

FIRE SIDE

SPRING
2024

Applegate FireDist.
applegatefd.com

WILLIAMS

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Fire Chief Messages



Dear Valued Members of the Applegate Valley RFPD#9 Community,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your overwhelming support in approving the 5-year temporary tax levy for our fire district this last November. Your resounding endorsement is a testament to the strength and unity of our community, and it is with immense appreciation that I extend my thanks on behalf of the entire Applegate Fire team. As Fire Chief, I understand the responsibility entrusted to our district, and I want to assure you that we are dedicated to utilizing these funds efficiently and transparently. Your investment in the Applegate Valley RFPD#9 reflects a shared commitment to creating a safer environment for our families, neighbors, and businesses. The approval of this levy will empower us to enhance our training programs, update essential equipment, and secure the resources needed to address the evolving challenges faced by our dedicated first responders. We are committed to maintaining open lines of communication, and we will keep you informed about the progress and impact of the levy funds. Transparency is a cornerstone of our operations, and we want you to feel confident that your investment in our fire district is making a tangible and positive difference. Once again, thank you for your unwavering support. Your vote demonstrates a shared vision for a secure and resilient community, and we are grateful for the opportunity to continue serving you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We are here for you, and your safety will always be our top priority. With sincere appreciation,

Chris Wolfard Fire Chief Applegate Valley RFPD#9

Dear Valued Members of Williams RFPD Community,

When I started as the Training Officer for Williams RFPD in October of 2019, the district was in the process of rebuilding. I joined a team of 3 part-time employees who were supported by 5 volunteers who were still over a month away from starting their Fire Academy. With the exception of my Paramedic license, our EMS training was limited to the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) level. In a little over four years, our crew has grown to include a mix of 7 paid positions, (3 part-time, 4 full-time) and 10 volunteers. Our training levels have increased to having some NFPA Firefighter 2, members working on Officer qualifications and an increased ability to provide advanced life support EMS care. In addition to our increased response capabilities, we have greatly increased our prevention efforts with the addition of a Fire Marshal and joint fuel reduction efforts with Applegate Valley RFPD #9. Most of this growth occurred during the tenure of Fire Chief Rick Vetter and was funded by grants he advocated for. My primary roles have been to be his second-in-command and to support our team by providing and coordinating training opportunities to achieve and maintain training certifications. Change is inevitable and I was recently honored to be asked by the Board of Directors to fill the position of Interim Chief. Accepting the position wasn't a decision I took lightly. My passion is training and watching our members grow in their careers. However, with the support of the awesome team we have here, I decided to accept this position to help maintain the improvements we've seen over the past four plus years. We have a crew of wonderful people working to keep this community safe but there is always room for a few more. If you're interested in learning about volunteer opportunities, feel free to stop by the fire station for a visit.



Sincerely,

Nicco Holt, Interim Fire Chief Williams RFPD

PERSONNEL SPOTLIGHT

BRIAN MULHOLLEN



This last September, Brian Mulhollen joined the staff at Applegate Fire as our Fire Marshal and Division Chief of Fire and Life Safety. Brian is no stranger to public service. He has served in communities throughout Oregon and Northern California. Brian started his career in 1992 in his hometown of Jacksonville. As a Junior Firefighter and early member of the Jacksonville Woodlands Association, Brian was awarded two Jefferson Awards by the American Institute for Public Service in Washington D.C (1993) for his fundraising efforts to conserve land parcels within the Jacksonville Woodlands Trail System. Brian served the Applegate Valley Fire District No. 9 starting in 1997 as a Volunteer and Seasonal Firefighter until 2002. Brian then pursued a career with the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, leading to him gaining experience as a wildland firefighter in various crew and leadership positions on Hotshot, Helicopter Rappeler and Engine Crews. In 2007, Brian became the Fuels Management Specialist / Battalion Chief for the Mother Lode Field Office managing public lands within 14 counties around Sacramento. Brian began to specialize in several areas such as fuels management treatments, burn area rehabilitation, resource protection, prescribed fire, fire aviation and heavy equipment operations. Brian has many years of experience working directly with fire wise communities to obtain fuels management funding and implementing fuels reduction treatments around "at risk" communities. Brian has witnessed several success stories of homes surviving wildland fire due to fuels treatments. As a Chief Officer, Brian will be supporting emerging incidents with Applegate Fire and will be assisting our partner agencies often, especially with wildland fire response. Brian is very passionate about public and firefighter safety, wildland fire and fuels management, and is proud to be serving with the Applegate Fire District once more. Feel free to Contact Division Chief Mulhollen at (541) 890-7359

