



FULLY INVOLVED

ADAIR RURAL FIRE & RESCUE Newsletter Summer 2021



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

Thank You for Your Service!

Captain Kris "Skippy" Reichmuth retired July of 2021 after 18 years of dedicated service to the Adair Rural Fire Department and all the people we serve.

You will be greatly missed, and your boots are going to be very hard to fill. Thank you!

ARF&R Open House

COVID-19 restrictions cancelled our October 2020 Open House. We hope to resume the annual tradition this year.

Watch for announcements. There will be fun activities and prizes for kids as well as station tours, firetruck rides and safety information.

A Word From Your Fire Chief - I could really use your help!

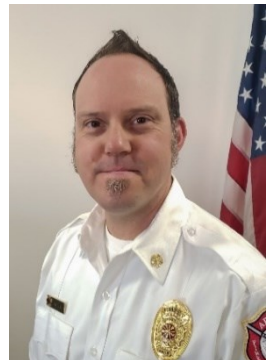
Currently the staffing at Adair Rural Fire and Rescue (ARF&R) is at its lowest number of volunteers it has seen in years, and we could really use your help. The Department's volunteers come from you and your neighbors, who live in our community, and are willing to sacrifice time for fulfillment. Adair Village is growing and with this growth comes an increase in emergencies, but not necessarily First Responders. We will provide the training and give you the opportunity to give back to your community.

This spring, I was able to get ARF&R qualified to participate in statewide conflagrations (see page 2). These are as-needed opportunities which provide for growth and experience not normally found in our rural community. The ability to help other communities throughout the state benefits the communities we help as well as the fire department and its staff. The Oregon State Fire Marshal compensates the department for both the use of the truck and the personnel assigned to the conflagration. The greatest benefit comes from

the experience but earning some extra cash is nice!

We are headed into an era of community growth and with this growth the fire department will need to grow as well. As of July 1st, the Fire department's board decided to increase my time at the station to 30 hours a week. With this extra time, I plan to create a few new opportunities for people to volunteer. I am working on creating an EMS-only response opportunity and a way for people who live just outside of our response area to volunteer within our department. In time, we will add onto the station, creating a space for resident volunteers who live at the station, like I once did.

Thank you for your support.



Aaron C. Harris, EMT/RN

Backyard Burning & Fire Pit Information

The ARF&R district follows the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's daily advisory for burn piles consisting of branches, brush, stumps, and other vegetation. The daily DEQ advisory found on their website also indicates if there is a "Burn Ban" prohibiting all outdoor open flames. A burn ban prohibits both burn piles as well as recreational, warming and charcoal/wood cooking fires. Small metal fire bowls are prohibited during a burn ban. The only cooking fires allowed during a burn ban are commercial gas fueled barbeques.

Spring backyard burning season ended June 16th. Backyard burning will resume when it is safe in the fall. To see what's allowable anytime go to www.adair-rural-fire.com and click the DEQ <http://smkmgmt.com/burn.php> link. Locate the section: "Backyard burning inside special control areas" and follow the regulations for that day.

It is illegal to burn garbage any time of the year. Its against the law to conduct any burning that creates hazard to public safety or a public nuisance. See our website for more details.



Adair 's R. MacDonald, T. Jones & M. Hoffman. Photos: L Hannigan-Downs

Why Does Adair Use The Siren?



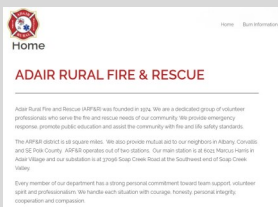
Adair is a volunteer department without full time station staffing. The siren is one of three ways volunteers are called to action. The siren is used in combination with cell phone and pager alerts. There are areas of the district where the siren can be heard, but pager reception is poor and coverage by cell phone carriers is spotty. Pagers and cell phones need to be charged, nearby and not muted. The siren is always on duty and ready to go. All our volunteers have multiple examples of responses when the siren was their only alert. During last winter's ice storm, the generator at the station kept the siren working during a time of need when the rest of the district was without power. When the closely tied phone and paging systems go down, the siren still works.

