



# FULLY INVOLVED

## ADAIR RURAL FIRE & RESCUE Newsletter Fall 2024



### Message from the Chief: 2024 Fire Season Conflagrations



Chief Aaron Harris, EMT/RN

A conflagration is declared when a fire or incident overwhelms the local resource's ability to control it. The Oregon State Fire Marshal's office (OSFM) evaluates the need for additional resources, and as needed, a conflagration is declared by the Governor's office, sending the Oregon Fire Service into action.

This year Adair Rural Fire & Rescue (ARF&R) took part in three different conflagration deployments. Members of our department spent over 30 days on fires this season throughout the state. Our first deployment was in mid-July. Benton County Task Force 13 (TF13) consisted of 13 men and women firefighters. Our Task Force Leader and a wildland engine came from Monroe Rural Fire Protection District. ARF&R sent a wildland engine and resource trailer. Corvallis Fire & Rescue sent a wildland engine and water tender. Philomath Fire & Rescue provided a wildland engine, completing the Task Force.

Our first mission was to help protect structures on the 18,000-acre Larch Creek Fire. TF13 spent five nights in Tygh Valley protecting structures and participating in firefighting activities. Our nights included extinguishing fires, back burning fires, working with bulldozers, patrolling the containment lines, and ensuring structures remained safe. When our Larch Creek Fire work was done, TF13 was sent to the Lone Rock Fire.

On our *first* trip to the 137,000-acre Lone Rock Fire (I'll explain later) we spent the first two nights assessing the structures we needed to protect and patrolling the fire line. Before our third night began, we were told to muster up for an urgent brief. While we slept during the day, dry lightning started multiple fast-moving grass fires an hour away around the city of Pilot Rock. TF13 was on its way to help.

Our instructions in Pilot Rock were straightforward, "watch out for rattle snakes, there is fire all around you so keep your head on a swivel, and we put these fires out at night". TF13 spent the next 17 hours doing just that. We were given our own large area of the fire to manage and stop. With help from local farmers, and a lot of hard work by TF13 and surrounding agencies the 19,000-acre Pilot Rock Fire was effectively out as the sun came up. The next shift, TF13 was redirected back to the Lone Rock Fire that just made a large fast run to the south. We traveled through two other active forest fires to get to our assignment in Spray where the northern edges of the community were in danger.

The next four shifts proved to be very eventful. I personally conducted three different back burning operations to hold containment lines and protect structures. TF13 spent countless hours on suppression and holding operations. One entire shift was devoted to protecting structures during a Hot Shot crew's back burning operation. The extensive and very successful assignment halted the southwestern progress of the Lone Rock Fire. The next day we were sent home. TF13 stopped in Sisters to have a meal together.



TF13 after being released to go home from the Lone Rock fire in Spray, OR

But before we could place all our orders, TF13 was told to urgently head to The Dalles. Another fire had started threatening the nearby city of Mosier. No dinner for us, and off we went to the 1300-acre Microwave Tower Fire. We spent the next three nights ensuring hot spots around homes did not flare up.

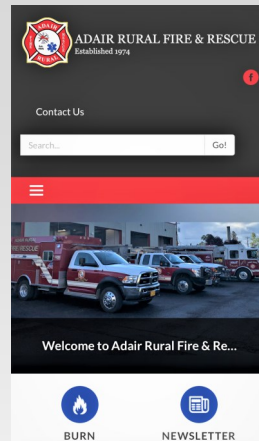
TF13 spent 15.5 days helping different communities throughout Oregon. This is not how a "typical" deployment looks. This has not been the typical fire season. The 2024 fire season has been the worst on record, surpassing the 2020 Labor Day fires season. 1.9 million acres burned, and the 2024 cost is expected to be \$250 million, the highest ever.

### Do you need a new address marker?



Is your driveway well marked? Reflective address markers to help locate your rural address are available through the Fire Department. They help us find your house during an emergency as well as help your friends and delivery drivers. There is a suggested \$20 donation to help cover the cost of the sign.

Our Fire District is fortunate to have an active Firewise Community. The group is part of a nationwide program that helps neighborhoods prepare for wildfires. The Soap Creek Firewise Community has generously volunteered to help survey the district for missing or damaged signs. If you see them at the end of your driveway, please thank them for their help. The Fire Department's goal is to install the signs when the ground is wet this winter and spring.



[www.adair-rural-fire.com](http://www.adair-rural-fire.com)  
and Facebook page



The Adair Fire website is your go-to source for backyard burning information and status. The website also includes fire rating, governance, recruitment, personnel and equipment information. The Department's Facebook page is timely and informative. Your questions and feedback to help make both these resources better are always welcome.

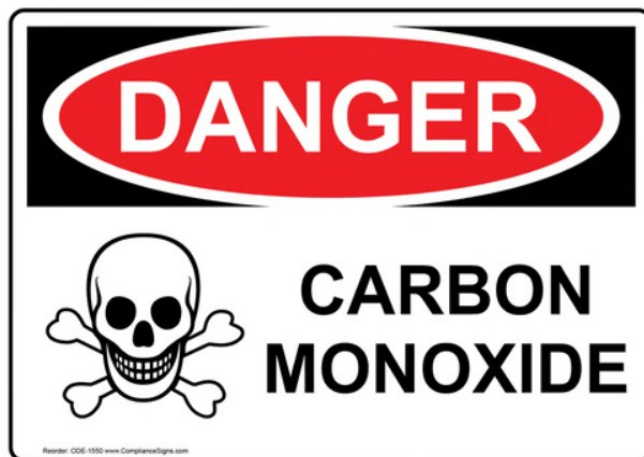
# EMS Corner: Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

As the leaves start turning and overnight temperatures drop, it is time to highlight the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. CO is produced by the combustion of any carbon-containing fuel including gasoline, oil, kerosene, propane, charcoal, or wood. Each year thousands of people experience dangerous exposure to CO in the home. CO exposure typically occurs in one of the following situations: CO accumulates in a poorly ventilated area, or CO is being excessively produced by a faulty appliance such as water heater, furnace or stove.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends that each floor of the home has a separate detector and if only a single carbon monoxide detector is used, it should be placed near the sleeping areas.

The signs and symptoms of CO exposure can include:

- Headache.
- Weakness.
- Dizziness.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Shortness of breath.
- Confusion.
- Blurred vision.
- Drowsiness.
- Loss of muscle control.
- Loss of consciousness.



If you or anyone in your family experiences any of these symptoms due to possible CO exposure, you should call 911 and seek medical attention immediately. Also please remember, special care should be taken during winter power outages, and propane or kerosene heaters should never be used indoors.

## OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, October 12th



Adair Fire's open house will be Saturday, Oct 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Come down to our main station in Adair Village to meet your responders.

- 11:00am - 1:00pm: Fire truck rides. Kids games & activities. Station/apparatus tours
- 11:30am - 1:00pm: Hot dogs and popcorn.
- 1:00pm: An automobile extrication demonstration.

Visiting regional Safety Partners will include:

Oregon Department of Forestry with Smokey the Bear and a burn table.

Benton County CERT. The Community Emergency Response Team educating individuals in preparedness knowledge and skills.

Soap Creek Valley Firewise helping our community take steps to reduce the risk of structural damage from wildfire and prepare for an effective emergency response.

### CHIMNEY MAINTINANCE

When was the last time you cleaned your chimney? Cleaning your chimney once a year will reduce the amount of creosote in your chimney and greatly reduce the risk of any chimney fires in the future. It's also important to make sure that the chimney cap is in good condition and that there are no gaps or holes in the flue. There are several local chimney sweeps in our area. For those who like to do things themselves, Adair Fire has chimney sweep equipment available to use for free. Contact [adair@adair-rural-fire.com](mailto:adair@adair-rural-fire.com) or call 541-745-7212.



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

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