

EVANS VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT #6
8677 E EVANS CRK RD
ROGUE RIVER OR, 97537



IT IS OUR DUTY TO PREVENT AND PROTECT FROM ALL FIRE AND TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID TO OUR COMMUNITY.

NOTICE

Rogue River Fire Med

Ambulance membership applications are available at the Evans Valley Fire District #6 station.

For more info

call (541) 582-4411

or visit their website at

www.rogueriverfd.com

EVFD MONTHLY MEETINGS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2ND THURSDAY AT 6:30 PM
AUXILIARY – 1ST MONDAY AT 10:00AM
FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION – 1ST TUESDAY AT 6:00 PM
WEEKLY FIREFIGHTER TRAINING IS EVERY TUESDAY STARTING AT 6:00 PM



Fully Involved

JANUARY 2024 VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

Chiefs Message

Flue Fire Safety: Protecting Your Home and Family

The warmth and comfort of a crackling fire can transform a chilly evening into a cozy haven. However, alongside the pleasure of a fireplace comes the responsibility of ensuring safety, particularly regarding flue fires. A flue, the passage that carries smoke and gases away from a fireplace, stove, or furnace, requires vigilant care to prevent potential hazards. Here's a comprehensive guide to flue fire safety to safeguard your home and loved ones.

Understanding Flue Fires

Flue fires occur when combustible deposits, such as creosote, accumulate within the chimney or flue system and ignite due to high temperatures. Creosote, a residue from burning wood, sticks to the flue's interior and becomes highly flammable. Without proper maintenance, this buildup can lead to a hazardous flue fire, severely threatening your home's safety.

Regular Maintenance: Key to Prevention

- Annual Inspections: Schedule a yearly inspection by a professional chimney sweep. They will evaluate the condition of the flue, remove any buildup, and ensure its structural integrity.
- Regular Cleaning: Clean the fireplace or stove, removing ash and debris. Avoid letting excessive ash accumulate, restricting airflow and contributing to creosote buildup.
- Proper Fuel Use: Only burn seasoned hardwoods as they produce less creosote than softer woods. Avoid burning treated wood, cardboard, or other inappropriate materials, as they can generate more hazardous byproducts.
- Install a Chimney Cap: A chimney cap acts as a barrier, preventing debris, animals, and rain from entering the flue. It also reduces the chances of downdrafts that can push smoke back into the house.

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Newsletter Highlights

Flue Fire Safety

Auxiliary Message

Winter Fuels Reduction

EVANS VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT #6

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Signs of a Potential Flue Fire

- Recognizing the warnings signs of a potential flue fire is crucial for prompt action:
- **FOUL ODOR:** A strong, unpleasant odor from the fireplace may indicate creosote buildup.
 - **Excessive Smoke:** Excessive smoke or difficulty lighting a can signal an obstruction or buildup within the flue.
 - **Visible Creosote:** If you notice a buildup of tar-like substance on the flue walls, it indicates that immediate cleaning is necessary.

Safety Measures

- In the event of a flue fire, prioritize safety above all else:
1. **Evacuation:** Immediately evacuate all occupants from the house.
 2. **Call Emergency Services:** Dial emergency services (911) to report the fire. Do NOT Attempt to extinguish the fire yourself.
 3. **Close Dampers:** If it can be done safely and without risk. Close the fireplace dampers to reduce the oxygen supply to the fire.
 4. **Leave the House:** Once everyone is safely outside, do not re-enter the house until emergency responders declare it safe. Preventive Measures: A Homeowner’s Responsibility Flue fire safety is a shared responsibility between homeowners and professionals. By adhering to routine maintenance, being vigilant for warning signs, and promptly addressing any concerns, you can significantly reduce the risk of flue fires.

Preventive Measures: A Homeowner’s Responsibility

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Investing time and resources into regular inspections and maintenance ensures your family’s safety . It prolongs the lifespan of your chimney and fireplace.

Conclusion:

A warm, inviting fire should bring joy and comfort, not pose a threat. Prioritizing flue fire safety through routine maintenance, appropriate fuel usage, and awareness of warning signs can mitigate the risk of potential hazards. Remember, staying proactive is critical to safeguarding your home and loved ones from the dangers associated with flue fires.

AUXILARY MESSAGE BY NANCY JOECKEL

In October, Auxiliary members lent their helping hands to EVFD’s Fall Open House & Pancake Breakfast - and at the close of the year, we helped “Deck The Halls” with decorations for the Chief’s annual Christmas Dinner. Each time, it was a pleasure to work with the cooperative and well-managed team our firefighters have become.

On a more permanent note, the Auxiliary helped fund a change to cost-saving lighting throughout the Fire Station, a much-needed upgrade to make the sleeping quarters more habitable, and winter jackets for the firefighters. The Auxiliary is always pleased to be able to support the Fire District in its endeavors.

Our officers for 2024 are:

Nancy Joeckel, President
Terri DeLashmutt, Vice President
Roxane Bolen, Secretary
Patricia Ott, Treasurer.

We welcome new members, so please contact Nancy Joeckel if you would like to help out with our projects.

MESSAGE BY LT. JORDAN BATES

Winter Fuels Reduction: A Proactive Approach to Wildfire Prevention

As winter descends upon our landscapes, it brings a future blanket of snow and a crucial opportunity for communities to fortify themselves against the looming threat of wildfires. Winter fuel reduction is an effective method of reducing the risk of destructive fires in the upcoming seasons.

Understanding Winter Fuels Reduction:

Winter fuel reduction involves carefully removing dead vegetation , fallen leaves, and low-hanging branches during the colder months. By clearing these potential fuel sources, communities can create defensible spaces around homes and structures, limiting the potential for fire to spread rapidly.

The Benefits of Winter Fuels Reduction:

1. **Reduced Fuel Loads:** Removing dry and dead vegetation minimizes the combustible material available to wildfires, reducing the intensity and speed at which fires can spread.
2. **Enhanced Forest Health:** Pruning trees and shrubs reduces fire risk and promotes overall forest health by eliminating diseased or damaged vegetation, contributing to a more resilient ecosystem.
3. **Improved Community Safety:** Establishing firebreaks and clearing vegetation around homes creates a buffer zone, protecting lives and infrastructure from the devastating impact of wildfires.

Practical Tips for Winter Fuel Reduction:

1. **Clearing Debris:** Remove dead leaves, pine needles, and combustible debris from your property.
2. **Tree Pruning:** Trim branches to create a defensible space and reduce the risk of fire reaching the treetops.
3. **Creating vegetation around homes and along property boundaries to create effective firebreaks that can slow or stop the spread of wildfires.**

Looking Ahead:

As we embrace the winter season, let us enjoy the beauty of snowfall and seize the opportunity to fortify our communities against the threat of wildfires. Winter fuel reduction is a proactive and collaborative approach that empowers us to protect our homes, preserve our environment, and ensure a safer and more resilient future.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Evans Valley Fire District is a rural fire district and we rely heavily on our wonderful volunteers.

If you’re interested in volunteering, you can obtain more information by visiting our website: www.evfire.org

Please, don't be at all discouraged if we don’t cover your area of expertise. You can always contact us by calling 541-582-0678. We will do our best to help you volunteer for us.

or check out “Our Auxiliary” on the same website. They are also looking for volunteers>



VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED

