

Fully Involved

The Official Publication of East County Fire & Rescue

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July 2009

EAST COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

Serving over 10,000 Residents in the 58 Square Miles of Unincorporated Area Around Camas and Washougal

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FIRE LEVY PASSES, 24 HOUR STAFFING BEGINS SOON

Thanks to a majority of voters who supported the Fire District's request to raise taxes—specifically to add four Full-Time staff—two Fire District stations will soon be staffed 24 hours per day.

The Fern Prairie Fire Station (on Hwy 500 next to Grove Field) and the Orchards Hills Fire Station (39th Street and Evergreen Blvd—near Washougal High School) will soon have a minimum of one career Fire Fighter on-duty each day. Part-Time Fire Fighters, College Interns, and Volunteer Fire Fighters who 'volunteer' to stand duty help to ensure that a second Responder is typically available to staff the Fern Prairie Station. A Camas Fire Fighter/Paramedic is currently partnered with the ECFR-funded Fire Fighter at the Orchard Hills Station.

The Fire District's Volunteers were having difficulty responding during daytime hours (they were away, working their full-time jobs), and commitments to family activities impacted their ability to provide a predictable level of response during evenings and weekends.

The ability to have at least one full-time Fire Fighter on-duty at each of these two stations, 24/7/365, allows the District to respond to calls within 60 seconds of notification.

Additionally, East County Fire & Rescue has entered into a staffing agreement with the Camas Fire Department to share human resources. Doing so allows

CFD Paramedics to work within ECFR Stations. The goal is to have a Paramedic staff the Fern Prairie Station

sometime in the near future. Having Medics in these two ECFR stations can reduce the response time for a Paramedic—into the rural Fire District—by 5-10 minutes (as opposed to having Paramedics respond only from Camas Fire Stations).

The Board of Fire Commissioners, Agency Staff and the Volunteer Fire Fighters thank the public for providing the means to ensure a more predictable response to fire and medical emergencies that occur within our Community.

The \$1.25 Fire Levy rate took effect January 1, 2009.



ECF&R personnel demonstrating the use of the Hurst Tool

OPEN HOUSE AT FERN PRAIRIE FIRE STATION ON JULY 26th

The public is invited to attend the Second Annual Open House at the Fern Prairie Fire Station on Sunday July 26th. The Open House runs 10 AM to 3 PM—in conjunction with Airport Appreciation Events at Grove Field that same weekend.

Station tours will be held. Fire apparatus will be on display. There will be informational booths and fun activities for kids. Free popcorn and ice cream will be served.

Come see YOUR fire station. Learn about what Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Technicians do. Watch Fire Fighters cut a car apart using the Hurst Tool.

The Fern Prairie Fire Station is located at 600 NE 267th Avenue, Camas. (Mile Post 16 on Hwy 500). Call 360.834.4908 if you need more information.

Volunteer Responders—Your Neighbors
Providing Fire Protection; Rescue Services & Medical Response; and Public Assistance
To the 10,106 Residents in the Unincorporated Areas North and East of Camas and Washougal.

EMS LEVY PASSES, CAMAS AMBULANCE CONTINUES SERVICE TO ECFR

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Levy was passed by the voters in last year's Primary Election. This funding allowed Camas Ambulance to continue service to East County Fire & Rescue.

Voters chose—in 2006—to not fund the District's EMS Levy request. Camas Ambulance significantly increased service charges, in 2007 and 2008, in an effort to offset the lost subsidy. Federal limitations on collections from Medicare and Medicaid patients resulted in revenue shortfalls—which resulted in Camas notifying the District that they would discontinue ambulance service if secure funding was not obtained.

The EMS Levy began generating funds, again, in January 2009. All EMS Levy funds are 'passed through' to Camas Ambulance. In return, Camas once again pays for initial and ongoing medical training for ECFR personnel, replaces disposable medical supplies used on calls, disposes of bio-waste, and services medical instruments carried on ECFR apparatus. These changes have allowed East County Fire & Rescue to discontinue charging for Medical response.

The \$0.35 EMS Levy rate took effect January 1, 2009.

