supervisors**

*Greg Gilbert  
TaiLese Goodnough  
Mike Kuntz*

**Budget Committee**

*Matt Epstein  
Ted Shaffer  
Steve Weaver*

**Station 1**

*18489 N. Applegate Rd.*

**Station 2**

*7774 Upper Applegate Rd.*

**Station 3—HQ**

*1095 Upper Applegate Rd.*

**Station 4**

*12188 Williams Hwy.*

**Station 5**

*2170 Hwy. 238*

**Station 6**

*1076 Kubli Rd.*

**Station 7**

*7990 Griffin Ln.*

**From the Board of Directors cont'd**

Some things we look for in potential candidates are a knowledge of the fire district and it's functions, the ability to work together in a small group, and a real commitment to put in the time required to serve the Applegate community.

When Bob indicated that he would be retiring, one person immediately expressed his interest in the position. Michael Parker had been a member of the Fire District's finance committee for the past three years, and served as chair for two of those years. Michael and his wife moved to the Applegate from Ventura County, California in 2005. His career has included managing orchards, cattle ranches and construction projects. He's currently breeding Highland cattle.

Michael also has 25 years of experience working on a county Search & Rescue team, and is currently his neighborhood's local telephone tree lead – both invaluable experiences for the Applegate Fire District to tap into. We were pleased to vote Michael in as a member of the BOD during our August meeting.

And, in November the BOD filled Ed Temple's position by voting in Lori Cooper. Lori and her husband have lived in the Applegate since 1998. They have 17 acres in the China Gulch area that they share with their two children, goats, chickens, dogs and a cat. Lori is the Medford City Attorney, and believes "strongly in participating in the governance of our community." We already sense that Lori will be an asset to the Board.

The fire district BOD meetings are the third Wednesday of every month, 6 PM at the District's new community building in Ruch, and we always welcome interested constituents.

**FAMILY DISASTER PLANNING**

**Where will you and your family be when disaster strikes?  
What would you do if basic services—water, gas, electricity, and telephones  
were cut off for long periods ?**

Whether faced with a family emergency or a regional disaster, the effort you've put into family preparedness and disaster planning will play a large role in how well you "survive" the event. Homes properly prepared are exponentially better protected when neighbors pro-actively develop and maintain defensive strategies as a community. These efforts increase the effectiveness and efficiency of limited fire resources. Stop by the District Office to pick up a copy of "Before Wildfire Strikes" A Handbook for Homeowners and Communities in Southwest Oregon.

**Tips for Winter**

- Smoke Alarm Safety – Check Smoke Alarms regularly - replace batteries and older Smoke Alarms as needed.
- Vacuum smoke alarms regularly to remove dust and cobwebs.
- Do you need a Carbon Monoxide Alarm? – Homes with heaters, furnaces, fireplaces and appliances that burn fuels such as gasoline, wood, propane, oil, kerosene incompletely.
- The Dangers of Carbon Monoxide - A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a larger amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- When electricity goes off because of winter storms, it is common for people to use alternative fuels to power generators, lanterns and stoves for heating and cooking. However, the use of alternative sources of fuel or electricity can cause carbon monoxide to build up in a home, garage, or camper and poison those inside.
- Kitchen Safety – NEVER use water or flour on cooking fires!
- Keep a lid close by and turn handles inward to prevent food spills.
- Slide a pan lid over flames to smother a grease or oil fire. Then turn off the heat, and leave the lid in place until the pan cools. NEVER carry the pan outside.
- Turn off the oven and keep the door shut to smother an oven or broiler fire.
- Keep cooking surfaces clean to prevent food and grease from building up on surfaces (including the fan hood).
- Keep combustibles away from hot surfaces.

Fire District Board meetings, Including budget committee meetings, are open to the public and we invite you to attend. Visit the website [www.applegatefd.com](http://www.applegatefd.com) for dates and times.

## Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

(<https://www.fema.gov/about-community-emergency-response-team>)

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors such as number of victims, communication failures and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985. The Whittier Narrows earthquake in 1987 underscored the area-wide threat of a major disaster in California. Further, it confirmed the need for training civilians to meet their immediate needs. As a result, the LAFD created the Disaster Preparedness Division with the purpose of training citizens and government employees.

The Applegate Valley Fire District is planning to sponsor a local CERT program and is seeking interested valley residents. As a member of this dynamic organization, it is an opportunity for you to help your community and local Fire District during valley wide emergencies. Each member will be required to attend training sessions provided by CERT to become fully certified. In order to continue forward we are seeking interested individuals. This is a great opportunity to assist the Fire District and your community members. Please contact Tallie for further information at 541-899-1050.

