



West Valley Firefighters

"Protecting And Serving Our Community"



FIRE - RESCUE

Issue I/ 2008

Thanks Commissioner Craig!

Fire Commissioner Jerry Craig has stepped down from position one of the Fire Commissioner Board effective December 31, 2007. Jerry was appointed to the position in the spring of 2002, to fill the vacancy created when then Commissioner Kevin Miller moved out of the District to Kennewick. Jerry ran unopposed in the next election for a six year term. The Fire District is governed by this three member board.

When Jerry Craig retired from the West Valley School District he wanted to stay connected to the people in West Valley. He knew that the Fire District would be a great way to continue those relationships, and to help build a stronger community. When Jerry was the High School Principal he help set up the very successful High School Firefighter Cadet Program. Jerry has always been an advocate of the volunteer firefighters and their needs, especially when it came to training and safety issues. He worked with the administrative staff to preserve the community spirit that has been a long tradition of West Valley Fire Department. He always reminded us of our roots, and that the core of this organization is its volunteer firefighter's.

We thank you Jerry for your time and dedication. The Fire District appreciates all that you have done for us and the citizens of West Valley.

Chief Leitch

West Valley Fire Department
Open House
Saturday, May 3, 2008
11am-3pm

Watch for our April Newsletter...there will be more info to follow!



RADIO CHANGES COMING

For the past five years the Fire District has been preparing for a major change in county wide radio transmitting and receiving. This is mostly due to the huge amount of cell phone use in the country. Many changes have also taken place in regards to radio frequencies since the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. I will not bore you with all of the details, many in which I do not understand myself, but here is what has happened:

There is a certain amount of radio spectrum available nationally. Emergency service is authorized to operate in a certain range of that spectrum. Cell phone providers negotiated with the FCC and ultimately purchased more radio spectrum or frequency capacity. Emergency services has been complaining for centuries that there was not enough to go around & more frequencies were needed for us. The trade off for emergency services was to migrate to a narrow band frequency width, giving us more frequencies and the ability to split them. Currently we operate in a wide band area of the frequency spectrum.

In short, the past two years the Fire District has budgeted closed to \$100,000 to change all of our radio systems over to narrow band. All purchases made in the last five years have been compliant to the new capabilities. This year we received a grant for \$25,000 from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to help cover the replacement cost of our portable and mobile radios. All the pagers used by our volunteers must be replaced, in order for them to be notified of emergencies.

Effective April 1st all upper valley fire radio communications will be on the new narrow band frequency. For all of you that keep track of the fire service on your scanner, the frequency will be 154.2575. Will your old scanner receive narrow band frequencies? Good question - I do not know. What I do know is it will end up costing about \$100,000 to make sure that all of our firefighters can hear and talk to one another.

Chief Leitch

CONGRATULATIONS!

In August of 2007 we added eight new members to our Department. After completing an interview, physical & medical exams, the new members entered recruit school. The school began August 25th & concluded with a trip to the WA State Fire Training Academy in North Bend on December 1st. During four months of training, new recruits spent 110 hours learning first-aid & CPR, fire ground safety, & basic firefighting skills. All of this training takes place in West Valley and is taught by our well trained personnel.

Graduation was held December 19th in our training center, with diplomas & a badge pinning ceremony. In attendance were fellow firefighters, family members, & friends.

The following personnel have successfully passed recruit firefighter training & are currently working towards completing their first year of probation. If you see one of our newest members around please congratulate them on a job well done:

*Dan Boisselle * Jordan Walker*
*Josh Phillips * Ali Derbawka * Jeff Smith*
*Dell Finnell * Lawrence Abhold*

(Not pictured: Todd Dormaier)



Check us out on the web:

www.westvalleyfire.com

We have information, news, and pictures of the latest and greatest incidents and training!

BE PART OF OUR TEAM!!!

YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 12
WEST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

is seeking candidates for Fire District Commissioner. Perspective candidates must live within the Fire District boundaries and be a registered voter. Those interested need to submit a 1-page letter of intent by February 8, 2008 to West Valley Fire Department, 10000 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908. For more information, please contact 966-3111.