BURNING COMPLAINTS

Report burn complaints—that **pose no hazard**—to the SW Clean Air Agency at 360.574.3058 (M-F, 7 AM to 5:30 PM) or submit your complaint on-line, anytime, to: <http://www.swcleanair.org/complaint.asp>. The SW Clean Air Agency follows-up quickly. Fines are levied for repeat violations of air pollution regulations.

Burning that presents a hazard to lives or property should be reported *immediately* to 9-1-1.

Part of the Fire District is a NO BURN ZONE. Burning is NOT allowed in the Vancouver Non-Attainment Zone or in future Urban Growth Boundaries. You can check to see if the Air Pollution Agency allows burning at your location by going online to: http://www.swcleanair.org/pdf/Vancouver_2008.pdf.

PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDFIRE

Now is the time to remove excess grass and brush from around your home. Providing a 30-foot wide green space between your house and the 'woods' can reduce the likelihood that a grass/brush fire will damage your home. Also, eliminating 'ladder fuels'—low and medium height grass and brush that can allow fire to 'climb' upwards into your trees—is very important.

Providing DEFENSIBLE SPACE around your home may make the difference between Fire Fighters successfully protecting your home from wildfire or having an environment that is too dangerous to even attempt structure protection efforts.

East County Fire & Rescue will perform a free Defensible Space evaluation of your property. Call 360.834.4908 to schedule an on-site evaluation.



FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES HELD LOCALLY

First Aid and CPR classes are held each month.

Call 834.5307 to register.

The cost is \$30 per class.

BURN PERMITS

Permits to burn yard debris (leaf, limb and vegetable materials) can be obtained at the following locations:

Fern Prairie Fire Station	600 NE 267 th Avenue	Camas
Fern Prairie Market	1817 NE 267 th Avenue	Camas
Mt. Norway Fire Station	1808 SE 352 nd Avenue	Washougal
Orchard Hills Fire Station	211 39 th Street	Washougal

Burn permits are self-service—24/7/365—at no cost—at the listed ECFR Fire Stations.

Burn piles are limited to 10 feet in diameter.

Approved burn area: http://www.swcleanair.org/pdf/Vancouver_2008.pdf.

Information about outdoor burning is available at our stations.



BEAR PRAIRIE SATELLITE STATION OPENS

A Squad Unit (half brush truck and half medical response truck) has been placed at a residence in the Bear Prairie area. A fire engine will be sited there later this year.

A Volunteer Fire Fighter/EMS Responder and his family live at the residence in exchange for his response to fire and medical calls. He responds to calls when he is not at his full-time job. The family is responsible for the upkeep of the house and property.

Station 96 has responded to over 60 of the District's 300 calls, agency-wide, YTD. In addition to significantly reducing response times to the Bear Prairie area, this facility has proven to be a valuable addition to the Fire District—in general.

Citizens needing emergency assistance—in the Bear Prairie area—still need to dial 9-1-1. Non-emergency issues should be dealt with at the Mt. Norway Fire Station (1808 SE 352nd Avenue) or by calling 360.834.4908.

Since the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau only grants fire protection credit to homes within 5 road-miles of a fire station, the opening of this facility means that virtually all of the homes within East County Fire & Rescue now meet that standard—which should allow local residents to claim a fire protection rating of "Class 8 with Tender Credit". This is a cost savings—when purchasing fire insurance—compared to Class 9 or Class 10 ratings.

ECFR WINS FEDERAL GRANT FOR HEALTH & WELLNESS

East County Fire & Rescue was awarded a \$94,695 grant from FEMA to promote Fire Fighter Health & Wellness. Since heart attacks kill half of the 100+ US Fire Fighters who die, each year, in the line of duty, the Fire District views this award as an important investment in the health and well-being of its Volunteer, Part-Time and Career Staff.



All District personnel will be offered physical examinations, health screens, and information on exercise and nutrition. Exercise equipment (a treadmill, stationary bicycle, resistance trainer, free weights, etc) will be provided in two of the District's six fire stations.

