

Protecting the lives, safety, property, & environment of all persons in the community & surrounding areas we serve

HOT TOPICS

REMINDER: Backyard burning seasons ends on June 15

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR DISTRICT RESIDENTS

Visit our website at <http://www.corvallisrfd.com>

The Impact of the Station 5 Closure on the CRFPD

The Corvallis Fire Department (CFD) faces some significant fiscal challenges in Fiscal Year 2012-2013 (FY 12/13) and through the near term. The City of Corvallis faces a \$1.9 million shortfall in the property tax-supported general fund, resulting in a \$478,510 decrease from the proposed FY 12/13 CFD budget. The proposed City Budget goes before the Corvallis City Council on June 4, 2012. If adopted, CFD will close a fire station and eliminate three firefighter positions. While not permanent, the station closure and reduced staffing model will extend through the foreseeable future.



A thorough analysis of the CFD emergency response data determined that closing the Scott Zimbrick Memorial Fire Station (#5) on Walnut Blvd. would have the least negative impact on the CFD service area as a whole. The ambulance from Station 5 will be relocated to Station 2 (35th and Washington) to enable an either/or Fire/EMS response. The medics from Station 5 will be relocated to Station 3 (Circle Blvd. and 13th Street) to staff a second ambulance when

possible. When staffed, this added ambulance should have a net improvement on emergency medical response in our busiest district.

The CRFPD areas most directly affected by the station closure will be accessed from Oak Creek Drive and Ponderosa Avenue; a nominal increase to second-in response times is anticipated. Other CRFPD areas like Vineyard Mountain will experience normal response times for the first-in engine from Locke Station, with the potential to realize a slight increase in the number of responding firefighters.

Response Time & Effective Firefighting Force

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has two basic guidelines that gauge a fire department's capability to respond safely and effectively to fire incidents: Response time and Effective Firefighting Force (EFF). Response times are measured from the time an emergency call is received by dispatch until the first unit arrives on scene: the NFPA goal is 5 minutes. EFF is defined as the number of firefighters on scene within 8 minutes of the time of call. NFPA has determined that an EFF of 15 is appropriate for a residential structure fire.

Estimating the effect of the station closure on response times is ambiguous at best. Only time will tell how the system is truly affected, but the increase in EFF is quantifiable. CFD will now have 13 firefighters on a fire scene in the CRFPD, an improvement over the previous model. But even with the improvements, there are physical limitations that impact our response: distance, road conditions, and handling characteristics of fire apparatus. In much of the CRFPD there will be

an EFF of 3 firefighters at 8 minutes, or 20% of the NFPA recommendation. By comparison, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue reports an EFF of 25 at 10 minutes and Springfield-Eugene reports an EFF of 19 at 10 minutes. Albany Fire reports an EFF of 17 and Bend Fire reports an EFF of 15; neither of these jurisdictions measures the time the EFF is on scene.

New Fire Code Requirements for New Construction

Many properties within the CRFPD do not have an adequate and reliable water source for firefighting operations. CFD must shuttle water to the fire scene in tenders. Tender-shuttle operations are resource intensive, drawing personnel away from fire ground operations. This can have a dramatic effect on CFD's suppression capabilities and has the potential to place firefighters and the community at increased risk as fire growth can continue unabated.



The fire prevention bureau is tasked with finding a resolution within the fire code to relieve the tactical fire suppression problem in the CRFPD. Often civic infrastructure upgrades like roadway improvements, extending water lines, or augmenting fire response are not fiscally viable solutions. This puts the onus of mitigation on the individual property owner wishing to develop his or her land. One method of mitigation is to require homeowners to provide water for firefighting operations on their property. As a result, in some circumstances there may be water supply requirements to develop property within the CRFPD.

These water supply requirements are defined through the 2010 *Oregon Fire Code, Appendix B,** and the NFPA 1142 - *Standard on Water Supplies for*

Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting, 2012 Edition (available at www.nfpa.org). In general, there are two methods of meeting the NFPA 1142 water supply requirements. The first would be to establish an onsite water supply for firefighting. The second would be to install an NFPA 13D residential fire sprinkler system. The summary of access and water supply requirements for new development can be found in the *Linn-Benton Fire Protection Standards.** (Links to these resources can be found on CFD's website ("www.ci.corvallis.or.us/fire" - click on "Links" on the left navigation bar.)