The CERT course will benefit any citizen who takes it. This individual will be better prepared to respond to and cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Additionally, if a community wants to supplement its response capability after a disaster, civilians can be recruited and trained as neighborhood, business and government teams that, in essence, will be auxiliary responders. These groups can provide immediate assistance to victims in their area, organize spontaneous volunteers who have not had the training and collect disaster intelligence that will assist professional responders with prioritization and allocation of resources following a disaster. Since 1993 when this training was made available nationally by FEMA, communities in 28 states and Puerto Rico have conducted CERT training.

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a positive and realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference. Through training, citizens can manage utilities and put out small fires; treat the three killers by opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating for shock; provide basic medical aid; search for and rescue victims safely and organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective.

### Fire Prevention in the Schools

By Tallie Jackson, Office Manager, Applegate Valley Fire District



Applegate Valley Fire District kicked off Fire Prevention Month in October by visiting Ruch School. Upon arrival the students showered retiring office manager, Carey with thank you cards, posters and a "Diary of Carey Chaput". Carey and Tallie presented a challenge to each classroom to create a family fire escape plan and for extra credit taking a "smoke alarm selfie". The same challenge was presented to the students of Applegate School in November. Ms. Neiswanger's and Mrs. Halsted's classrooms had the highest participation in their school. As a reward students receive a station tour and lunch with the firefighters.

**We would like to remind you to practice your fire escape plans, know two ways out and have a meeting place.**

### Show your support!

by Babette Rapp, Friends of the Applegate Valley Fire District #9

Are you looking for a worthwhile way to volunteer in your community? The Friends of the Applegate Valley Fire District # 9 is an auxiliary group that is looking for new members.

The Friends provide a Christmas party, awards banquet, and summer picnic for the volunteer firefighters. Our Christmas party is our biggest event. We seek donations from the community and provide a gift for each volunteer firefighter. Santa appears and hands out stockings to the children of the volunteers.

The Friends meet every other month to plan and arrange for events we have throughout the year. We are always looking for people who are interested in helping us support our firefighters. If you're interested, stop by on the third Tuesday of every other month at 6:00 pm at the multi-purpose building at 1095 Upper Applegate Rd. At this January's meeting we will be planning the awards banquet, which will take place in early March. Please call the main headquarters at 541-899-1050 to learn more about the Friends.

The Applegate volunteer firefighters donate their time and risk their lives to make us safe. Please join us in supporting them.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home

Check with your local community to find a recycling program.

Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make the last longer.

FACTS

One of every three home Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical failures.



What is carbon monoxide?

It is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels, such as gasoline, wood, charcoal, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, kerosene and methane burn incompletely. CO is heavier than air, so a CO alarm should be mounted lower on a wall. A combination smoke / CO still needs to be mounted high.

Where does carbon monoxide come from?

Heaters, fireplaces, furnaces, appliances and cooking sources using coal, wood, petroleum products, and other fuels producing carbon monoxide. Products and equipment powered by an internal combustion engine, such as portable generators, cars, lawn mowers, and power washers produce carbon monoxide. Vehicles or generators running in an attached garage can also produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

According to the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, approximately 2,100 people die from carbon monoxide poisoning every year in the United States

There are more than 10,000 injuries annually from carbon monoxide

- The dangers of CO exposure depend on a number of variables, including the victim's health and activity level. Infants, pregnant women, and people with physical conditions that limit their body's ability to use oxygen (i.e. emphysema, asthma, heart disease) can be more severely affected by lower concentrations of CO than healthy adults would be.
- A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time.
- CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer's instructions.

If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.

**Volunteer Christmas**

The Friends of Applegate Valley Fire District hosted the Annual Christmas Party for the Volunteer Firefighters. Many donations came in from local businesses making it possible to have great gifts for the firefighters and their families. Santa made a surprise visit giving out stockings and taking wish lists from all the boys, girls and even Chief. Thank You to the Friends for making this year special and festive!

Special Thank You to our Donors

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|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ◆ Gates Home Furnishings  | ◆ Jacksonville Veterinary Hospital | ◆ Applegate River Lodge   |
| ◆ Papa Murphy's           | ◆ Farmhouse Treasures              | ◆ Field & Steam           |
| ◆ Scheffel's Toys & More  | ◆ Bi-Mart                          | ◆ Frank Ault              |
| ◆ Applegate Animal Clinic | ◆ DSU Trucks                       | ◆ Salon 238               |
| ◆ Sherm's Thunderbird     | ◆ Global Cache                     | ◆ The Pit Stop            |
| ◆ Jerry's Rogue Jets      | ◆ Ruch Hardware                    | ◆ Harry & David           |
| ◆ Deborah Buoy            | ◆ Hidden Valley Market             | ◆ Applegate Store         |
| ◆ Grange Co-Op            | ◆ Les Schwab Tires                 | ◆ Debra Valles            |
| ◆ Valley View Winery      | ◆ Rosario's Italian Restaurant     | ◆ Wooldridge Creek Winery |
| ◆ SeaWestern              | ◆ Rosella's Vineyard               | ◆ Debbie Valles           |