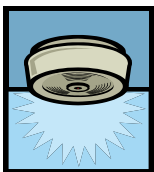
The Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program requires Fire Agencies to train all Fire Fighters to the Fire Fighter I level. A portion of this grant supports the District's ongoing Fire Fighter training program by supplying textbooks, study guides and audio-visual materials covering basic Fire Fighter subjects and hazardous materials response.

The Fire District is required to match 5% of the total cost of the grant project.

FIRE CHIEF FOR A DAY

Youth, age 12-17, can compete to be the 'Fire Chief For A Day'—to be appointed in late September. The 'Chief For A Day' will work on projects, attend meetings, respond on fire and medical emergencies, and eat lunch with a Fire Commissioner.

See the District's Web Site for the application and contest rules:
www.EastCoFire-Rescue.org/FireChiefForADay



CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Please consider installation of a carbon monoxide alarm if you heat or cook with fuels that 'burn'. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that results from incomplete combustion.

Treat a carbon monoxide alarm like a smoke detector: Exit the house and call 9-1-1.

NEW VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN RANKS OF LOCAL FIRE & MEDICAL RESPONDERS

Twenty-eight men and women recently tested for 10 positions as Volunteer Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Responders. An eight weekend Basic Fire Fighter Academy will begin, shortly, to orient these new personnel to fireground operations. When completed, these new Volunteers will attend the 160-hour Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Fire Fighter, a College Intern or an Emergency Response Team Member, contact East County Fire & Rescue at 360.834.4908; pick-up an application and take a Station tour at the Fern Prairie or Mt. Norway Fire Stations; or obtain an application on-line at: <http://www.eastcofire-rescue.org/Volunteer%20Application.doc>

FIRE CADET PROGRAM

Juniors and Seniors from Camas High School and Washougal High School—in addition to local Home School students—can enroll in East County Fire & Rescue’s Fire Cadet Program. The class meets from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM every school day.

Students participate in the same classroom and ‘hands-on’ training as is provided to Volunteer and Career Fire Fighters. Contact Captain Mike Carnes at 360.834.4908 for more information about the ECFR and ESD112 Cadet Program.



CITIZEN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING

The next CERT class will be held—starting in January. The class covers disaster preparation and response for individuals and families and is appropriate for use in any setting (home, work, school, church, etc). The cost is \$30 per participant.

Topics Covered:

- Disaster Awareness & Preparation
- Fire Suppressions
- Search & Rescue
- Terrorism Awareness
- Disaster Medical Training
- Real-Time Exercise

Call 360.835.5511 or contact [NHoober@EastCoFire-](mailto:NHoober@EastCoFire-Rescue.org)

Rescue.org for more information or to reserve your spot.

Residents..Sleepers...Interns ...Emergency Response Team Programs-Join Us



Resident Fire Fighters live in District Fire Stations in exchange for station maintenance, training and call response.

Sleepers come from outside the Fire District and spend either a day or an evening in a Fire Station for training, station maintenance and call response

Interns attend college to study fire or EMS topics and shadow a full-time Firefighter-24 hours on/48 hours off-for job experience.

Emergency Response Team-non Fire Fighter personnel who support emergency scene operations by providing beverages and snacks, monitoring Fire Fighter blood pressure and pulse, and providing other assistance.

ECF&R is Dedicated to Customer Service

Feedback from Customer Service Questionnaires!

“Professionalism with care and knowledge” is a very true description of ECFR’s entire operation. Their decision, made in a difficult situation.....proved to be unquestionably correct and timely. The 10 point “Excellent” critique is richly deserved.”

“Thank you for your instant response to our call for help. Your responders were very professional & compassionate. We liked them immensely.”

“Please express our thanks to each of the units and firefighters that responded to our call for help....You can be confident that you have our deep gratitude and full support.”

“The firefighters performance was perfect...They said if we had any other concerns to please call....they were fast, polite, and kept us informed to make us comfortable.”

“A better crew and response team could not be had for this area...at least for me!”

“Your team was fabulous!!!”

“Had it not been for your quick response and expertise, my husband may not be with us today...Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!”

ATTEND THE FIRE DISTRICT’S CITIZEN ACADEMY

Learn how your Fire District is operated, how it is staffed, and what Fire Fighters and Emergency Medical Responders do. Wear fire fighting gear, pull hoselines and attack a ‘working’ fire. Then participate in a 4-hour ‘ride-along’ with ECFR Fire Fighters.