JON SCARONI



Williams Fire would like to introduce our new District Fire Marshal, Jon Scaroni, who was promoted to the position in December of 2023. Fire Marshal Scaroni started his career in the fire service as a volunteer in Missouri in 1993. He moved to the Williams, Oregon area in 1996 and became a WRFPD Volunteer in 2000. In 2003, he took a job opportunity as a wildland firefighter on contract engines and in 2005, retired from volunteering as a Lieutenant. He continues to pursue his wildland career, having achieved the level of Task Force/Strike Team Leader. After rejoining WRFPD as a volunteer in 2019, Scaroni began extensively training in Fire Investigation; earning his NFPA Investigator 1 and NFPA Fire Inspector 1 and 2 certificates. Recently, he completed the Car Fire Investigation training that was held in Medford. Scaroni is also a member of IAAI (International Assoc. of Arson Investigators). The safety of the Williams community, it's businesses, and the surrounding environment are a high priority for Fire Marshal Scaroni. He wants to encourage and support his community members as they increase their understanding of the fire potential in the area and what they can do to help mitigate and increase the resiliency of our District. If the public has any concerns or questions, please feel free to reach out to Jon Scaroni (541) 415-0675

Reduce Your Wildfire Risk

Create Defensible Space



Know Your Zones



Reduce the chance of wind-blown embers igniting materials near your home, exposing it to flames.



Choose products and features such as rock, gravel mulches, brick, or concrete walkways.



Noncombustible materials are the best choice.



Firewood/lumber and other combustibles should not be stored under the deck or beside your home.



Create a landscape that will not readily transmit fire to the home.



Remove shrubs under trees and thin trees. Prune branches overhanging your home and remove dead vegetation.



Move trailers/recreational vehicles, storage sheds and other combustible structures out of this zone and into the 30 – 100 ft. zone. If unable to move, create defensible space around them.



Reduce the energy and speed of the wildfire.



Remove dead plant materials and tree branches.



Thin and separate trees and shrubs. Limb up trees and remove shrubs that can serve as ladder fuels.



Extend zone to 150 - 200 ft. if home is near the top of a slope, or on a ridge.

Home Assessments

The Applegate Valley and Williams Fire Districts provides home assessments, your first step in learning about possible funding sources and our district programs that support you in your fuel reduction efforts around your home prior to a wildland fire event. Our staff has many years of wildland fire and fuels management experience protecting communities and working with our community members. Prepare your home prior to a wildland fire event. **START NOW!**



Request a visit with us today!!

(541) 890-7359

Responsible Pile Burning

Tips & Techniques

Burning of vegetation and the use of fire is a very important tool in fuels management. It is critical that, through all aspects of burning, you are responsible and proactive in knowing how to be successful in using fire.

Unsure if it's safe to burn?
Call (541) 899-1050



1. Cut and stack only natural vegetation within a 6'x 6' pile.
2. Keep the pile dry, free of dirt, compact and at a minimum, maintain a radius of 20' away from trees, powerlines, buildings, or other flammable material.
3. Prior to burning, call the Burn Information line to determine whether or not it's a burn day. In Josephine County, call 476-WOOD (9663). In Jackson County, call 541-776-7007.
4. Do not burn wet vegetation such as leaves or grass. Burn piles should put up little to no visible smoke.
5. If it is an approved burn day, ignite your pile with the intention of staying with your pile and being responsible for it until it is put out.
6. Always keep water, such as a hose or bucket, and a shovel with you at all times while burning.
7. Always check weather conditions. Never burn in warm, windy or dry conditions. Never burn a pile within declared fire season.
8. Monitor your burn pile for heat several days after it appears to be out. Fully extinguish your fire if heat is found.
9. Lastly, if you don't have cell service where you are burning, make sure you have the ability to quickly get to a phone to call 911 should your fire escape.