SECURE THE CALL FOUNDATION


We received over 45 cell phones for donations after we published the article in our last newsletter... and donations are still coming in!

Because we had such a great response, we will continue to accept old cell phones at the WVFD administration office at 10000 Zier Road for donation to the Secure the Call Foundation.

If you missed the article or would like more information on this program, please visit www.donatemycellphone.org or call 1-888-883-6628.

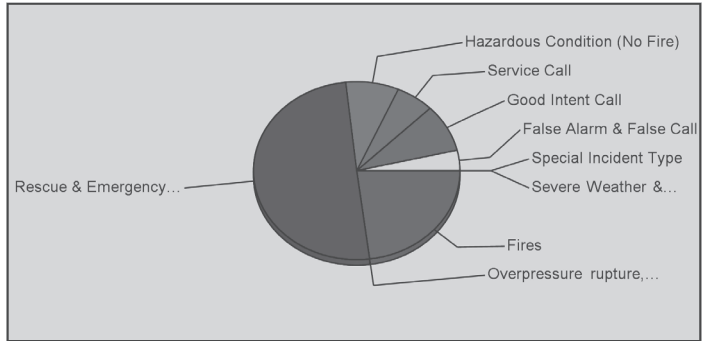
NEW! BRUSH TRUCK:

In 2006 the Fire District budgeted to purchase a new brush truck in 2007. After several months of reviewing truck and tank options, the committee has specified a practical and functional truck for the firefighters and community. Cascade Fire Equipment here in Yakima is responsible for the building of a 2008 Ford F-550 crew cab 4x4 flat bed, with a 400 gallon water tank. The truck will be equipped with multiple storage compartments for the various needed supplies. Estimated delivery of the new truck is June of 2008. We look forward to the new addition to our fleet.



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK
 COME TO OUR ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
 @ 10000 ZIER RD FROM 8am TO 5pm &
 HAVE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE TAKEN...
FREE OF CHARGE!

2007 CALL VOLUME



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	%
Fires	145	23.0%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	317	50.3%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	52	8.3%
Service Call	38	6.0%
Good Intent Call	55	8.7%
False Alarm & False Call	23	3.7%
TOTAL INCIDENTS FOR 2007	630	100%

WINTER TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Please take a moment to check accessibility to your home;

- * Is your driveway clear of snow for emergency vehicles to enter and exit?
- * Are there hydrants near your home covered up by snow or brush?
- * Are your house numbers visible from the street?
- * Are entrances/exits blocked by holiday clutter or snow?

All of these things hamper emergency crews and slow down our response. Please mitigate any problems before an emergency occurs. When seconds count you want your home accessible to emergency crews!

Calendar of Events

- 1/21 OFFICE CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr.
- 1/22 4pm Commissioner Mtg.
- 2/2 Groundhog's Day
- 2/12 7pm Commissioner Mtg.
- 2/14 Valentine's Day
- 2/18 OFFICE CLOSED President's Day
- 2/26 4pm Commissioner Mtg.
- 3/9 Daylight Savings Time Begins...
- 3/11 7pm Commissioner Mtg.
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3/23 Easter
- 3/25 4pm Commissioner Mtg.
- 4/8 7pm Commissioner Mtg.
- 4/22 4pm Commissioner Mtg.
- 4/23 Administrative Professionals Day
- 5/3 WVFD OPEN HOUSE

All meetings are held at: 10000 Zier Road. For more information call 966-3111.

Open burning begins :
MARCH 15th



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS begins March 9th.



Remember to set your clocks **FORWARD** one hour before you go to sleep on the 8th, & to

change your smoke detector batteries!

NUMBERS TO remember:

STEIN'S ACE HARDWARE:
 965-2622
 (purchase permits)

YAKIMA CLEAN AIR:
 834-2050
 (burn status)



YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #12
 WEST VALLEY FIRE-RESCUE
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 YAKIMA, WA 98908

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