

FIRESIDE

Chief's Message –

2024 was an eventful year for Williams RFPD. We responded to a record number of alarms, spent hundreds of hours training, increased the amount of water we can bring to a fire and pulled together as a team to keep providing service to the Williams Community. Some of our 2024 accomplishments are detailed below.



Alarms – We responded to 284 alarms during 2024, including 16 fire calls and 132 EMS calls.

Training – Our crews documented over 1400 hours of training, including over 400 hours of fire training, 175 hours of EMS and 180 hours driver training and practice.

Oregon State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Water Tender – The delivery of the OSFM tactical water tender increased our ability to bring water to a fire scene and to return some of the mutual aid we receive without sending our only tender out of district.

Williams Firefighter Association (WFA) – The WFA was formed to promote camaraderie and morale and to provide a unified voice for the Volunteers and Staff. The WFA coordinated a couple of events including our recent, and very successful, Awards Banquet.

Fire Prevention Efforts – Our chipper crew tackled over two dozen chipper projects, some of them taking multiple days to reduce the fuels. If you would like to participate in the chipper program or the related dump trailer and fuel assessment programs, please reach out to the WRFPD Fire Marshal, Jon Scaroni.

If you are interested in joining our team, we're always accepting volunteer applications. Stop by and let's talk about you joining one of the best response teams I've had the honor of being a part of during my career.

Interim Chief, Nicco Holt,
Williams Rural Fire Protection District



APPLEGATE FIRE DISTRICT



Greetings, and thank you for taking the time to read the Spring 2025 edition of the Fireside Newsletter. I'm proud to share updates, news, and reflections from across the Applegate Fire District, and I hope this issue gives you a clear picture of the work we're doing—and the support we need from our community.

There's a lot of great content in these pages, but I'd especially like to draw your attention to two important pieces.

First, in my article "Answering the Call," I talk about our most urgent need: volunteer firefighters. As emergency calls increase and fire seasons grow more intense, we're facing a shortage of responders. We need more local residents—people like you—to step up and serve. If you've ever thought about becoming a firefighter, now is the time. We'll give you the training and tools—you bring the heart and commitment.

Second, I want to personally invite you to our upcoming Community Connection event on April 30th from 5 to 7 p.m. at Wooldridge Creek Winery. This is a relaxed, informative evening where you can learn more about what's happening in the district, ask questions, and share your thoughts. It's a great opportunity to stay connected with your fire district in a beautiful setting.

Thanks again for reading, and for supporting Applegate Fire. It's an honor to serve this community.

Chris Wolfard

Fire Chief
Applegate Fire District

2024

PERSONNEL SPOTLIGHT



Firefighter Jasmine Williams

My name is Jasmine Williams and I was born/raised in Williams, Oregon; a place that will forever be considered home to me. In September 2023, I decided to become a volunteer firefighter with WRFPD. I am a third generation firefighter and proud to continue on this career path. My inspiration for joining stems from my Grandma. She was a firefighter for almost a decade. She always encouraged me to never give up and that I can accomplish anything I put my mind to. Despite the struggles, I am determined to overcome them and work towards matching the performance of my co-workers. The passion I have for it is incomparable to any other line of work I've done. Joining WRFPD has been one of the best decisions I've made and I look forward to what the future has in store. In addition to firefighting, I'm also working towards becoming an EMT and possibly a Paramedic.

Firefighter Devin Brennan

Devin Brennan joined the Williams RFPD in January of 2022 as a volunteer and was hired to fill a grant funded full-time firefighter position in late 2023. Devin grew up in Murphy and spent much of his youth in and around Williams. His primary drive for being a member is to serve and support the residents of Williams.

Devin earned his EMT and Firefighter I credentials in 2023 and is a dedicated responder for the district; he responded to over 50% of the alarms during 2024. When not responding to alarms, Devin worked to streamline and modernize the district's apparatus inspections and help ensure readiness for the next call. In addition, he was instrumental in the formation of the Williams Firefighter Association (WFA) and currently serves as their president.

Outside of district activities, Devin enjoys playing disc golf, working on and fabricating parts for vehicles and 4-wheeling in his Forerunner.



PERSONNEL SPOTLIGHT

2024



KANE GUNTHER

The Applegate Fire District is proud to announce that with the recent increase in grant funding, Station 51 will continue to be staffed and operational, ensuring our community receives timely and reliable emergency services. This funding has enabled us to maintain a strong presence in the area, and we would like to take this opportunity to recognize two outstanding individuals who have been essential in keeping Station 51 ready to respond.