Apparatus Purchases Increase Safety & Efficiency



The CRFPD has made recent apparatus purchases to improve efficiency for District residents and increase the safety of firefighters.

The first unit is a 2012 Toyne 3,000-gallon water tender. This tender replaces a 2,000- gallon 1977 5-ton 6 X 6 water tender. Not only does the Toyne provide an extra 1,000 gallons of water, it also increases safety for the motoring public sharing the road and of the crews who staff it. The Toyne water tender will be used for structure and wildland/urban interface fires in non-hydranted areas.

Three used wildland/urban interface fire apparatus make up the rest of the purchase. These apparatus have been purchased from Cal-Fire and refurbished by local shops and firefighters in order to save money while providing quality apparatus for fire protection.



Burning is Not Always Advisable

So you worked hard all spring to do as the local fire department suggested and trimmed the vegetation away from your house to prevent fire spread from reaching your valuable home and its contents.

Now you're facing the question of what to do with that huge pile of decaying debris.

Before you set it ablaze

(on an approved burn day, of course), you may wish to consider a more sustainable method of disposal and turn the debris into mulch material. This alternative not only reduces airborne pollutants, it is also a much safer way to go.



Did you know that you can face significant problems even if you follow all of the required safety precautions:

- Provide at least a 75-foot buffer around and above the burn pile;
- have an adequate water source readily available;
- attend the fire 100% of the time it is burning OR smoking; and
- burn only on an approved day.

If the fire gets away from you because of a sudden high wind or an arrant spark, you can and most likely will be held financially responsible for all resultant damage -- even if you followed all safety precautions. In addition,

Fire Inspections in Commercial Properties

Each year, your Corvallis Fire Department performs fire and life safety inspections in all commercial structures located in the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District. These inspections serve as an opportunity for CFD to ensure compliance with Fire and Building Codes, for district familiarization, and to give business owners the opportunity to interact with Fire Department staff and learn more about how to protect commercial structures from fire.

you could be billed for all costs associated with the fire department's response, including personnel and apparatus. All of these costs can add up very quickly.

So before you "light up" this spring, give it a second thought and investigate alternative methods that are safer and more sustainable. Remember, even the most innocent of intentions can go dangerously wrong if conditions change quickly. So ask yourself....What if ? Stay Safe!

Who Are Your Board Members, and When Do They Meet?

The Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District is headed by a five-member board elected at-large to the positions for a staggered four-year term. The Board generally meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Locke Station. The meetings are open to the public, and we encourage you to come and learn more about your fire district. Your board members are:

Tom Nelson Tom.Nelson@corvallisrfd.com
Chair

Howard Jones Howard.Jones@corvallisrfd.com
Member at Large

George Mears George.Mears@corvallisrfd.com
Treasurer

Bob Conder Bob.Conder@corvallisrfd.com
Secretary

Dick Ragsdale Dick.Ragsdale@corvallisrfd.com
Member at Large

The inspections are based on the current edition of the Oregon Fire Code (2010, based on the 2009 International Fire Code). All fire and life safety-related aspects of the building are checked, including:

- access
- addressing
- exiting
- electrical hazards
- fire resistive construction
- hazardous materials
- storage
- other fire hazards or sources of ignition



In addition, annual testing and maintenance of fire extinguishers, sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, and other extinguishing and detection systems is confirmed.

The building or business owner is given a report at the end of the inspection, listing any items that need attention. Corvallis Fire Department then performs follow-up inspections to ensure that any items needing attention are brought into compliance and assists the building or business owner in making the building fire-safe.