Programs available to you,

“The Residents We Serve”



The Applegate and Williams Fire Districts offer a free chipping service to assist you in creating defensible space around your home and property. If you have cut vegetation, 8 inches and under, such as tree limbs & brush, piled near a driveway or access road, we can bring a crew to your location to send that material through a chipper. Chips can be piled or broadcast around the landscape. To sign up, simply scan the QR code on page 4.

Vegetation Trailer

The Vegetation trailer program is available to haul vegetation from around your home or property. Simply scan the QR code on page 4 of this newsletter and request the trailer. Our vegetation team will deliver the empty trailer to you. You can then fill it with natural vegetation created from your fuels reduction and defensible space projects. After a pre-agreed upon duration, our team will haul off the trailer and dispose of the material responsibly. The program is at no cost to you!

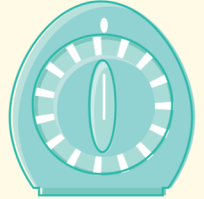




Sparky's Recipes

COOKING with KIDS

I love cooking. When I am not teaching kids about fire safety, you can usually find me in the kitchen. Letting kids help in the kitchen is a great way to teach them about cooking safety and the importance of eating healthy. Here are some of my favorite recipes. Before you begin, make sure to read my **Kids in the Kitchen** tips. These tips can help you figure out what you're old enough to do on your own — and when it's time to ask a grown-up for help.



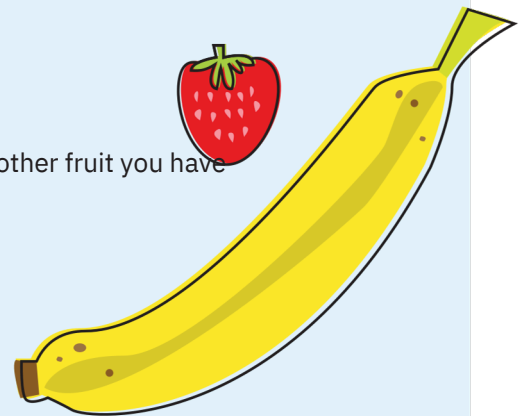
Sparky's "Bark"fait (Parfait) *This makes 4.*

Ingredients:

- 2 cups vanilla yogurt (I used Greek yogurt)
- 2 cups your favorite granola
- 2 cups fresh berries (raspberries, blueberries, strawberries (sliced) or any other fruit you have like: bananas, peaches or mangos, peeled and sliced)
- 4 tablespoons honey (*optional*)

Directions:

1. Line up 4 tall glasses, or whatever you would like to put your parfait in.
2. Spoon 2 tablespoons of yogurt into each glass.
3. Spoon 2 tablespoons of granola over the yogurt.
4. Then, add 2 tablespoons of fruit.
5. Keep repeating these steps until your glass is full. You can add a little bit of honey here and there, to taste.



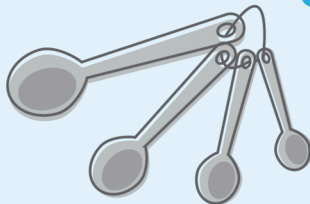
Cinnamon-sugar chips *This makes 8 dozen.*

Ingredients:

- 6 tablespoons melted butter
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 12 flour tortillas (10" in diameter)

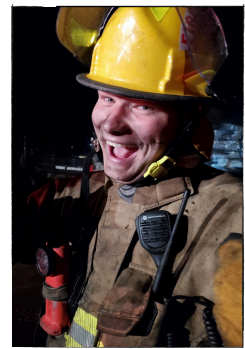
Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°.
2. Stir together butter, sugar, and cinnamon in a small bowl.
3. Brush tortillas with butter mixture
4. Using a butter knife, or a cookie cutter, cut each tortilla into 8 wedges.
5. Put wedges in a single layer on a baking sheet,.
6. Bake until crispy (about 10 to 12 minutes).



Make sure you let the chips cool on a wire rack before you eat them. Yum!

JOIN OUR TEAM!