This in-depth look at YOUR Fire District will be held Thursday evenings, 7 PM to 9PM, running September 24th to October 15th AND October 22nd to November 19th.

The cost for student materials is \$10. Call 360.835.5511 to register.

QUESTIONS: SKoehler@EastCoFire-Rescue.org.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

How do we appropriately say “Thank You!” to the many men and women who leave their homes, families and jobs on a moments notice to help others on –potentially–the worst day of their lives?

We are a primarily Volunteer Fire Agency. We could not exist without our volunteers.

We thank our volunteers for their dedication to our community and for their personal sacrifice.

Mike Dickerson Retires with 30 Years of Service



Mike Dickerson joined the Fire District in 1979 and was a top responder throughout his 30 years of dedicated service to our Community.

We MISS Mike’s sense of humor and seeing his smiling face on calls in the middle of the night.

Jim Ludwig Retires with 29 Years of Service



Jim Ludwig came to Fire District #9 from Fire District #4.

Always an active responder, Jim is most remembered for his smile, his pleasant attitude and his kindness to everyone.

FIRE ALARM SYSTEMS PROVIDE EARLY NOTIFICATION

Fire Alarm Systems that automatically notify the Fire District can dramatically reduce the impact of a house fire. This 24/7/365 coverage alerts Fire Fighters even when no one is at your home.

Fires double in size every 60 seconds. Immediate and automatic notification of the Fire District can reduce delays in response—reducing the potential for loss of life and catastrophic damage to your property.

HAVE A 'FIRE FIGHTER' GUARD YOUR HOME 24 HOURS PER DAY

Residential Fire Sprinkler systems can extinguish fires in your home—while they are still small—potentially saving lives and property. These simple systems activate ONLY when a sprinkler head is 'over-heated' by a growing fire. ONLY those 'over-heated' sprinkler heads (usually one or two) allow water to flow onto the fire below them. These systems protect your home and your family 24 hours per day—each and every day. It is like having a Fire Fighter on duty in your home.

Being a primarily Volunteer fire agency means that it takes time to assemble most of our Fire Fighters. Residential fire sprinklers can—in most instances—have the fire extinguished even before the Fire District has been notified that a fire problem exists.

Fire sprinklers can automatically notify the Fire District. Such notification can occur even when no one is home. The rural nature of our Community results in long re-

sponse distances for even staffed fire apparatus. Contact the Clark County Fire Marshal's Office 360.397.2186 for details on Fire Alarm Systems, Residential Sprinkler Systems, required permits, tips to ensure you hire a legitimate installer, etc. You can also check <http://washingtonbfaa.org/consumerpage.htm>

WORKING SMOKE DETECTORS SAVE LIVES

- Test your smoke detector regularly
- Change the battery when you change your clock
- Replace the smoke detector every 10 years

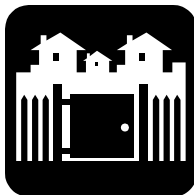


PRIVATE GATES REQUIRE LOCKBOXES

CAN WE FIND YOU IN AN EMERGENCY ?

The Clark County Fire Marshal requires all private gates to have lockboxes or a standardized means of rapid access for Emergency Responders.

You know exactly where you live and how to get there quickly. We don't.



A county-wide system exists which provides police, fire and EMS agencies with secure access using a common key. ECFR highly recommends using this system. Information about the system can be obtained from the Fire Marshal's Office at 360.397.2186.

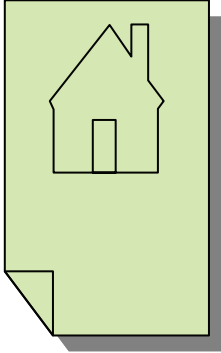
The lack of address signs—where the driveway meets the county road and at each branch in a shared driveway—is the most common reason we are delayed in arriving at your home.