Below is a list of items that your Fire Department will typically check:

| Violation # | Description | Code Reference |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Access | | |
| 201-04 | Fire lanes shall be posted and maintained | OFC 503.3, 2004 |
| 202-04 | Fire lanes shall be unobstructed | OFC 503.4, 2004 |
| Addressing | | |
| 226-04 | Address must be visible from the street | OFC 505.1, 2004 |
| 227-04 | Address must have 6" numbers | OFC 505.1, 2004 |
| Electrical | | |
| 400-04 | Cords shall not be affixed to or extend through walls, ceilings or floors | OFC 605.5, 2004 |
| 401-04 | Electrical cords shall not extend under doors or be subject to physical damage | OFC 605.5, 2004 |
| 402-04 | Discontinue use of extension cord in lieu of permanent wiring | OFC 605.5, 2004 |
| 407-04 | Label electrical room(s), panel(s) and circuits | OFC 605.3.1, 2004 |
| 408-04 | Maintain 30" clearance in front of electrical panels | OFC 605.3, 2004 |
| 411-04 | Provide cover plates on all electrical outlets, switches and junction boxes | OFC 605.6, 2004 |
| 415-04 | Extension cords and multiplug adapters shall be plugged into an approved outlet | OFC 605.5, 2004 |
| Exiting | | |
| 507-04 | Provide / maintain / repair approved exit door hardware | OFC 1008.1.8, 2004 |
| 510-04 | Provide / maintain / repair exit sign | OFC 1011, 2004 |
| 512-04 | Provide a sign "THIS DOOR TO REMAIN UNLOCKED WHILE BUILDING IS OCCUPIED" | OFC 1008.1.8.3, 2004 |
| 514-04 | Remove storage/obstructions from exits, aisles, corridors and stairs | OFC 1027, 2004 |
| Extinguishers | | |
| 600-04 | Cooking equipment with fats/oils shall have a Class K extinguisher within 30 ft | OFC 904.11.5, 2004 |
| 601-04 | Fire extinguishers shall be inspected monthly and maintained/tagged annually | OFC 906.2, 2004 |
| 603-04 | Fire extinguishers shall be permanently mounted, and visible or signed | OFC 906.5, 2004 |
| 605-04 | Provide a 2-A:10-B:C fire extinguisher; maximum travel distance is 75 feet | OFC 906, 2004 |
| Extinguishing Systems | | |
| 1302-04 | Cooking equipment hood/duct systems shall be kept free of visible grease | OFC 904.11.6.3, 2004 |
| 1303-04 | Test/tag cooking equipment hood systems every 6 months - provide copy to CFD | OFC 901.6.1, 2004 |
| Fire Alarms | | |
| 704-04 | Fire detection systems shall be tested annually - provide a copy to CFD | OFC 901.6.1, 2004 |
| Fire Resistive Construction | | |
| 900-04 | Discontinue blocking open required fire door with non-approved means | OFC 703.1, 2004 |
| 901-04 | Fire doors / smoke barriers shall be maintained and kept free of obstructions | OFC 703.2, 2004 |
| 907-04 | Required fire walls, occupancy separations and draft stops shall be maintained | OFC 703.1, 2004 |

General Precautions

| | | |
|---------|--|-------------------|
| 1004-04 | Laundry dryers shall be properly vented to the outside and free of lint build-up | OFC 603.5.2, 2004 |
| 1005-04 | Open-flame cooking devices are prohibited on combustible balconies (exceptions) | OFC 308.3.1, 2004 |
| 1011-04 | Maintain clearance between combustibles and heat-producing appliances | OFC 305.1, 2004 |
| 1014-04 | Dumpsters > 1.5 cu yds must be outside, at least 5' from buildings (exceptions) | OFC 304.3.3, 2004 |

Hazardous Materials

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| 1104-04 | Provide MSDS for all hazardous materials on-site | OFC 2703.4, 2004 OFC 3404.3.4.4, 2004 |
| 1105-04 | Provide an approved cabinet for more than 10 gal. flammable/combustible liquids | OFC 2703.7.1, 2004 |
| 1111-04 | Provide an approved sign, "NO SMOKING" | OFC 2703.5.1, 2004 |
| 1113-04 | Provide contents labels for all hazardous materials containers and tanks | OFC 3003.3.3, 2004 |
| 1120-04 | Secure compressed gas cylinders | |

Hydrants

| | | |
|--------|---|-------------------|
| 800-04 | Maintain 3' clearance around fire hydrant | OFC 508.5.5, 2004 |
|--------|---|-------------------|