Fulfill Your Dreams: Applegate Valley Fire District Seeks Student Firefighters with a Vision.

Embark on a journey that fuels your passion for community service and education! Applegate Valley Fire District invites motivated students to join our ranks as we offer an unparalleled opportunity: become a student firefighter and have your college education paid for.

Picture this - while working a manageable 48-hour shift at our Fire Station, you'll be gaining hands-on experience, mastering essential firefighting skills, and forming bonds that last a lifetime. With a schedule of 48 hours on and 96 hours off, you'll have the support to excel academically. This isn't just a chance to serve; it's a chance to build a foundation for your future.

Seize the opportunity to combine your college education with real-world experience. Apply now, and let the Applegate Valley Fire District be the launchpad for your academic and firefighting success! Scan the QR code below or call 541-899-1050.

-Aisha Mayers Recruitment and Retention Coordinator



“About 3 months after I moved to Williams, Or.; while driving into Grants Pass, a vehicle passed me on the road and crashed. I pulled over and helped assist with traffic control until the Fire Department arrived. I wanted to help more, but didn't know what to do, then I remembered I had seen a 'Volunteers Wanted' sign at the Fire Station. Later that evening, I went to the station and began the process of becoming a volunteer.

I have been with WRFPD for over 2 years now. It's one of the best things I have done in my pursuit to grow as a person; teaching me skills I can utilize on shift and off, and helping me make connections with people who have a similar mindset and goals.

Williams stole my heart the first time I drove into town, and I feel grateful for the opportunity to help others in this community that I love so much. There is just a certain kind of magic in the fire service. I feel as though I wouldn't be who I am today without it.

As for others who are curious about joining? Take a chance! You never know what's going to happen, so grab a hold of your life and experience everything you want to! For me it was hopping on a Big Red Truck! There isn't a day that goes by where I regret my decision.”

- Jacob Bivins WRFPD Volunteer Firefighter.

If you would like to join Jacob and the rest of the Team at Williams Fire/Rescue, give us a call or check out our website. Or do what Jacob did and stop by the station at 211 East Fork Rd and ask for an application. We are always happy to meet potential Team Members!

541-846-7644
www.wrfpd.org



Williams Rural Fire Protection District

211 East Fork Road, Williams, OR
 WRFPD.ORG



We are excitedly anticipating the arrival of our new, grant funded, 2000 gallon **Tactical Tender** arriving sometime before June 2024! WRFPD was 1 of 76 organizations statewide to receive an apparatus through the OSFM Engine Program. This engine is an important addition to our fleet; increasing our wildland fire readiness and giving us additional capacity to support our Mutual Aid Partners, such as Applegate Valley Fire District.



Every Wednesday our volunteers and employees participate in training drills at the Station. Our on-property training areas are key to keeping our skills sharp and our bodies healthy and strong!



WRFPD Support Team

Want to support Williams Fire/Rescue but can't become a First Responder? Then join our much appreciated Support Team!



LIMITED EDITION Tie Dye T-shirts for sale now!

WRFPD's Support Team is a dynamic group of community members who raise money and have fun coordinating our many annual events (such as the 4th of July Parade, Chili Cookoff and the Community Yard Sale). They also support the Department with public events such as Coffee with the Chief and the Williams Farmer's Market First Monday.

We meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6pm at the Williams Fire Station.

If you would like to be added to WRFPD's Info Email List, please send your request to: Info@WRFPD.org

Applegate Valley Fire District Community Connect

CREATE OR UPDATE YOUR PROFILE TODAY

Together, Building a Safer Community Through
Prevention, Preparedness & Response



www.communityconnect.io/info/or-applegatevalley

Let us know what is unique and important about your home.

1 Create an account

Sign in for free and get started doing your part. It just takes your email, phone number and address.

2 Enter the info that matters most

Enter valuable information that can help us assist more effectively during an emergency.

3 Help your Fire Department when seconds count

That's it. Just keep us updated when things change overtime so we can always be prepared.

Subscribe to the Applegate Fire email list!

