

# FIRESIDE NEWSLETTER

**APPLEGATE**  
FIRE DISTRICT

## FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE



Dear Applegate Community,  
As we head into the heart of another busy season, this edition of Fireside focuses on preparedness, prevention, and the shared responsibility we all have in keeping our community safe.

Inside, we clarify the difference between **inspections and pre-plans**—what they are, why they matter, and how they help firefighters do their jobs more safely and effectively without creating unnecessary burden for property owners. You'll also read about a new opportunity for volunteer towing drivers to support our woody-debris dump trailer program, a simple but impactful way to reduce wildfire risk while helping neighbors across the district.

We're also sharing a plain-language update on **Oregon House Bill 3940**, which has generated a lot of questions. This article walks through what's changing, what isn't, and how it may—or may not—affect your property taxes. Finally, you'll see information on our **Emergency Resource Protection Program**, an effort focused on protecting limited emergency resources so they're available when truly needed, especially during high-demand periods like fire season.

As always, our goal is to work with our community—not against it—to make Applegate safer, more resilient, and better prepared. Thank you for staying engaged, informed, and connected.

**Chris Wolfard**  
Fire Chief, Applegate Fire District

Dear Williams Community,  
On behalf of Williams Rural Fire Protection District (WRFPD), It is our sincere hope that you find the information in these pages both interesting and valuable.

With Fire Season approaching, it's time to start thinking about staying up-to-date about fire activity throughout our region. If you haven't signed up for either **Jackson Alerts** (Jackson County) or **Citizen Alert** (Josephine County), then please do so. Both systems include landline phones, but it is necessary to sign up to also receive alerts on your cell phone (voice or text) or via email.

During Fire Season, citizens often call 911 about smoke that they either see or smell. While we do want you to call 911 if you are concerned, we also want you to be able to provide the most accurate information possible. To this end, we have included an article to help callers provide a good description of what they are reporting so we can send the most appropriate resources.

Finally, there are several mentions in the newsletter about the need for volunteer responders for both districts. We are in need of volunteers who can commit to training and to being ready and available to respond to all types of emergencies. There may also be opportunities to volunteer in roles that don't involve responding to every type of emergency. Stop by the station for a visit and let's discuss the possibility of you joining our team.

**Nicco Holt**  
Interim Fire Chief, Williams Rural Fire Protection District

# State Law Changes

## What's New for Property Taxes and Fire Protection: House Bill 3940 and Senate Bill 454

Over the past year, Oregon lawmakers passed new legislation aimed at addressing rising wildfire risk and the growing cost of providing fire protection across the state. Two of those laws — House Bill 3940 and Senate Bill 454 — will shape how fire protection is funded going forward.

Both measures were created and passed at the state level, through legislative action. Still, they will affect some local property owners and influence the future of rural fire funding. Here's what that means in everyday terms.

The biggest near-term impact comes from House Bill 3940, which changes how certain rural properties are taxed for fire protection. The goal from the state's perspective is to spread wildfire protection costs more evenly and recognize that both developed and undeveloped land can contribute to fire risk.

For many property owners, nothing will change.

If your property has a home or another building and is five acres or less, you will see no difference. You were already being taxed on the full property, and that will continue just as before.

If your property has a building and is larger than five acres, you may notice a small increase. Previously, fire district taxes applied to the building and the first five acres of land. Under the new law, taxes now apply to the building and the first ten acres, or the full lot size if your parcel is smaller than ten acres.

The biggest change affects vacant land.

If you own land with no buildings that is smaller than twenty acres, that property will now be taxed for fire protection. Taxes will apply to the first ten acres, or the entire lot if it is smaller than ten acres.

If your vacant property is larger than twenty acres, there is no change.



## Why the State Made these Changes

Wildfire seasons have become longer, more intense, and more expensive across Oregon. From the Legislature's point of view, the previous system placed most of the funding responsibility on homes and improved properties, even though vacant land can also require fire response and contribute to wildfire spread.



### Looking Ahead: Senate Bill 454

Senate Bill 454 focuses on the long-term financial future of rural fire districts. It creates a Rural Fire Funding Advisory Committee under the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

Out of more than 300 fire departments and districts statewide, only 18 members were selected to serve on the committee. Applegate Fire District Fire Chief Chris Wolfard is one of those members and will attend monthly meetings to represent rural communities.