Kane Gunther and Jason Schonhoff have both gone above and beyond in their commitment to protecting the Applegate community. Their dedication, hard work, and tireless efforts ensure that Station 51 remains prepared for any emergency situation, day or night. Whether responding to a fire, medical emergency, or any other critical incident, these two individuals are always ready to step up and serve.



JASON SCHONHOFF

Kane Gunther who joined our team in 2021 has shown exceptional leadership and a steadfast commitment to ensuring that the community is well-protected. His experience and quick decision making skills have been instrumental in the success of our operations at Station 51.

Jason Schonhoff joined our team in 2020 his enthusiasm and passion for firefighting shine through in everything he does. His work ethic and dedication make him an invaluable part of the team, and his contributions help to maintain the readiness and professionalism that the Applegate Fire District is known for. Jason is one of our most active volunteers.

As we continue to serve the community with the support of this grant funding, we thank Kane Gunther and Jason Schonhoff for their selfless service and for always being ready to protect our residents. Their contributions play a crucial role in keeping our community safe, and we are grateful for their ongoing commitment to the Applegate Fire District.

We look forward to continuing our mission of serving the community and are excited for the future of Station 51 under the leadership of individuals like Kane and Jason. Thank you for your dedication and service.

APPLEGATE FIRE DISTRICT

Spring 2025

WILDLAND FIRE PREVENTION



The Applegate Fire District is proud to host Fuels Crew 53, a joint program with The Northwest Youth Corps, an organization dedicated to the development of youth entering the workforce while gaining experience in public service. Fuels Crew 53 has been heavily engaged with community members by assisting them with defensible space and fuels reduction around their home and properties, while enhancing the capabilities of our chipper and vegetation trailer programs. Fuels Crew 53 is also funded by a grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

FUELS CREW 53



80 acres of vegetation treated and 70 homes received assistance in the 2024-25 field seasons.

Firewise Communities in the Applegate Valley



*New
in 2025*

- Humbug Creek
- Thompson Creek
- China Gulch
- Ruch
- Lomas - Cantrall

The Applegate Fire District is assisting communities work towards firewise community nonrecognition. throughout 2025, meetings will be held with community members on how we are moving forward to become firewise throughout the Applegate Valley. For more information visit about the program Firewise.org or Call 541 890-7359



Connect with our Programs!

to assist you
**PREPARE FOR
WILDLAND FIRE**

Firewise Projects



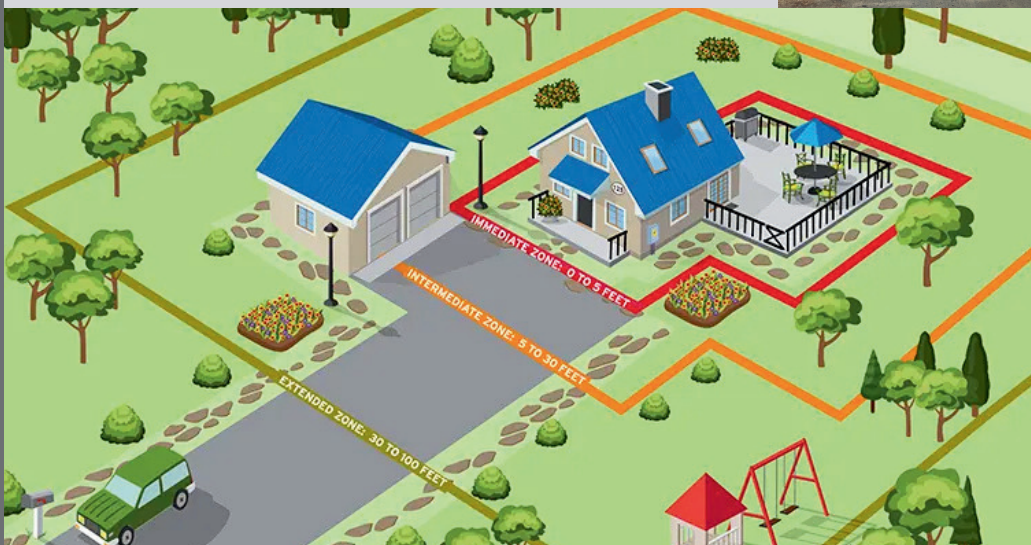
In 2024, The Applegate Valley Fuels Management Taskforce partnered with the Wagon Trail Drive Firewise Community to implement fuels treatments made possible by funding from The Oregon Department of Forestry. Over 70 acres of vegetation were treated directly around homes and roadways, enhancing emergency evacuation routes. The Applegate Fire District is actively working to identify funding sources and implement similar projects, working directly with our residents within our Firewise Communities.



HOME ASSESSMENTS
FIREWISE - FUELS REDUCTION



OR CALL (541) 890-7359



Don't Wait – Check the Date!

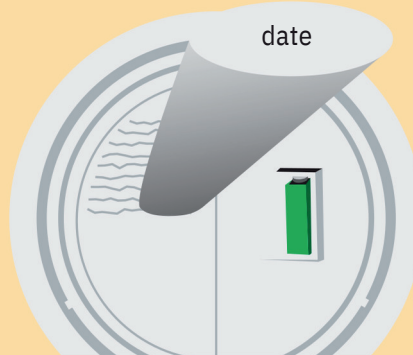
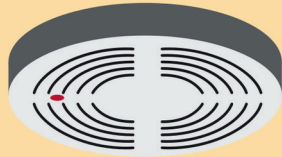
Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years



Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms. Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

1

Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.



2

Look at the date of the manufacture.

3

Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



4

Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.



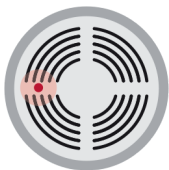
A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org.



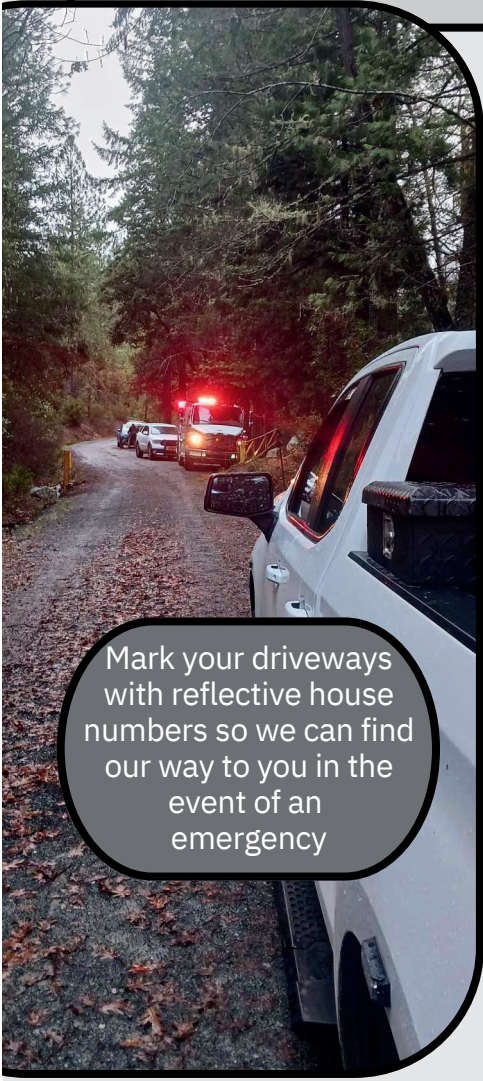
The wellbeing of our community is a priority for WRFPD!

WILLIAMS FIRE/RESCUE

There are many ways you can support WRFPD and our commitment to the safety and education of our community members. Join our Support Team (we meet every second Monday of the month at the station at 6pm), or stop by our table at the Williams Farmer's Market on First Monday's to find out about our upcoming events. Follow us on Facebook, search our website (WRFPD.org), or email us (info@WRFPD.org). We look forward to hearing from you!

Sign up for WRFPD's next Red Cross Blood Drive

Visit RedCrossBlood.org
 Enter zip code 97544
 or call 1-800-733-2767



Mark your driveways with reflective house numbers so we can find our way to you in the event of an emergency



Become a Volunteer Firefighter



Check out the Events calendar on page 9



Learn how to burn your debris piles safely

APPLEGATE FIRE DISTRICT



*1095 Upper Applegate Rd,
Jacksonville, OR 97530
(541) 899-1050*



Applegate Valley Fire District is looking for individuals who are passionate and dedicated to serving their community. Whether you're interested in volunteering or joining the Applegate Fire in another capacity, this could be a great opportunity to make a difference.

ASK ABOUT OUR STUDENT PROGRAM



START
HERE



Sparky's Hidden picture puzzle!



The following objects are hidden in this picture: battery, smoke alarm, candle, flashlight, pencil, sailboat, banana, golf club, bell, sock, ruler, ring, cup, and a button!

APPLEGATE FIRE DISTRICT



UPCOMING EVENTS

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday May 17th 8:30-10:30am
1095 Upper Applegate Rd.
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Community Connection

Saturday April 30th 5 to 7pm
Wooldridge Creek Vineyard
818 Slagle Creek Rd,
Grants Pass, OR 97527

Friends Fundraiser Event

September 5th
Red Lily Vineyard
More information to come.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST
FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:



Coffee with the Chief

Wednesday, April 30, 2025
Fire Season 2025 Information
5:30 - 6:30 pm
Williams Fire Station

Community Yard Sale

Weekend of June 8th-10th
211 East Fork Rd, Williams
To reserve your booth space, email:
info@WRFPD.org

Williams 4th of July Parade

Friday July 4th 10am
211 East Fork Road, Williams
For more information, email:
info@WRFPD.org

Williams Trunk or Treat

Halloween Friday October 31st
For more information, email:
info@WRFPD.org

Santa's Coming to Town

December 2025
Specific Date and Time TBA
info@WRFPD.org

FRIENDS & partners



Mercy Flights' partnership with Applegate Valley Fire District is a key component of the Southern Oregon EMS Apprenticeship Program (SOEMSAP), which aims to address the region's healthcare workforce crisis by developing and diversifying the pool of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics

Applegate Valley Fire District was one of the first local EMS agencies to partner with Mercy Flights in this initiative. Their decision to join the program reflects a shared understanding of the importance of local workforce development, especially in rural areas where healthcare professionals are in high demand. This partnership allows the Fire District to actively contribute to the growth and enhancement of emergency medical services in Southern Oregon.



Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council builds positive relationships with community members, groups, organizations, and agencies to help support health and well being of the Applegate Watershed.



A Greater Applegate (AGA) is the community-building organization serving the Applegate Valley. AGA's work is guided by local residents who are encouraged to voice their needs, resources, and perspectives through a variety of means: surveys, listening sessions, and outreach events. A Greater Applegate is a place where community values, community vision, and community voices lead to community action.



Community Connection: Applegate Fire at Wooldridge Creek



You're invited to join the Applegate Fire District for an evening of community connection, conversation, and collaboration. On Wednesday, April 30th from 5 to 7 PM, Wooldridge Creek Winery will be hosting a Public Outreach Event for the Applegate Fire District, and we want to hear from you.

This is your opportunity to get updates on the District's current programs, ongoing projects, equipment needs, volunteer efforts, and the challenges we're facing as we continue to grow and serve. Whether you're a longtime resident or new to the area, this is a chance to learn more about what we do—and why we need your support.

We'll share news on recent grant efforts, staffing needs, training improvements, and our critical push to recruit more volunteer firefighters. You'll also have the chance to ask questions, provide feedback, and offer your perspective on how the Fire District can best serve our community moving forward.

Enjoy a beautiful evening at Wooldridge Creek, connect with neighbors, and be part of shaping the future of fire and emergency services in our valley.

No RSVP necessary—just bring your questions, your ideas, and your passion for community.

Together, we keep Applegate strong.

Answering the Call-Why We Need You!

Applegate Fire has always been built on the strength of our volunteers—local people stepping up to protect their neighbors. But right now, we're facing a serious shortage of volunteer firefighters, and that puts our entire community at risk.

Calls are increasing. Wildfire seasons are getting longer. Medical emergencies are more frequent. And yet, the number of volunteers answering those calls is shrinking. We simply need more people willing to train, suit up, and respond.

If you've ever thought about becoming a firefighter—even just a little—now is the time. We provide all the training, gear, and support. You don't need experience—just commitment, a good attitude, and the willingness to serve.

It's challenging work, but it's also incredibly rewarding. You'll gain valuable skills, be part of a dedicated team, and most importantly, make a real difference right here in your community. We especially encourage local residents and retirees to consider stepping in. Even a few hours a week can help us maintain the service and response times our community depends on. Applegate needs you—not someday, but now.

Visit www.applegatefd.com/ff-contact.html to fill out a Volunteer Firefighter Inquiry form, or simply call headquarters at (541)899-1050 and we'll set up a time to talk and visit. We'll answer your questions, show you the gear, and help you take that first step. Thank you for your continued support,

Chris Wolfard
Fire Chief
Applegate Fire District



Applegate Valley Fire District #9
1095 Upper Applegate Rd.
Jacksonville, OR 97530



Williams Rural Fire Protection District
211 E Fork Rd
Williams, OR 97544

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