EARLY FIRE SEASON PREDICTED
by Chief Fuller

After enduring record cold temperatures this past winter, it is refreshing to see spring knocking on our door. The days are getting longer and the afternoon temperatures are getting warmer. You may also notice that your lawn is already starting to grow. What that tells me is that fire season is just around the corner.

The weather experts have informed us that the seasonal snow pack in our area is at a record low. Jackson County is expected to declare a drought emergency this year.

I’m encouraging everyone to be prepared for this long fire season. You can be ready by creating a defensible space around your home. If you have already created this space, then maintain what you have.

Look at your gutters and on your roof. Are they filled with pine needles? Those needles are like lighter fluid during a wildfire.

Look at your driveway. Does the brush rub against your car when you travel down it? Your driveway is your escape route during a wildfire.

If you are burning outdoors this spring, please be careful. There have already been two escaped outdoor burns this year that have caused damage to neighboring properties. You could be held responsible for suppression costs should your burning get out of control. Burn early in the day before the afternoon winds pick up. Have a dependable water source close by. Never leave a burn pile unattended once you light it.

I’m asking you to be extra safe this fire season. It is going to take all of our efforts to assure a fire free season.

Have a great summer!
Free Smoke Alarms
By Lt. Travis Crume

On February 22, 2014, the Rogue Valley Fire Prevention Cooperative (RVFPC) in partnership with Evans Valley Fire District #6 (EVFD6) conducted a smoke alarm campaign in the Wimer area with great success. Studies have shown that a structure fire can double in size every thirty seconds. The Smoke Alarm Campaign started under the premise that early fire detection saves lives by allowing occupants to have more time to escape in a hostile atmosphere. Many times home owners and occupants fail to test their smoke alarm systems regularly assuming the alarms will work if the need arises. This is not always the case. The Smoke Alarm Campaign is a great way for fire departments to be proactive and ensure that local residences have safe and reliable smoke alarm systems.

The Smoke Alarm Campaign was funded with money obtained through a state grant. While the grant funds paid for the installation equipment and the smoke detectors, it did not contain any provisions for labor costs. The RVFPC is a nonprofit organization made up of local fire related personnel, firefighters, fire officers, state fire marshals, fire investigators and more. These professionals generously donate their time to help prevent injuries and death caused by fire. It is through the efforts of RVFPC, EVFD6 and the EVFD auxiliary that forty-seven new smoke alarms were installed in the Evans Valley free of charge to the local citizens.

Although February 22nd has passed, EVFD still has smoke alarms ready to be installed in local residences. If you would like to have a free home smoke alarm inspection or need alarms installed in your home, please contact EVFD#6 at 541-582-0678 or come by the station during normal office hours, M-F 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Volunteers of the Month

January - Arlyce
February - Kyle
March - Mitch
Auxiliary Report

By Dale Ten Broeck, President

Auxiliary folks are getting ready for the May 17th Spaghetti Feed that provides all-you-can-eat outstanding food at a very low price. Steve Keim, back by popular demand, will be providing dining entertainment. We appreciate Steve volunteering his time and talent for the community.

We are making arrangements to add gravel to the fire station parking lot and grade it again. Even though we haven’t had as much rain this year, the surface is in pretty poor shape.

We are also working with Chief Fuller and Lt. Travis Crume (Training Officer) to construct a new roof access training station for the volunteers. The old one is trashed from age and repeated training exercises. This training station is a major factor in preparing the firefighters to quickly and safely extinguish structure fires when minutes count.

Auxiliary volunteers provided lunch for the crew the installation project last month. Project details can be found in the article written by Lt. Crume, Free Smoke Alarms.

We still need more volunteers to staff the fire district’s front office. Staffing the front office frees the chief, lieutenant, and firefighters to better focus on training and helping the community. If you can spare a few hours a week, please contact Chief Fuller for details.

Most Gratifying Way to Pay for College

Hi, my name is Conner Wahl. I am a student with Evan’s Valley Fire District #6 and I want to share the job that I am passionate about with all the people I can.

I first applied at EVFD in July of 2013, after graduating from high school. Firefighting was always a career I wanted to pursue. I was lucky enough to have that opportunity by being accepted into the student program here in the Wimer community.

Being a student requires working shifts on the Kelly schedule; ten twenty-four hour shifts a month. Students and volunteers are expected to be firefighters, emergency medical responders, and set the same positive community role model that career firefighters do.

All this responsibility gives us the extra push we need to keep up on our training and studies so that we can protect the community we love.

As students, the fire district relies on us to keep the community safe from harm. Our dedication is greatly appreciated by the fire district and rewarded by paying for our college courses. This helps us get a better education and it benefits the district and the community by providing protection from more capable and educated firefighters.

Students and volunteers alike still need to find other means of covering non-college related expenses, so we often pick up second jobs. But, compared to any other job, firefighting is by far the most gratifying.

Even if becoming a student isn’t an option, I highly recommend becoming a volunteer. You will meet great people who will invite you in with open arms, and it’s a great way to help your community.

The student program is working.
EVFD#6 Partners in Community Education at Rogue River High School

March 18th

EVFD#6 partnered with RRFD teaching CPR classes at Rogue River High School.

March 21st

EVFD#6 and RRFD joined other organizations to educate Rogue River High School students on the consequences of drinking and driving.

Evans Valley Fire District #6
8677 East Evans Creek Road
Rogue River, OR 97537

EVFD Mission Statement
“It is our duty to prevent and protect from all fires and provide emergency medical aid to our community.”

Evans Valley Fire District #6
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Wimer, Oregon
Mailing Address:
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Phone: 541-582-0678
Fax: 541-582-0696
E-mail: info@evfire.org

Monthly EVFD Meetings
@ 6:30 PM
Board Meeting - 2nd Thursday each month
Auxiliary - 1st Monday each month
Training - every Tuesday

*Auxiliary meetings occurring on holidays will be held either the Monday preceding or following the holiday. No meeting in December.