The committee will study funding challenges and provide recommendations to the Legislature by the end of 2026.

Subscribe to the Applegate Fire District News, Events, and Programs email list to stay up to date on future legislative updates and everything relating to Applegate Fire District.



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.

## Emergency Alerts - Get Connected and Stay Informed

The Applegate Fire District and Williams Fire/Rescue strongly encourage residents and business owners to sign up for their county emergency alert system. These systems deliver time-sensitive notifications such as evacuation notices, wildfire updates, severe weather alerts, and other critical public safety information.

These tools are most effective when the information they contain is accurate. We ask that property owners keep their County Alert Accounts up to date. This responsibility rests with the property owner, as conditions, contacts, family health needs, and hazards can change over time. We strongly recommend reviewing and updating this information every year before fire season, and anytime there is a significant change at a property.

Fire safety works best when preparation, prevention, and communication work together. Business pre-plans, business inspections, Jackson County Community Connect pre-plans, and County Emergency Alerts each play a distinct role in protecting lives and property. As Applegate Fire District and Williams Fire/Rescue begin conducting business inspections, we appreciate the cooperation of our community. Our goal is straightforward: reduce risk, improve response, and keep our community safe.



[WWW.JACKSONCOUNTYOR.GOV/ALERT](http://WWW.JACKSONCOUNTYOR.GOV/ALERT)



[WWW.CO.JOSEPHINE.OR.US/ALERT](http://WWW.CO.JOSEPHINE.OR.US/ALERT)

### RECOMMENDED APPS



WATCH DUTY



PULSE POINT



GENASYS PROTECT



WEATHER APP



WILDFIRE INFO



5-0 RADIO

# Business Inspections and Pre-Plans

Over the past year, Applegate Fire District has completed pre-incident plans—often called “pre-plans”—for many of the larger or higher-risk businesses in our district. As we begin scheduling business fire inspections, some business owners may wonder why we are returning after already visiting their property.

The answer is simple: pre-plans and inspections serve different purposes, and both are essential to keeping people safe.

A business pre-plan is an operational tool used by firefighters and emergency responders. Its purpose is to help crews respond quickly, safely, and effectively when an emergency occurs. During a pre-plan, firefighters gather general information about a building, including its layout, access points, utility shutoffs, fire protection systems, and any significant hazards. This information is entered into our response system so firefighters are not encountering a building for the first time during a high-stress incident.

Pre-plans are not inspections, and they are not regulatory. They do not involve code enforcement or citations. Their value is in preparation. When a call comes in during poor visibility, severe weather, or after hours, pre-plans help crews make informed decisions that improve firefighter safety and response effectiveness.

A business fire inspection serves a different role. Inspections are focused on fire prevention and life safety. Their purpose is to identify conditions that could increase the likelihood of a fire, allow it to spread, or make evacuation more difficult. Inspections also ensure that required fire protection systems are maintained and that emergency access is preserved. Ultimately, inspections help protect employees, customers, property owners, and responding firefighters by reducing preventable risk.



## What's the Difference?

Because pre-plans and inspections have different objectives, one does not replace the other. A pre-plan helps us respond effectively if an emergency occurs. An inspection helps reduce the chance that an emergency will occur in the first place.

Some businesses may notice that they were pre-planned first and are now being contacted for an inspection. This is intentional. Pre-plans were prioritized for larger or more complex buildings so firefighters would have immediate operational awareness if an incident occurred. Inspections are now being scheduled as part of our ongoing fire prevention program and are coordinated in advance with business owners whenever possible. Being contacted for an inspection does not indicate a problem or a violation; it reflects a structured, proactive approach to community risk reduction.

