



FULLY INVOLVED

ADAIR RURAL FIRE & RESCUE Newsletter Winter 2022



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

A Word From Your Fire Chief

Now More Than Ever, Come Join Us - Become A Firefighter

This past year was tough on all of us, the Fire Department included. We said goodbye to 50 years of fire fighting experience with the loss of three individuals. They all felt it was time to go and as unfortunate of a situation it was for the department, it also meant we were blessed with their presence for all those years. This type of long-term commitment is becoming more and more rare in the volunteer fire service. Volunteer services everywhere are struggling to maintain member numbers. We did manage to add two new volunteers during this year. One of the new members comes to us without any previous experience and the other worked 18 years for the Albany Fire Department as a Paramedic/Apparatus Operator.



Chief Aaron Harris

Currently Adair Fire has fourteen active volunteer members and me, fifteen total firefighters. Of those fifteen, only I respond out of the Soap Creek substation. Four of the fifteen are "out of district" responders. These are trained individuals who want to participate with Adair Fire but don't live inside our fire district. They are available, but less so due to the distance they need to travel to get to the station in a timely fashion. This leaves ten firefighters within or very close to the city limits. Ten seems like a great number but you must consider most of these individuals have full time day jobs. This diminishes their ability to respond to emergencies during the daytime hours. In a perfect world, I would have about twenty responders at the main station with another three at the substation. Clearly every new member makes a big difference. I know there are willing and able people reading this newsletter right now, I challenge you to stop by and learn more about how we can work together to help our neighbors.

If you are wondering, it takes about one year to get brand new people trained and response ready. Response ready means, the person has completed Fire Academy, earned their Emergency Medical Responder certificate, and completed Wildland style firefighting trainings. This training gives them the core knowledge needed to stay safe and be a responding member of the team. If you provide the passion, we will provide the rest. For more information, call our station 541-745-7212, email Chief Aaron Harris aaron@adair-rural-fire.com or stop by our station for drill any Wednesday night at 7:00 pm.

2021 Run Numbers

In 2021, ARF&R responded to 193 calls. 105 were medical, ranging from falls to serious sports injuries and medical emergencies. One medical call was for the birth of a happy and healthy baby! Eight of our calls were public assistance. 69 were fire calls, including alarms, smoke investigations, and fire season burn complaints. 26 of the fire calls were to assist our mutual aid partners in Albany, Corvallis, and Polk County. Twice ARF&R mobilized under the Conflagration Act as part of a structural protection taskforce.

The year also saw the department dispatched to 11 motor vehicle collisions. We ask that everyone be as alert and patient as possible at the Highway 99 intersections with Coffin Butte Road at the landfill, Arnold at the main Village entrance, and especially at Ryals/Arboretum near the new Calloway Creek development. Everyone can benefit from reviewing and obeying all right-of-way driving rules. Let's do everything possible to reduce the number of accidents in 2022.



Retirements - You Will Be Missed !

AEDs: Thank You, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians



Kevin Higgins and Levi Lewis

In December 2021, two talented, long-standing members of ARF&R hung up their helmets for the last time. Captain Kevin Higgins proudly served all the residents of the district and supported all the members of the department for 23 years. Kevin's son Levi served with the same passion, honor, and integrity as an ARF&R Firefighter for over 10 years. Thank you, Kevin and Levi, for your tireless service and all the people you have helped. Your boots will be hard to fill.

This fall Adair Rural Fire & Rescue applied for a 50/50 matching grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund to replace our aging automated external defibrillators (AEDs). We received the funding, allowing us to update our seven AEDs to state-of-the-art devices, giving us equipment identical to providers in the surrounding service areas. This alone is a significant advancement in our ability to seamlessly interface with other agencies during an emergency.

While the population of our service area is approximately 3000 people, this equipment will effectively serve thousands more. Our district includes a section of State Highway 99W that is traveled by thousands each week, placing these people in potential need of our services. Additionally, our department responds to statewide wildland fire emergencies where the AEDs on responding units support the medical needs of people affected by these incidents.



Adair Crew with our new AEDs

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.