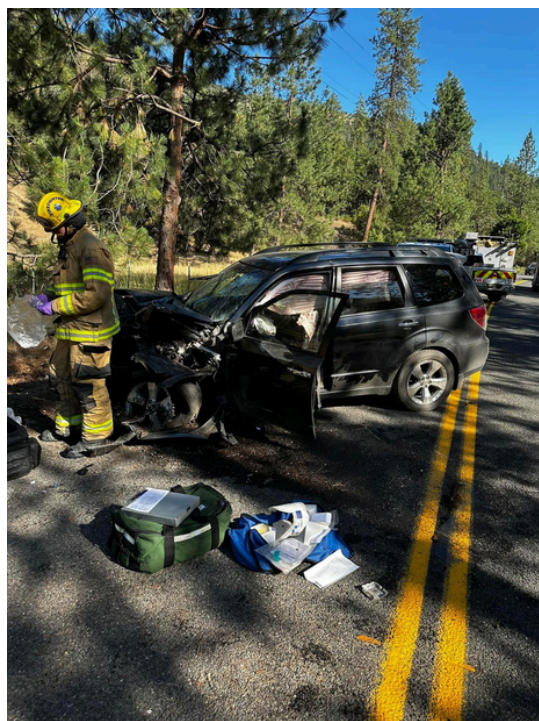
Subscribe to the Applegate Fire District News, Events, and Programs email list! We have received multiple requests to create an email list for Applegate Fire District related information sharing. Stay up to date on everything relating to Applegate Valley RFPD#9. We intend to send out a couple of emails each week to keep residents informed of Fire District related programs, upcoming events, and news. We have chosen Mailchimp as our email list management program. They assure us that they will never share, sell, or rent out your information. We (Applegate Fire) also promise to never share or sell your information. You can unsubscribe at any time. You are in control of your subscription.

scan the QR code.



<https://mailchi.mp/61c3804106c1/applegate-fire-district-news-events-and-programs>

**WHEN YOU SEE LIGHTS
OR HEAR SIRENS...**



**PULL IMMEDIATELY TO THE RIGHT
AND COME TO A COMPLETE STOP**

UPCOMING EVENTS

All Things Fire Fair



March 9th 11am to 5:30pm
1095 Upper Applegate Rd.
Jacksonville, OR 97530



AVFD Coffee with the Chief



March 13th at 9am TOPIC: Burn days... Why are they so hard to come by?
1095 Upper Applegate Rd.
Jacksonville, OR 97530

AVFD Pancake Breakfast



March 16th 8am to 10:30
1095 Upper Applegate Rd.
Jacksonville, OR 97530



AVFD Coffee with the Chief



June 12th at 9am GUEST: Emergency Preparedness with Jackson and Josephine County Emergency Management.
1095 Upper Applegate Rd.
Jacksonville, OR 97530

AVFD Spaghetti Dinner



June 20th 5pm to 7pm
1095 Upper Applegate Rd.
Jacksonville, OR 97530



WRFPD Coffee with the Chief



March 7th at 10am GUEST: Rogue Valley Prescribed Burning Association
Williams Fire Station
211 East Fork Rd Williams, OR 97544



April 4th at 10am GUEST: BLM
Williams Fire Station
211 East Fork Rd Williams, OR 97544



May 2nd at 10am GUEST: TBA
Williams Fire Station
211 East Fork Rd Williams, OR 97544

WRFPD Chili Cookoff



May 4th time: TBA Sponsored by our WRFPD Support Team- We welcome the community to our Annual District Chili Cookoff
Williams Fire Station
211 East Fork Rd Williams, OR 97544

WRFPD Coffee with the Chief



June 6th at 10am GUEST: TBA
Williams Fire Station
211 East Fork Rd Williams, OR 97544

WRFPD Annual Yard Sale



June 14th-15th time: TBA Please contact the WRFPD Support Team if you'd like to have a table at this event. Back lot of Williams Fire Station
211 East Fork Rd Williams, OR 97544

WRFPD 4th of July Parade

4th of July after 10am Decorate your vehicle and join us for the family friendly Annual Williams 4th of July Parade! The parade route begins at the Williams Fire Station and ends at the Williams Grange
Williams Fire Station
211 East Fork Rd Williams, OR 97544





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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