***“Pre-plans and Inspections serve different purposes.”***

# PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE SMOKE REPORT

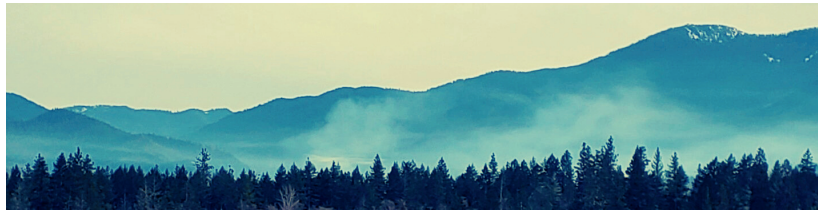
Seeing smoke above a hostile fire can be a reason to call 911. Not all smoke warrants an emergency call. This is especially important during Fire Season. Calling any number other than 911 will delay the dispatch process. If you call the fire station, personnel may not be available to answer the phone. If the phone is answered, the call will still need to be routed through the dispatch system.

When you call 911, dispatch center staff can begin contacting us via radio while still on the phone to you.

When you call 911 to report concerns about smoke, it is most helpful if you provide the following information.

**Your Location:**

We want to respond quickly when it matters most. Reports of smoke far away or without a location can send crews searching for something already being handled — or something that isn't a fire at all. If you see flames and can point us to where it is, call 911. It is most helpful if you remain at your location and available to confirm responders see the same smoke you are concerned about.



Drift smoke in the distance has most likely traveled a bit from a known fire.



While these three smoke columns are from burn piles, seeing something similar during Fire Season would warrant an immediate call to 911. These columns are a good example of how a smoke column can often be traced back to the fire it originates from.

**Where you see the smoke:**

If the smoke is close to you, then use a street address or mile marker. If it is a distance away, can you tell if the fire is located within the area, or further away? If the fire is local, use the compass on your smartphone to determine geographic directions, in relation to your location. Include the distance – is the smoke nearby or are you seeing it across the valley? If you aren't certain of the location - take your time; use an app like Watch Duty to review your surroundings then use a reference such as "towards Williams from the 14000 block of Watergap Road".



Waterdogs in Murphy



If you are seeing a very large column of smoke that appears to be miles away, consider whether there are known fires in the area. The very large columns people call in are usually known fires that already have resources on scene.

**Describe what you see:**

Describe what the smoke looks like. Smoke color gives an indication of the source; White smoke typically indicates light fuels or a fire in the early stages of heating, black smoke is more common when synthetic materials are burning while light brown smoke is caused by burning vegetation and a darker brown is likely from heavier timbers.

Describe what the smoke is doing. Smoke in a defined vertical column is most likely originating from a fire directly under it while smoke drifting through an area may be from a smoldering fire nearby or a larger fire that may be many miles away. Smoke activity, how it is moving, is also important. Smoke rising quickly will be carrying more heat, indicating a hotter fire, than smoke that is lazily drifting towards the sky.

**Waterdogs:**

Waterdogs are pockets of fog that may appear in the mountains after a wet thunderstorm. They are often mistaken for the smoke of a lightning strike after a storm. If you see what looks like it may be white smoke, but it isn't rising rapidly, growing, or isn't associated with flames or smoke, consider watching it for a few minutes to see if it dissipates or remains stationary. A waterdog will generally fade away, while smoke from a fire will usually be rising and increasing in size.

Finally, if you aren't comfortable that what you are seeing isn't smoke, go ahead and call 911 and use the information above to provide a good description of what you are seeing.



# Applegate Fire District Community Connect

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

**CREATE OR UPDATE YOUR PROFILE TODAY**

## 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

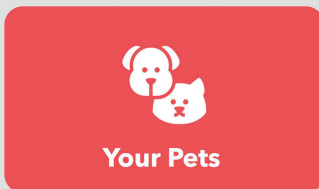
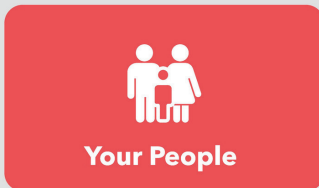
Enter valuable information that can help us assist more effectively during an emergency.

## 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.

### WHAT KINDS OF INFORMATION CAN I PROVIDE?

Any information you provide through Community Connect is completely voluntary and based on what you are comfortable sharing. We have made it easy for you to know what may be important by organizing your secure portal into buckets of information you can enter.



### HOW SECURE IS MY DATA AND HOW IS IT USED?

Data that you provide Community Connect is secure and is used only for the purpose of better serving you during emergency situations. Your information is never used for any other purpose. All logins are password protected with bank level encryption and security. If you're comfortable logging in to your online bank you'll be comfortable logging in to Community Connect.



