



FULLY INVOLVED

ADAIR RURAL FIRE & RESCUE Newsletter Summer/Fall 2022



Proudly serving your Adair Village and Soap Creek Valley neighborhoods since 1974.

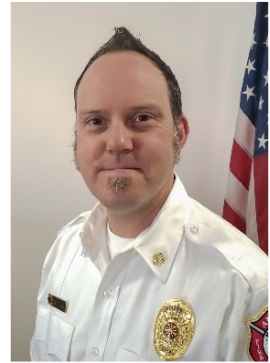
A Word From the Fire Chief THANK YOU

One could almost use the “Q” (shhh) word to describe how our fire district’s call volume has been this year. Instead, we will use the phrase “Below Average” to be safe. Currently we are sitting just over 105 calls on the year. Last year, our numbers were at 150 by the end of August. This is possible due to increased awareness, good decision making, and overall health of our community.

Many things change from year to year and normally Adair Rural Fire & Rescue responds to about 180 calls for assistance yearly. About 60% of these calls are for medical reasons, 35% for fires, and the remaining percentage is for motor vehicle crashes. We lend mutual aid to our surrounding communities about 35% of the time. We have automatic aid agreements with areas of North Albany/Palestine and Polk Co. Fire District #1. During the summer months and when the weather meets certain conditions, the county responds to outside fires with an “All-County response.” This means every available agency within Benton Co, and the Oregon Department of Forestry sends an apparatus to an outside fire immediately, without needing to be requested by the host agency. This allows for a faster response with the intent of extinguishing the fire before it surpasses the local response.

Another constant in the fire service is how quickly personnel change. The department recently lost a fantastic firefighter due to his family relocating, and other firefighters to their primary jobs demanding more of their time. Luckily, four of our neighbors have recently joined the ranks to help serve the community. Typically, it will take these individuals about one year to obtain the needed training to become “response ready.” Fire Academy starts in November, making NOW a great time to join and move right into the thick of our training, shortening the time it takes to respond on calls for assistance. Following Fire Academy, Emergency Medical Responder class starts in March. After both classes are completed, a member has obtained all the necessary classes needed for the department.

Let me say thank you again to our community for lessening our burden. Stay safe and stay hydrated.



Chief Aaron Harris

OPEN HOUSE

Saturday October 8th

Mark your calendars and/or put a reminder in your phone, Saturday October 8, 2022, is Adair’s annual open house from 11:00am to 2:30pm. This event held at the main station in Adair Village is great for kids, grandchildren, and adults too! There will be fire truck rides, firefighter challenges for kids, drawings, station tours, an automobile extrication demonstration, and more. We’d love to see everyone there.



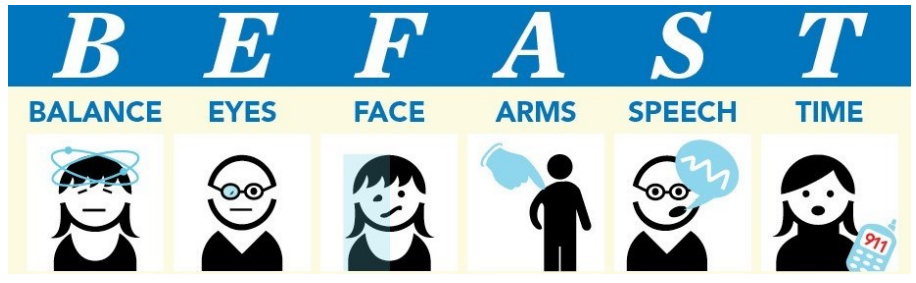
911 Address Markers

Get one now!

Is your driveway well marked? If you live beyond the well-numbered streets of the Village or new Calloway Creek neighborhood and don’t have a reflective 911 address sign, give us a call. On a dark and rainy night there is no better way for your friends or the fire department to find your house! We will gladly install a new sign or re-install your old sign for free. Please email aaron@adair-rural-fire.com or call 541.745.7212



EMS Corner. STROKE Awareness



Welcome to the EMS Corner. This is a new column that you will see from time to time in our newsletters to help readers learn about an important health related topic. This time, our topic is STROKE. Much of the information provided here is directly from the CDC website. If you are interested in learning more, you can search the internet for “CDC” and “stroke”.

