

SPRING/SUMMER
2021

SCFD8 PROUDLY SERVES

- Moran Prairie
- Glenrose
- Hangman Hills
- Valleyford
- Bella Vista
- Mica
- Painted Hills
- Ponderosa
- Saltese



ASK SCFD8

Q Is it OK to burn on my property?

A: It depends!

Find out more on our website. Be sure to let us know when and what you plan to burn.

More info at SCFD8.org

www.scfd8.org
509-926-6699



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As you may recall, Fire Chief Tony Nielsen retired at the end of 2020 and I am fortunate enough to continue the tradition of service and commitment to you, our citizens, as your new Fire Chief. As we begin to slowly emerge from the challenges of the last year, District 8 has seen an increase of over 10% in our requests for emergency responses. Those increased responses include emergency medical, wildland fire, and motor vehicle accidents. As we reflect on the previous year, we also need to ensure the Fire District is "positioned for the future" to continue to provide high quality and efficient responses.

This summer our citizens will be asked to consider a fire levy lid lift to restore reduced funding to the Fire District.

If approved, the fire levy rate will be restored to \$1.50 per thousand of assessed value from the currently reduced rate of \$1.14 per thousand of assessed value. The levy rate has been reduced to the current rate because of increased assessed values and our inability to collect more than 1% each year.

If the levy lid lift is restored, the Fire District intends to enhance effective and timely fire and emergency medical/paramedic responses, replace aging structural and wildland fire engines, replace outdated and unsafe self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs), and perform needed facility maintenance and repairs.

Over the next several weeks we will be sharing more information about the levy lid lift and about your Fire District. If you have any questions or suggestions about how we can serve you better, please e-mail me at lrash@scfd8.org or give me a call at 509-370-9801.



Lonnie Rash, Fire Chief, SCFD8

Fire Season Has Arrived

Understanding the Threats Wildfires Can Pose to Your Homes and Property

Every year, wildfires threaten homes, property, individuals and communities built in or near wildfire prone ecosystems (known as Wildland Urban Interface or WUI for short). The fuels feeding a wildfire can often allow the fire to jump from trees and surrounding vegetation to homes and other structures. Taking steps to reduce the risks life-threatening fires can present is both prudent and effective.

According to Firewise.org, factors that put homes at risk from wildfire include:

- Overgrown vegetation or persistent drought conditions.
- Lack of knowledge regarding how and where wildfires happen.
- Lack of standardized building, fire, and planning codes.
- Increased homes adjacent to fuel (trees and vegetation).

A wildfire disaster resulting in the loss of homes, property and perhaps even lives is almost always the result of worst-case scenario conditions. This includes:

- Severe weather (hot, dry, and windy).
- Topographical conditions (steep slopes)
- Ample fuel (living and dead vegetation) that can carry fire quickly from place to place.

These conditions can allow wildfire to spread rapidly and build in intensity.

Continued on other side



HWY 27/Gibbs Rd, April 14, 2021

Fire Season Continued

What can we do to protect our homes and communities from wildfire? Perhaps, the biggest myth is that nothing can be done to reduce the risk of loss or damage. This is simply not true! Individuals living in wildfire prone areas are not only responsible for reducing the risk to their property, they have an important role to play in their community's preparedness strategy as well.

Of the three fire behavior factors, fuel is where you can affect the greatest change.

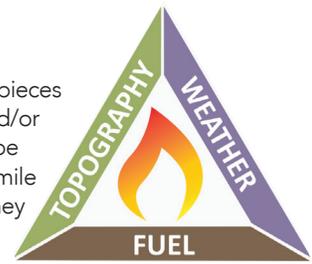
Residents can influence fire behavior by thinning trees and shrubs, pruning lower branches, removing flammable plants that are in close proximity to the home, and creating fire breaks with features such as walking paths or driveways and practice other Firewise.org best practices.

The Three Most Common Ignition Sources

1. Home and property damage from wildfire are most commonly due to crown fire, surface fires, and embers.
2. Crown Fires are an extreme type of wildfire that burns in the tops of trees. They spread by radiation and convection and are heavily influenced by wind. Crown fires generate embers that can travel more than a mile and create spot fires beyond the main fire.
3. Surface Fires can be low or high intensity fires that burn through live or dead grass, ground debris, and small trees and shrubs. They can ignite houses and attachments like fences, decks, and porches.

Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind. They can cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris and other objects. It is possible for embers to penetrate and smolder in woodpiles, patio/deck items, vents, roofs and debris filled gutters.

Regardless of wildfire intensity and the distance of embers, research shows home ignitions are determined by the home and its immediate surroundings. It's not where the home is located that necessarily determines risk; it's how ignitable the home is.



Fire Flyer

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12100 E Palouse Highway | PO Box 345
Valleyford WA 99036

Lonnie Rash, Fire Chief
Lee C. Boling, Commissioner
Greg Hesse, Commissioner
Andy Rorie, Commissioner

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admin@scfd8.org to join our mailing list.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME'S WILDFIRE READINESS

Your home and the area from zero to five feet from the furthest attached exterior point of the home is defined as the non-combustible area. Science tells us this is the most important zone to take immediate action on, as it is the most vulnerable to embers. **START WITH THE HOUSE ITSELF** then move into the landscaping section of the zone.

- Clean roofs and gutters of dead leaves, debris and pine needles that could catch embers.
- Replace or repair any loose or missing shingles or roof tiles to prevent ember penetration.
- Reduce embers that could pass through vents in the eaves by installing 1/8 inch metal mesh screening.
- Clean debris from exterior attic vents and install 1/8 inch metal mesh screening to reduce embers.
- Repair or replace damaged or loose window screens and any broken windows. Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire mesh to prevent debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Move any flammable material away from wall exteriors—mulch, flammable plants, leaves and needles, firewood piles—anything that can burn. Remove anything stored underneath decks or porches.

By limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance, residents can prepare their home to withstand embers and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or any attachments.

Visit Firewise.org or call SCFD8 at 926-6699 for more information.