Community Connect is **Safe & Secure**

## First Due's Community Connect

Fire pre-planning is not limited to businesses. Residents and business owners in the Applegate Fire District can voluntarily create their own pre-plans through our Community Connect system. Community Connect allows users to share important information directly with emergency responders, including who lives or works at a property, the best contact information during an emergency, pets or livestock on site, access challenges, medical considerations, and known hazards such as propane tanks, commercial kitchens, or long driveways. Community Connect pre-plans are not inspections, are not mandatory, and remain fully under the control of the property owner. Information can be added or updated at any time.



Pet names

**Josie & Kiki**

**Pets:** Home has 2 dogs

**Address:** 1095 Upper Applegate Road

Complete your family **Community Connect** profile today:

[www.communityconnect.io/info/or-applegatefiredistrict](http://www.communityconnect.io/info/or-applegatefiredistrict)

# Neighborhood Fireside Chat at Cownhorn Vineyard & Garden



**COWHORN**  
VINEYARD & GARDEN

You're invited to join the Applegate Fire District for an evening of community connection, conversation, and collaboration.

On Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 5:00 PM, Cownhorn Vineyard & Garden (1665 Eastside Rd, Jacksonville, OR) will host a public outreach event — and we want to hear from you.

This is an opportunity to learn about the District's current programs, ongoing projects, equipment needs, volunteer efforts, and the challenges we face as our community continues to grow. Whether you're a longtime resident or new to the area, you'll gain a clearer understanding of what we do and why community involvement matters.

We'll share updates on grant funding, staffing and training improvements, and our ongoing effort to recruit volunteer firefighters. We'll also be presenting District staff's proposed Emergency Resource Preservation Program and the draft ordinances associated with it and gathering community feedback during the public comment period. Your input will help shape how these policies move forward.

We'll have complimentary wine and light refreshments available so you can relax, visit with neighbors, and talk with your firefighters. The tasting room will remain open during the event.

No RSVP required — just bring your questions, your ideas, and your community spirit.

Together, we keep Applegate strong.

# JOIN THE FIRE DISTRICT TRAIN, SERVE, AND PROTECT

The Applegate and Williams Fire Districts proudly serve around 250 square miles of agriculture, forest, river corridor, and rural communities across the Applegate and Williams Valleys. Whether responding to medical emergencies, rescues, fires, or supporting community preparedness, our personnel make a meaningful impact every day. We are growing, and this is your invitation to join a team grounded in skill, teamwork, and purpose.

Now, we're actively recruiting new volunteers and future firefighters, and you don't need prior emergency services experience to get started.

## A District Built on Service & Readiness



Every day brings new challenges, and our firefighters train to meet them with competence and confidence. AFD & WRFPD's stations are strategically placed to ensure rapid response across the valley, but it is our volunteers, students, apprentices, and career staff who make our mission succeed. Our culture emphasizes readiness: consistent training, hands-on drills, and a commitment to professional and personal growth.



## Regional Training Through Tuesday Night Training (TNT)

A key component of our readiness is our regional approach to training, especially through our weekly Tuesday Night Training (TNT) sessions. These trainings bring together firefighters from partner agencies across the Rogue Valley to build shared skills, strengthen interoperability, and ensure that crews from different agencies can operate seamlessly during major incidents.

Weekly TNT sessions are reinforced by the District's broader training culture, which includes frequent cross-agency coordination, joint wildfire response operations, and community preparedness collaborations with regional partners. These shared trainings enhance consistency, efficiency, and safety across all responding agencies, which is critical when lives and property are at stake.

## Hands-On Experience, Real Impact

Serving in the Fire District means responding to challenging and diverse emergencies: structure fires, wildland incidents, medical calls, vehicle accidents, and rescues on remote terrain. Both our valleys' geography offers meaningful, real-world experience for those beginning their fire service journey, as well as continuing challenges for seasoned responders.

PROUDLY SERVING

*The Applegate & Williams Valleys*

# OUR PROGRAMS: MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO SERVE

## Volunteer Firefighter Program

The Applegate Fire District and Williams Fire/Rescue both actively recruit community members to serve as volunteer firefighters. Volunteers receive comprehensive training in firefighter skills, wildland firefighting, EMS, and driver operations—at no cost. Volunteers are essential to our coverage across rural communities, and their dedication is recognized annually during our district’s awards ceremonies.

### Applegate Volunteer



### Williams Volunteer



## Student Firefighter Program

The Applegate Fire District student program supports individuals pursuing certifications and an associate’s degree through Rogue Community College. This program provides hands-on experience, mentorship, and a clear pathway into fire service careers. The District is proud to sponsor numerous students through this program and recognizes their achievements at annual events.



## Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Program

Community Risk Reduction is an essential, modern approach to fire and emergency prevention. CRR integrates public education, risk assessment, defensible space initiatives, and targeted mitigation strategies to reduce hazards before they become emergencies. National guidance emphasizes CRR as one of the most effective ways volunteer and combination districts can improve safety. Applegate Fire District and Williams Fire/Rescue contribute to community-wide CRR efforts through regional wildfire planning, partnerships with fuels management task forces, and public preparedness initiatives.



## Are You Ready to Make a Difference?

Whether you're new to emergency services or seeking deeper involvement, there is a place for you here. Join us, train with us, and serve with us! You can learn more about the fire districts by visiting our websites:

Applegate Fire District:

[www.applegatefd.com/join-our-team](http://www.applegatefd.com/join-our-team)

call us at 541-899-1050, or stop by and visit us at 1095 Upper Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR.

Williams Fire/Rescue:

[www.wrfpd.org/volunteer](http://www.wrfpd.org/volunteer)

call us at 541-846-7644, or stop by and visit us at 211 East Fork Road, Williams, OR.

# Emergency Resource Protection Program

## Applegate Fire District Launches Early Public Comment on Draft Ordinances Under the Emergency Resource Protection Program

The Applegate Fire District has begun an early public comment period on four ordinances developed under the Emergency Resource Protection Program. These proposals are not final, and are still in early public comment. This phase is intended to invite community input, answer questions, and refine the ordinances before any future consideration by the Board of Directors.

The shared purpose of these draft ordinances is to reduce preventable 911 calls and avoidable emergency responses, helping ensure firefighters, apparatus, and limited district resources remain available for true emergencies—such as structure fires, serious medical incidents, vehicle crashes, and rescues. As a rural fire district with limited staffing, equipment, and funding, Applegate Fire must carefully manage response reliability. When crews and engines are tied up responding to non-emergent matters, response times to emergent incidents can be affected. Our firefighters are dedicated to serving the community, but repeated non-emergency responses can impact their readiness for critical incidents, and equipment sustains unnecessary wear.

The Emergency Resource Protection Program is focused on prevention, responsible behavior, and conservation of emergency response resources—not revenue generation. Each draft ordinance includes a schedule of fines, but enforcement is designed to be reasonable, educational, and proportional. The Fire Chief will have discretion to issue a warning for a first violation, recognizing that many situations are best addressed through education, awareness, and voluntary compliance rather than immediate penalties.

These ordinances remain in draft form, and this is intentionally an early public comment period. Residents are encouraged to review the drafts at [www.applegatefd.com/document-center](http://www.applegatefd.com/document-center)

For further questions/comments please email [admin@applegatefd.com](mailto:admin@applegatefd.com)



## Protecting Emergency Resources Through Prevention

“Our goal isn’t to punish people or generate revenue. It’s to keep firefighters available for real emergencies, reduce preventable calls, and protect the people and property we serve. These draft ordinances are an early step, and we genuinely want community input before anything is finalized. If you have thoughts, concerns, or ideas, I encourage you to review the drafts and share your feedback. We serve this community, and we want to build this program with the community.”

- Chris Wolfard, Fire Chief, Applegate Fire District

**PROPOSED ORDINANCES**

**Unauthorized or Illegal Burning Ordinance:**

Addresses burning on prohibited burn days, during restrictions, or without authorization. Example: A resident burns debris on a non-burn day. A passerby sees smoke and calls 911, requiring engines and personnel to respond.

**False Alarm Ordinance:**

Targets repeated false alarms caused by malfunctioning or poorly maintained systems. Reducing false alarms also helps limit firefighter fatigue from repeated nighttime or high-frequency responses. Example: A commercial building repeatedly triggers false alarms due to an unmaintained alarm system.