Winter Preparedness, Stay Safe In Your Home

Last February's ice storm and this winter's snow were reminders to always be ready for cold temperatures, power failures, loss of communication services, and closed roads. Rule #1 - Plan Ahead.

To safely keep warm without power, make sure your chimney or flu is cleaned or inspected each year. ARF&R has a chimney cleaning kit available for loan. Make sure you have a working battery-operated smoke and carbon monoxide detector in or near the area being heated. The carbon monoxide from a generator can be lethal in an enclosed space such as a garage in as few as five minutes. Placing your generator under a porch or near any opening big enough to pass an extension cord through invites carbon monoxide to slowly seep into your home.

Space heaters cause an estimated 25,000 residential fires, over 300 deaths, and 6,000 trips to the emergency room every year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Only put space heaters on the floor and follow the three-foot rule: don't place your space heater within three feet of anything flammable. Always check to make sure there is nothing above your heater that could fall on it.

Anyone over 65 should have an easy-to-read room thermometer placed where it will be seen frequently. The ability to feel temperature changes decreases with age and older adults are more susceptible to health problems caused by cold.



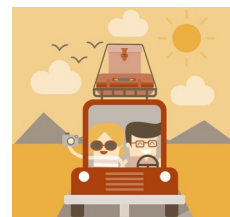
"1431" Adair's Type 1 Engine

Is Your Car ready For An Emergency ?

Avoid traveling during severe weather. If you must venture out, be ready. Consider this winter safety list a year-round list of essentials to keep in the car in the event of wildfire, natural disaster, or even a simple mechanical breakdown:



- Portable cell phone charger/cords, portable radio, flashlight, extra batteries.
- Items to stay warm and dry such as extra hats, coats, mittens, and blankets.
- Windshield scraper, shovel, jumper cables, tire chains, tow rope.
- Plenty of Water and snack food, waterproof matches, emergency flares.
- First aid kit with any necessary personal medications and a pocketknife.



Soap Creek Emergency Amateur Radio Repeater



In 2021, several local amateur radio operators pooled resources to build and install a radio repeater able to cover the unique geography of the ARF&R district, including all of the Soap Creek Valley. Amateur radio, also known as ham radio, is



a service where licensed people can communicate without using the internet or cell phones. Ham radios are more powerful than family radios commonly known as walkie-talkies. Ham radio can be a lifeline during an emergency.

The Soap Creek radio repeater retransmits ham signals, covering a much larger distance than a stand-alone radio could. This new repeater is designed to operate in emergency situations. It is solar powered and independent of the power grid. If a tree or fire destroys the solar panels, an underground battery powers it for 6 days. The repeater's enclosure is fire and earthquake protected/resistant.

The ARF&R district includes 15+ amateur radio operators, three of whom are also members of the fire department: Rob MacDonald, Chris McElfresh and Mike Larkin. Get to know your neighbors and find out who they (the hams) are. Learn the best way to contact them. Every resident of the district lives within walkie-talkie range of a ham, but it might be as easy as walking next door. If you needed an ambulance when there is no power or cell phone service, you could walkie talkie a message to a ham. The ham could then relay the message to town through the repeater, and help would be on the way.

LLS Firefighter Stair Climb



Standing: Brian Jensen, Chris McElfresh, Tom Jones, Mark Hoffman Tom Tripolone, Kneeling: Mike Larkin, Kyle Anderson, Ivan Rodriguez

The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Fundraising Firefighter Stair Climb is March 13th 2022, Eight of Adair's volunteers will join thousands of other firefighters to climb 69 stories up the Columbia Center in downtown Seattle. Each participant will climb while wearing roughly 60 pounds of firefighting gear and breathing air from our firefighting masks and oxygen tank.

Over its 31 years, this stair climb has raised over \$22 million for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Our Adair volunteers have set an ambitious goal of raising \$3000 and we can't do it alone. Will you help us toward our goal? All donations go directly to the LLS as the firemen cover all their own expenses. To learn more and to donate go to www.llswa.org (LLS Firefighter Stairclimb).

The Desire to Serve - The Ability to

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