Lock boxes and pad locks can be obtained at: <http://www.knoxbox.com/store/>. A form with the special access code must be obtained from the Fire Marshall's Office

Every second counts in a fire or medical emergency. Please ensure that ECFR Fire Fighters and Medical Responders can find you quickly and efficiently. Reflective address signs are available at our stations for \$5.00 each.

PRACTICE YOUR HOME ESCAPE PLAN



- Ensure two ways out of every room
- Have a single meeting place for all family members
- Call 9-1-1 from outside the burning house
- Never go back into the house for any reason

Letters from Cape Horn Skye 5th Grade Students Following an ECFR Fire Safety Visit.

“Thanks to you we now have a fire safety plan.”

“Thank you for organizing the time to come out with your crew. You told us a lot about fires and safety. You actually for the first time, got my family out to practice fire drills. I’m glad there are caring people like you in this world.”

WIN A FIRE HOUSE BIRTHDAY PARTY

The Fire District offers a free Fire House Birthday Party each calendar quarter. Sign-up, below, for the use of a Fire Station—for that birthday party—and a ride (for the Birthday Child and one friend and one adult) to the birthday party in a fire engine. A maximum of 9 guests will receive a tour of the fire station and can participate in firehouse games. The family must provide the party refreshments and game prizes.

Entries can be mailed to: Firehouse Birthday Party, P. O. Box 345, Washougal, WA 98671 or can be emailed to: Skoebler@EastCoFire-Rescue.org. The drawing will be held at 11AM on Monday, July 27th. Winners will be notified by mail. One winner will be chosen for a birthday party to be held in either August or September. Another winner will be chosen for a birthday party to be held in either October, November or December.

Entries will be solicited for the first two quarters of 2010 when the next *Fully Involved* newsletter is published this fall. Details about the Fire House Birthday Parties can be found on the Fire District’s Web Site: www.EastCoFire-Rescue.org/birthdayparty



Clip out and mail in to win!

FREE Firehouse Birthday Party

Name: _____ Address: _____
 City _____ State _____ Phone Number: _____
 Indicate When Party is To Be Held: August or September
 (Circle One): October or November or December

Drawing to be held at 11AM on July 27th, 2009
 Mail completed form to: ECFR PO Box 345 Washougal, WA 98671
 Or email to: SKoebler@EastCoFire-Rescue.org

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Serving over 10,000 Residents in
the 58 Square Miles of Unincor-
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and Washougal.

East County Fire & Rescue
600 NE 267th Avenue
Camas, WA 98607

www.EastCoFire-Rescue.org

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

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Vic Rasmussen

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rescue.org](mailto:VRasmusen@eastcofire-rescue.org)

Commissioner's meet the
first and third Tuesdays of
each month
Station 91 at 7pm



To Prevent, To Protect, and To Serve

5 MEMBER BOARD ISSUE ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

The Board of Fire Commissioners has placed an issue on the November ballot seeking to maintain East County's Board of Fire Commissioners at its current 5-member level.

The Board consisted of 6 members immediately following the merger of Fire District #1 and Fire District #9 (in May 2006). One Commissioner's position is eliminated every two years—until the Board reaches 3 members. The Board will drop to four members, effective January 1, 2010, if this ballot issue fails.

A 5-member Board allows two Commissioners to meet, as a Sub-Committee, to perform research or write proposed policy, without having to go through the notification process required to call a Public Meeting. All official District business—including adoption of policy—must still be conducted during Regular Business Meetings—public meetings—which occur on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, 7pm, at the Fern Prairie Fire Station (on Hwy 500 next to Grove Field).

BURN BAN TAKES EFFECT JULY 15th

All backyard burning ends July 15th. Burning will be authorized, again, beginning on October 1st—after the summer dry spell ends.

Small cooking and heating fires not larger than 2'x3' in approved fire pits will still be OK—unless weather conditions become extreme. Caution should still be used with such fires—inasmuch as you are liable for any damage done by your fire (if it gets out of hand).

Backyard burning is controlled by the Clark County Fire Marshal's Office and the Washington Department of Natural Resources. Call the Fire Marshal at 360.397.2186 if you have questions.

**PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Washougal, WA
Permit No. 8**

**Postal Patron
Camas, WA 98607
Washougal, WA 98671**