**Misuse of Emergency Services Ordinance:**

Addresses repeated or inappropriate non-emergency 911 calls that divert responders away from urgent incidents. Example: An individual repeatedly calls 911 for minor or non-urgent concerns requiring unnecessary emergency responses.

**Cost Recovery for Negligent or Willful Acts Ordinance:**

Explores limited cost recovery for preventable incidents tied to negligent behavior or discretionary high-risk activities. Example: A swiftwater rescue following a rafting accident. While rafting is legal, taxpayers should not always bear the cost of expensive rescues resulting from recreational risk.

**Strengthening Our Valley Through Cooperation and Growth**

The Applegate Fire District is proud to announce a new Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Williams Rural Fire Protection District for Administrative Services. Under this partnership, local resident Rachael Couch will provide administrative support to Williams: helping streamline processes and enhance coordination between the two organizations. This collaboration strengthens emergency response capabilities across the entire Applegate and Williams Valleys by improving interagency communication and aligning best business practices that benefit both districts as well as the communities they serve. The Districts are also considering an IGA for Executive Services which will be reviewed in the coming months.

We've received positive feedback about the Jackson County District 3 Regional Study, which is currently underway and funded through the PIER Grant. This important project is helping agencies evaluate how regional cooperation can improve resource sharing, emergency readiness, and long-term sustainability for fire services throughout Southern Oregon.

In addition, the Applegate Fire District is excited to share updates on our expanded service area. Since October 2025, we've been working closely with a third-party vendor to verify district boundaries in a new expansion area that now includes much of Murphy and extends into South Grants Pass. The proposed area encompasses properties within seven road miles of Stations 54 and 56. We look forward to hearing from property owners interested in requesting an annexation over the coming months.

For questions about the expansion or annexation process, please contact Chief Chris Wolfard at [admin@applegatefd.com](mailto:admin@applegatefd.com) or call the Applegate Fire District office at 541-899-1050. Together, we continue building stronger, safer, and more connected communities across the Williams and Applegate Valley.

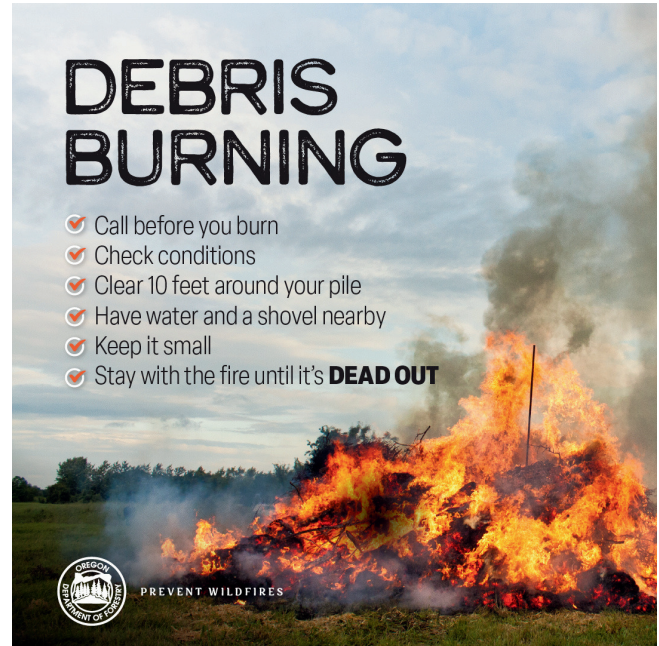
## Burn Days

We're not yet in fire season, but relatively low precipitation over the winter has left conditions dry and receptive to fire. If you intend to burn yard debris ahead of fire season, it's important to take the necessary steps to burn safely. Before even starting a fire, call county Burn Line to see if conditions are safe to burn. Check if there are city or county burn bans in place. Restrictions are based on weather conditions, not the season. Learn more about safe debris burning at [keeporegongreen.org](http://keeporegongreen.org).