A stroke occurs when there is a change to the blood flow inside the brain. This disruption can be due to a blockage in a vessel or bleeding from a damaged vessel. Either way, quick recognition is critical. During a stroke, every minute counts! Rapid recognition and treatment can lessen the brain damage that stroke can cause. By knowing the signs and symptoms of stroke, you can take quick action and perhaps save a life—maybe even your own.

If you or someone you are with experiences any of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately

- Sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking, or difficulty understanding speech.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance, or lack of coordination.
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

www.adair-rural-fire.com Website and Facebook Page

The Adair website and Facebook page are good resources for department information and current events. The website includes a burn information page with links to the daily burn status. The website is expanding, so check back frequently. Following us on Facebook will provide 2-4 posts per month of timely information and pictures.



What is defensible space? Defensible space is the buffer you create between your home and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland areas that surround it. Proper defensible space can slow or stop the spread of wildfire and help protect your home or outbuildings.

How does defensible space help protect my home? Defensible space offers your buildings protection from wildfire, and even small actions make a big difference. Embers are the leading cause of structure loss during a wildfire. They can travel up to three miles ahead of the large flame front. Well-maintained defensible space can increase your home's chance of survival by 75%.

Where do I start when creating my defensible space? We recommend breaking it up into small weekend projects that could be done any time during the year.

*Start at your home and work out from there. Remove combustible materials like dry leaves and pine needles from your roof, gutters, and eaves. Don't forget above, below, and on your decks. You will also be thankful the gutters are clean when the rain starts in the fall.

*Next, move to the foundation of your home and make sure combustible landscaping like bark dust or mulch is not touching your home. Consider replacing combustible landscaping with bare dirt, gravel, or pavers.

*Then trim and limb bushes and trees so they are not touching your home. This does not mean you need to remove all the plants from your yard. Instead, give plants some space apart from one another. Consider removing tall brush from under trees and some of the lower limbs so that fire on the ground cannot get into the tree canopy. Continue moving outward from your home to give added protection from wildfire. A little work now can make a big difference later.



A well prepared home that survived the 14,000 acre "242" Labor day fire unattended. Photos courtesy of Chiloquin Oregon Fire & Rescue

Apparatus Spotlight. Adair's Brush Trucks

Who Are Your Adair Firefighters?

We are a dedicated group of volunteer professionals serving the fire, rescue, and QRT (Quick Response Team) medical needs of our community. We are seventeen men and women ranging in age from 19 to 75. Adair has four Emergency Medical Responders (EMR), nine Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and one Paramedic. The seventeen of us have multiple combinations of structural and wildland firefighting certifications. The fire service has been a significant part of some member's careers. Most of us come from a wide variety of non-fire or EMS related occupations.



McElfresh, Rodriquez, Tripolone, and Larkin

Equally important to our diversity of experience is what we have in common. The heart to help people. The dedication to train. The desire to make our team better. We like to be challenged, rewarded, and have fun. Also in common is that at one time, each of us had no firefighting or EMS experience at all. Then we each took that first step. Regardless of your experience level, if firefighting interests you, we would like to talk to you about the next step. Please email, call, or stop by our station.



MacDonald and Hoffman

You've probably seen our smaller pick-up-based trucks on duty around our district. They are small maneuverable vehicles used for both wildland and structure fires, motor vehicle accidents and medical calls. We keep one at the Soap Creek substation and two in Adair Village.

Our brush trucks have fully loaded medical bags, supplemental oxygen equipment, AEDs, and backboards. The compartments have everything from chainsaws to traffic cones, life jackets to firefighter air packs. The trucks have ladders, scene lighting, generators, ventilation fans and full sets of wildland and structural firefighting tools. Two of the trucks carry 1500-gallon portable water tanks, while the third has motor vehicle collision extrication equipment.

The oldest is a 2006, the newest a 2013. Each has a pump capable of moving 500 gallons of water per minute. The on-board water tanks range from 325 - 415 gallons. If you add up all the sections of supply line, attack line, booster reel, and wildland hose there is over 2000' of hose on each truck. The front bumpers have nozzles that can be operated while the truck is stationary or driving. A single firefighter can drive and spray water in a variety of patterns via a joystick control in the cab. These trucks are ideal for a typical two-person volunteer response crew but can carry four. Our little engines are the right size to reach the most remote parts of our district and still carry everything needed for an emergency.



Lieutenant Jones and an Adair brush truck

The Desire to Serve - The Ability to Perform - The Courage to Act

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Adair Rural Fire and Rescue