Public Assemblies

| | | |
|---------|---|------------------|
| 1450-04 | Post maximum occupant load sign in a conspicuous location | OFC 1004.3, 2004 |
|---------|---|------------------|

Sprinklers/Standpipes

| | | |
|---------|--|-------------------|
| 1500-04 | Provide a sprinkler box with spare heads and wrench | OFC 901.6, 2004 |
| 1507-04 | FDC must be visible, operable and unobstructed | OFC 912, 2004 |
| 1509-04 | Sprinkler/Standpipe systems shall be tested annually - provide copy to CFD | OFC 901.6.1, 2004 |

Storage

| | | |
|---------|--|-------------------|
| 1600-04 | Combustible storage is prohibited in unprotected attics and concealed spaces | OFC 315.2.4, 2004 |
| 1601-04 | Combustible storage is prohibited under unprotected floors and stairs | OFC 315.2.4, 2004 |
| 1602-04 | Maintain storage at least 2' below ceilings in non-sprinklered buildings | OFC 315.2.1, 2004 |
| 1605-04 | Materials that spontaneously ignite shall be stored in a listed container | OFC 304.3.1, 2004 |
| 1606-04 | Reduce combustible storage; storage must be neat and orderly | OFC 315.2, 2004 |
| 1608-04 | Maintain storage at least 18" below the level of sprinkler heads | OFC 315.2.1, 2004 |
| 1609-04 | Remove combustible storage from mechanical, electrical and boiler rooms | OFC 315.2.3, 2004 |

For more information on fire and life safety inspections in the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District, please call 541-766-6961.

Use Care With Fireworks!

- ☼ Take care of your cats and dogs – get them inside before dusk, and keep them inside until the fireworks are over. Many animals are terrified by the sights and sounds of fireworks and will sometimes run away, run into traffic, or become aggressive.
- ☼ Always provide adult supervision for children using fireworks.
- ☼ Light fireworks in a safe area, such as a driveway or other paved surface; and keep fireworks at least 25 feet away from grassy or vegetated areas and rooftops.
- ☼ Light one firework at a time and move away quickly. Fireworks should never be held or thrown.
- ☼ Have a water supply nearby, such as a garden hose or a bucket of water.
- ☼ Never attempt to relight or alter malfunctioning fireworks. After allowing them to stand for several minutes, discard in a pail of water.



- ☼ If clothes catch fire, remember to STOP, DROP on to the ground, cover your face and ROLL over and over until the fire goes out.

Special Note About Sky Lanterns

- These devices are considered to be a limited fireworks display, requiring a permit from the Oregon State Fire Marshal; a separate permit is required for each display.
- The display permit and all associated documents shall be reviewed and approved by the Fire Marshal.
- The display and safety plan shall be inspected by the Fire Marshal prior to launch.
- The display must be conducted by a qualified operator who is at least 18 years of age.
- If the Fire Marshal determines that a public display creates an unacceptable fire hazard, the display shall not be conducted.



Corvallis RFPD
c/o Corvallis Fire Department
400 NW Harrison Blvd.
Corvallis, OR 97330

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Thank you for reading the current edition of *Hot Topics*. This publication is produced once per year. We value your comments. Please let us know if the information provided was interesting, practical, and/or useful. If you would like to see a topic covered in the next edition or have any comments, please contact us at 541-766-6961 or by e-mail at Fire@corvallisoregon.gov.



These signs assist your visitors and emergency service personnel in easily locating your home. Please allow 6 weeks for ordering, assembly, and installation. If you have any questions, contact the Locke Station at 541-766-6476.

SIGN IT SO THEY SEE YOU!

Corvallis, OR 97330
544 NW Lewisburg Avenue
Attn: Address Sign

Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District

Send this order form & payment to:

If you would like your email included in the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District's e-mail list, please provide your email address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Street Name and Number _____

Name _____

I would like to order an address sign for my property, which is located within the Corvallis Rural Fire Protection District. I have enclosed a check for \$20.00, made out to the *Corvallis RFPD*. Please do not send cash.

RURAL ADDRESS SIGN ORDER FORM