Call the Burn Day Line before you do any Debris Burning:

Jackson County: 541-776-7007

Josephine County: 541-476-9663



## Rounding up the Second Round of Applegate CWPP Public Meetings



The Applegate Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) will provide recommendations and proposed priority projects to reduce wildfire risk and restore forest health across the Applegate watershed. This document and accompanying resources will answer many common questions about wildfires and what we can do to live well with the reality of wildfire. We need your input to make this CWPP suit community needs and preferences! Please take this 5-10 minute survey to contribute to the CWPP development process. More information about the Applegate CWPP is on the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council website: <https://www.applegatepartnership.org/cwpp>

### TAKE THE APPLEGATE CWPP SURVEY



#### WE WANT TO KNOW:

- Are you prepared for a wildfire?
- What do you value most for wildfire protection?
- What kind of fuel reduction would you like to see in your area?

### Want to get involved in the CWPP development process?

The survey is the best way to contribute, but we welcome feedback and comments by email as well. The survey will be open until April, exact date TBD. The third and final round of public meetings will take place in April, details TBD. Sign up for the CWPP mailing list and find more information, including the survey, on the CWPP website: [applegatepartnership.org/cwpp](http://applegatepartnership.org/cwpp).

## Volunteer Drivers Needed: Help Us Reduce Wildfire Risk

Applegate Fire District is seeking reliable volunteer drivers to support our community dump trailer program — a practical, hands-on effort to reduce wildfire risk.

This program helps property owners remove woody debris and excess vegetation that can contribute to fast-moving wildfires. Fire District staff manage scheduling and coordination, while volunteers keep the trailers moving from property to property.

We are looking for volunteers who are comfortable towing and backing trailers, with prior experience strongly preferred. This is not a daily commitment; most volunteers would assist about once or twice per week, depending on availability.

The process is straightforward. A volunteer driver delivers an empty dump trailer to a scheduled property, where the homeowner fills it with woody material and vegetation debris. The volunteer later returns to pick up the loaded trailer, tows it to an approved dump site, and uses the trailer’s hydraulic dump system to unload the material with little to no hand work. The empty trailer is then delivered to the next scheduled property.

Fire District staff handle homeowner coordination and overall program management, allowing volunteers to focus solely on safe transport of the trailers and materials.

This is a great opportunity for community members who enjoy driving and want a meaningful way to support wildfire preparedness without emergency response duties. Each trailer moved directly improves property safety, reduces hazardous fuels, and strengthens community resilience.

If you have trailer towing experience and are interested in helping, please contact Applegate Fire District: [www.applegatefd.com/join-our-team/](http://www.applegatefd.com/join-our-team/)



### RISK REDUCTION & EDUCATION FOR FIREWOOD USERS

FIND US AT

**ALL THINGS FIRE FAIR!**  
TOWARDS A FIRE-ADAPTED APPLEGATE

**PICK UP: MARCH 7TH, 2026 10-10:45, DISTRIBUTION TO FOLLOW**  
**LOCATION: APPLEGATE FIRE DISTRICT #9**  
**TRAINING BUILDING, 1095 UPPER APPLEGATE RD. RUCH, OR**

Homes that heat with firewood are eligible for

**FREE TOOLS! RESERVE YOUR SUPPLIES HERE:**

OR VISIT [HTTPS://BIT.LY/ALLTHINGSFIRE](https://bit.ly/allthingsfire) TO COMPLETE FORM



**SPONSORED BY:**



# FRIENDS & Support Team

## APPLEGATE FIRE DISTRICT

### The Friends of Applegate Fire District

Our goal is to support the Applegate Fire District and the community it serves. We have several areas of focus: Supporting good morale and the “esprit de corps” of our professional emergency responders; engaging the community to foster understanding about the work of the District and build trust in our professional emergency responders; and to raise funds for the purchase of essential equipment and programs that otherwise would not be funded by the District’s very lean budget.

To accomplish these goals, we host events for the District staff members and volunteers, including an annual holiday party and annual awards banquet. We also regularly host fabulous and enjoyable fundraising events, as well as traditional low-cost pancake breakfasts and spaghetti dinners.

There is no doubt that the nonprofit Friends focus on a very serious and important subject - the provision of fire and emergency medical services. However of all the community groups working on fire related issues, we are the most fun!

