

The Adair Rural Fire and Rescue

SMOKESCREEN

August 2011

A Note From the Chief

Chuck Harris, Fire Chief

We invite you to join us on August 16 to learn how you can better protect your rural property from wildland fire. "How to be more FireWise" will be held at the Adair Rural Fire & Rescue Soap Creek Substation, 37096 Soap Creek Road, at 6:30 P.M.

The program will include information on landscaping for fire protection, the importance of property access, and the difference between structural and wildland firefighters, as well as demonstrations on how fire travels in the wild. Come tour your local fire station and meet our volunteers.

When is a firefighter a firefighter?

This is a question that continues to be asked. When you call 911 for a fire on your property but not in a structure, you set in motion some events that are confusing to the lay public. You get a response from the local fire district or city fire department responding to extinguish the wildland, grass or brush fire. At the same time, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is notified and they start their response.

If the fire is contained by the local jurisdiction, Adair Rural Fire or Corvallis Fire Department, you may never see the state firefighting team; they have a greater distance to travel, coming from Philomath. HOWEVER, if the fire isn't contained by local fire agencies this may necessitate a requirement to call for resources that are not available locally, such as a water dropping aircraft. This would quickly exceed the financial capability of the local fire departments. This is where ODF would be able to assist.

This confusion is further complicated when you have a house fire and an ODF team arrives and is unable to make entry into the structure to extinguish it. It is simply a matter of equipment and training. The local agencies are trained and equipped to address house fires and smaller grass and interface fires. The local agencies will utilize their mutual aid policies to achieve that end. When the fire problem expands outside of their ability to suppress it, state resources will be called upon to take the lead role.

ODF wildland firefighters are trained to fight fires in the forest, sometime for days. Their protective clothing is designed to be worn in an outside environment, and they are taught to use the resources in the forest to suppress the fire (dirt and fire). These are obviously the wrong tools in a house fire to achieve the desired results.

Well, you can see where this is going: Though they possess many of the same skills and training and, on occasion, will substitute for one another, they have similar but very different missions. Local fire agencies are there to provide immediate assistance in fire related emergencies of short duration related to a structure or a small interface fire. State firefighters are applied to long duration massive wildland fires, in very large numbers.

I hope this explains some of the differences. If this left you more confused, please join us at the Adair Rural Fire and

Rescue Substation at 37096 Soap Creek Road on August 16th at 6:30 P.M. for a "FireWise" demonstration, and we'll be happy to give it a another attempt.

Back Yard Burn Season

The burn season ended on June 15th and will re-open on October 1st. Get your piles of yard debris set up and keep them dry.

Copies of the residential open burn regulations are available in the front office of the fire station. If you're still having trouble getting down to get a copy, please call and we'll bring a copy to you. It'll save us from having to visit with a fire truck.

Please call before you light off, and attend your fire. Be prudent with your burning. Call for the DEQ's Daily Burn Advisory. The number is **541-766-6971**. It has been going very well this burn season, keep up the good work.

Daytime Volunteer Firefighters Desperately Needed — STILL!!!

I realize that this is sounding like a broken record, but it still remains true. We need a few good people to volunteer to be firefighters.

Have you watched the TV ads that start with "I'm one, I'm one" and finishes with "I'm a Volunteer Firefighter and you can be one to?" Has it made you want to explore the realm of firefighting?

If you ever said that you may want to be a firefighter, now is the time. WE NEED YOUR HELP. We currently have 16 firefighters, but I continue to plead for more. Our daytime response is very low. We desperately need more. This means that if you were to have a structure fire, you may be waiting for apparatus to arrive from Corvallis Fire Department, Albany Fire Department or Polk County Fire District. These departments are all part of an automatic response agreement that has been prearranged for many years. It is called Mutual Aid/Response, where we assist one another in time of need—a system which benefits all parties. We have excellent working relationships with our neighboring departments, and we do assist one another, but we need the help to sustain ourselves.

At Adair Rural Fire and Rescue, **WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEERS**. If you or your neighbors don't help, we can't respond. All off-site training costs are paid for by the Department including babysitting, transportation, and meal reimbursement. Babysitting is also paid for during night drills and response. You need to only invest your time.

If you are in relatively good physical shape and are at all interested, PLEASE, talk with us. Come to the Main Station in Adair Village on Wednesday nights or call us at **541-745-7212**, and please leave a message if we are not in. Call me on my cell 541-990-8954.

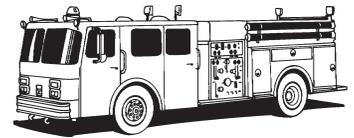
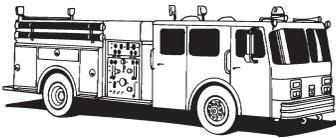
Adair Rural Fire and Rescue

You are invited to attend

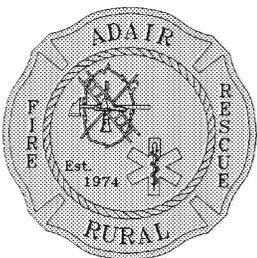
“How to be more FireWise”
around your Rural Home

Adair Rural Fire & Rescue
37096 Soap Creek Substation
August 16th, 2011 @ 06:30 P.M.

- Learn how you can protect your home from wildland fire.
- Watch demonstrations on how fire travels in the wild.
- See how your choice of landscape determines if you are “cool” or “hot.”
- What difference does your access make to your local fire department and why?
- See the difference between a structural firefighter and a wildland firefighter.
- Tour your local fire station with our volunteer firefighters.



Visit our web site at <http://www.adair-rural-fire.com>
See pictures of volunteers training and working



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