Over the years the siren duration has been cut in half. The decibel level has been tested and found to be non-harmful based on volume and duration. We currently limit nighttime use between 11:00pm and 6:00am when volunteers can purposefully set their phones near their beds.

The siren is not used for tradition. We understand the inconvenience and ask for your understanding when the siren is used to ensure the quickest and safest response to your emergency.

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.



ARF&R registered with the Oregon State Fire Marshal to be part of their Mobilization Plan for the 2021 Fire Season. The Mobilization Plan and Conflagration Act sends taskforces of structural firefighting resources to fire emergencies that exceed the capacity of local resources to protect life, property, and the environment. The taskforces of structural firefighting resources are primarily used to provide protection to structures being endangered by wildfires. However, if needed, a taskforce can assist the wildland firefighting partners in other fire suppression activities.



Adair Joins the State Mobilization Plan and Conflagration Act

On July 6th Adair RF&R mobilized a Type 6 Engine with two firefighters to join Benton County Task Force 12. They were joined by three apparatus from Philomath F&R, one from Monroe RFPD and one from Harrisburg F&R. They deployed to the Jack Fire in Douglas County and the Grandview Fire near Sisters. The deployment lasted 10 days total.



Grandview Fire, Sisters OR

While deployed, the missions included structure triage and prep, spot fire lookout and patrol, water supply for back burning operations, fire suppression and mop up. The team also supported residents with other tasks both big and small. It was an honor for our firefighters to be able to partner with other local firefighters to support other parts of our state. The first-hand experience gained by our firefighters enhances the department's capacity to respond to emergencies at home.

Volunteers Needed, You Can Make a Difference

Making sure that help is on the way from the moment anyone calls 911 is a responsibility first responders take very seriously. Do you know how emergency services work in our community?

About 80% of fire departments in the US are comprised of a mostly volunteer force. ARF&R is one such department. Our volunteers are trained in a wide array of emergency services ensuring we are prepared to assist our community and those that surround us in our unique urban-rural areas. Services include both structural and wildland firefighting, emergency medical services, and specialized operations such as open water rescue and vehicle extrication.



Tom Tripolone (far left) and the Adair Crew at a drill

I learned about the volunteer fire service in Adair when I moved to the area in 2018 and received a newsletter in the mail describing ARFR's mission. I called the station a few days later to see how to get involved (since I didn't have any previous experience) and was invited to one of the weekly training/drill sessions. I loved what I saw and what the volunteer service represented. Over the following year, I completed the required trainings to become both an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) as well as a Firefighter. I found a supportive and engaging community of men and women in the fire service. It continues to be the best personal decision I have made since moving to the area and allowed me to get involved and give back to the community where I live. With the increasing magnitude of forest fires in Oregon and growing communities around us, the need for volunteers is at an all-time high. For those reading this newsletter as I once was, I encourage you to consider getting involved. No previous experience is required - just heart.

Thank you. Tom Tripolone, Firefighter/EMR

ARF&R Provisions of Service

The Adair Rural Fire and Rescue (ARF&R) department provides the residents of our fire protection district with a variety of services: fire suppression, emergency medical response, hazardous materials spill response, vehicle extrication at auto accidents, smoke investigations, burn complaint investigations and public assistance. The Department also provides code enforcement, post-fire investigations, and public awareness/education. As a volunteer department these services are provided in a timely manner based on member availability.

When there is a medical emergency in the district, a Quick Response Team (QRT) from the ARF&R department and an ambulance from the Corvallis Fire Department (CFD) are dispatched to the scene. At the scene, members of the QRT partner with the Corvallis Fire Department medics to provide state of the art medical services. In the unfortunate event that no volunteers are available to respond as QRTs, patient care will be provided by the Corvallis Fire Department ambulance upon their arrival.

During a fire emergency or a motor vehicle accident, the initial response will be from ARF&R. If additional resources are needed at the incident, they will be dispatched from our neighboring departments (Corvallis Fire, Albany Fire, and Polk County Fire Dist. No. 1) based on our mutual-aid agreements.

Our actions are guided by the following principle: *We will risk more to save a life, we will risk less to save a property, we will risk nothing to save lives or property that are already lost.*

Desire to Serve - Ability to Perform - Courage to Act

Adair Rural Fire and Rescue
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