Please join us in our meaningful work! To learn more visit our webpage <https://friendsofapplegatefire.org> or join us at a meeting on the third Tuesday of the month at 3:00 PM at the Fire District Training Building, 1095 Upper Applegate Road. Or if you’d rather just have some food and fun, come to our next Pancake Breakfast on April 25, 8:00-10:30 a.m. also at the Training Building.

Babette Rapp  
President, The Friends of the Applegate Fire District



### The Williams Rural Fire Protection District Support

**Team** is made up of dedicated volunteers from our own community who work together to support our firefighters and strengthen our local fire district. The team meets on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Williams Fire Station, and everyone is welcome to attend.

They are currently looking for more volunteers and community partners to join their efforts—whether that’s helping with fundraising events, donating time or resources, or simply sharing ideas to better support our local emergency responders. If you’re passionate about community service and want to make a difference here in Williams, the Support Team would love to have you involved!



Find them on Facebook: Williams Fire Department Support Team.



# EVENT SCHEDULE

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**MAR 6**

FRIDAY / 5:30PM

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**PRESCRIBED FIRE FILM**

A Greater Applegate All Things Fire Fair kickoff film screening and Q&A at Ruch Outdoor School Gymnasium at 156 Upper Applegate Road.

**MAR 7**

SATURDAY / 10:00AM

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**ALL THINGS FIRE FAIR**

AGA event with woodstove fire prevention kit giveaway at 1095 Upper Applegate Road. **1pm Fire Kit giveaways at the Williams Fire Station, 211 East Fork Road.**

**MAR 26**

THURSDAY / 5:00PM

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**NEIGHBORHOOD FIRESIDE CHAT**

Enjoy an evening at Cowhorn Winery with Chief Wolfard speaking on Applegate Fire District News and questions at 1665 Eastside Rd, Jacksonville.

**MAR 31**

TUESDAY / 10-3:00PM

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**BLOOD DRIVE**

Williams is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive from 10-3 at the Williams Fire Station, 211 East Fork Rd. Register to donate at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) with zip code 97544

**APR 25 ●**

SATURDAY / 8-10:30AM

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**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Annual Spring Pancake breakfast fundraiser hosted by the Friends of Applegate Fire at 1095 Upper Applegate Road. Cost per person is \$5.

**JUN 12-14**

FRI/SAT/SUN / 9-4:00PM

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**WILLIAMS FIRE DISTRICT YARD SALE**

Williams Annual Support Team Yard Sale Fundraiser. Come shop, grab a hot dog, or set up as a vendor to sell your thrift treasures at 211 East Fork Rd.

**JUL 4**

TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

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**WILLIAMS PARADE**

Watch or participate in the Annual Williams 4<sup>th</sup> of July Independence Day Parade. Our classic Fire Engine 1 will be in the Parade Lineup passing out candy.

**SEPT 12**

SATURDAY / 5:00PM

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**FIRE & VINE**

Annual Dinner and Auction to benefit the Applegate Fire District at Red Lily winery. Tickets will be available for sale soon.

**OCT 31**

TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

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**TRUNK OR TREAT**

Williams Support Team is hosting a community Trunk or Treat on Halloween at the Williams Fire Station, 211 East Fork Rd. Sign up for decorating a trunk.

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**SUBSCRIBE TO THE APPLGATE FIRE DISTRICT EMAIL LIST TO STAY UP TO DATE ON NEWS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMS OF THE APPLGATE FIRE DISTRICT AND WILLIAMS FIRE/RESCUE.**





Applegate Fire District  
 1095 Upper Applegate Rd.  
 Jacksonville, OR 97530

PRSRT STD  
 US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 MEDFORD OR.  
 PERMIT #125  
 ECRWSSDDM



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

## LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

# DURING A WILDFIRE BE READY, BE SET, GO!

Your local law enforcement agency orders evacuations. If you feel threatened by a wildfire, do not wait for an official evacuation order. There are three levels of evacuation:

<p><b>LEVEL 1</b>  <b>BE READY:</b>          Prepare, monitor, and pack your valuables.</p>	<p><b>LEVEL 2</b>  <b>BE SET:</b>          Be set to evacuate at a moment's notice.</p>	<p><b>LEVEL 3</b>  <b>GO:</b>          Leave immediately!</p>
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**#BelieveInFireSafety**