

Elsie Vinemable Fire District

Next Board Meetings

April 10, 6 p.m.

April 17, 6 p.m.

Please join us at our board meetings, in person at the Jewell School or remote by Zoom!

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Visit Our Website!

Elsiefire.specialdistrict.org

Or scan the QR code below with your phone



Read previous meeting minutes, all the latest news, upcoming agendas, and sign up for our mailing list to get updates delivered directly to your email inbox!



Meet the Interim Chief!

Rob Davis is an experienced firefighter and chief officer, with more than 20 years in emergency operations. In addition to his recent years as a Battalion Chief, Deputy Chief, and Acting Chief at Vernonia Fire, he also co-owns and operates a private rescue company specializing in hazardous rescues. He brings to Elsie-Vinemable an impressive set of technical certifications and skills in firefighting and rescue operations, as well as a strong background in administration, budgeting, and personnel management. Davis has close working relationships with our neighboring fire districts, and a keen knowledge of grants and funding opportunities that will be key to improving our budget and emergency response team.

An Oregon native and second-generation firefighter, Davis has early childhood memories of being on calls with his father, who retired as Chief of Forest Grove Fire. He began his own firefighting career in high school as a cadet, going on to hone his skills at Polk Fire, Mist-Birkenfeld, and eventually Vernonia. A married father of four, he and his family enjoy camping, water sports, target shooting, and riding at the dunes.

"I am honored and humbled for the opportunity to lead the Volunteers at Elsie-Vinemable Fire District," says Chief Davis. "I look forward to creating positive change with our members that is resonated throughout our community. I ask that our community members give us an opportunity to show them what we can do, to continue to support your local volunteers, and if you are able, come and join us!"

Volunteering

We greatly appreciate the community members who have stepped forward to donate their time and energies to support our district! Our amazing volunteers are currently helping with not only emergency response, but with administration, maintenance, and other support roles.

Come join our team! You can find our application on our website at elsiefire.specialdistrict.org

Or scan the QR code on Page 1 with your phone to go right to the website. The link to Volunteer is in the middle of the homepage.

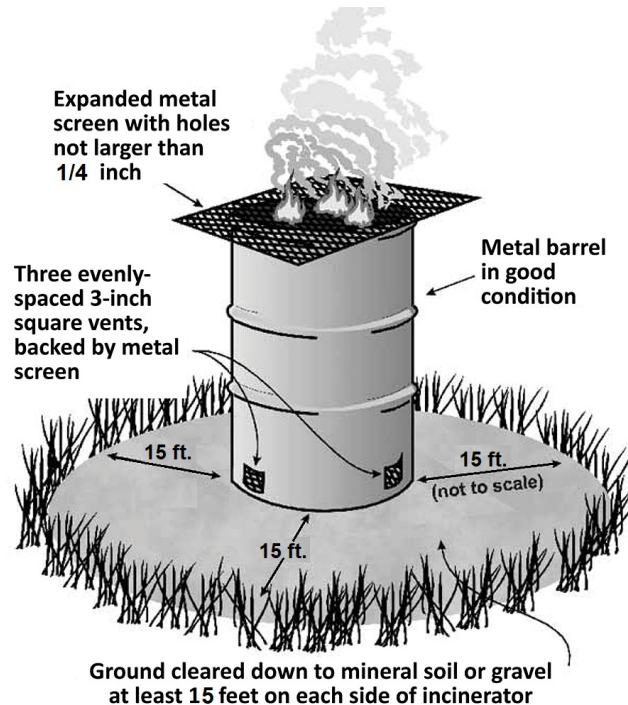
You can also email us at elsiefirewebcom@gmail.com

Our Volunteers are the heart of our community!



It's Burn Season!

In Clatsop County, the yard debris burning season extends from March 1 through June 15. Burn barrels must be in good condition, and be located at least 15 feet from any structure or combustible. **Please note that burning can be closed at any time due to fire weather - please check our website or social media for updates before burning.**

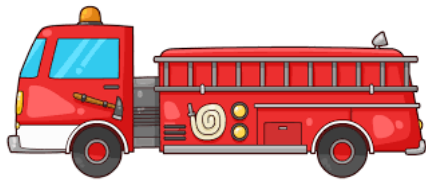


Be sure to watch your fire constantly, and have a hose and or bucket of dirt and/or water ready to extinguish the fire. Keep the area around the burn pile or barrel clear of things that can burn or melt. Oregon law prohibits open burning of:

- rubber and plastic
- tires, wet garbage,
- petroleum or petroleum treated materials,
- asphalt, industrial waste or any material that creates dense smoke or noxious materials

Please be concerned about wildfires, especially in the summer months.

Our forests are precious!



Q&A



Q: Is the Fire Board increasing my taxes?

A: *The Fire Board has no authority over your taxes! Tax increases must be approved by voters, and we believe your taxes (and ours) are high enough.*

Q: Since the change in leadership, am I at risk of slower or no response to my emergency calls?

A: *Response Time- We have not missed a single call, and our average response time has remained constant. This can be verified by 911 dispatch, and the document will be posted on our website for your review.*

Q: Are we merging with Mist-Birkenfeld, or any other neighboring District?

A: *We have no plans to merge with anyone. This seems to be a rumor that has persisted for years! In these days of dwindling budgets for emergency response, many Districts in Oregon and across the country are developing Agreements to share resources. We have not explored that option, and if we ever think we should, this is something the community must be involved in.*

Q: How qualified are the current volunteers?

A: *The current Interim Chief has 19 current certifications with Oregon DPSST (Department of Public Safety Standards and Training). The former Chief had 5. The new leadership team coming on board averages 15 certifications each, compared to 4 each on the previous leadership team. For more details, see our webpage.*

Q: How many responders do we have?

A: *We currently have 10 adult responders, plus 3 cadets. This includes responders with firefighting experience and certifications, as well as EMT and Paramedic certifications and experience. Previously, we had 11 adult responders, plus 4 cadets.*

Q: Are the rumors of expired medications and the state of equipment true?

A: *It is true that we found many long-expired medications in use among previous responders' supplies, and that equipment and supplies were found piled in heaps, covered in grime and rat droppings. We have restored all medical bags in use to proper standards, and are working on cleaning up the equipment, storage areas, and buildings.*

Q: How can I find out how the District is spending my tax dollars?

A: *We are beginning the budget process now, and have invited community members to serve on our budget committee. That committee will be finalized at our April 10 meeting, and will then work with the Board and Chief to develop the 2024-25 budget. The process will include a review of the 2023-24 budget and expenditures, and discussions and meetings are open to the public and will have opportunity for Q and A.*

Q: I've heard something about an ISO rating increasing my homeowners' insurance rates. Can you tell me about that?

A: *The ISO rating is an insurance rating that measures how well-equipped a fire department is to handle fires in their community. Ratings range from 1-10, with 1 being best and 10 being worst. Our current rating is 5 for those who live within 5 miles of one of our stations. With improved training protocols and the advanced certifications and expertise of our new response team, we feel confident our number will remain the same or improve.*

Defensible Space

Creating a defensible space around your home is the best way to protect your home from wildfire. The first 30 feet surrounding your home – referred to as the primary ignition zone – is the most critical, and there are some simple actions you can take to protect your home from wildfire that are quick, easy, and relatively expensive, such as:

- Removing dead and dying debris, particularly from places where it piles up near the home (such as in gutters and planters, and “valleys” that embers and sparks can blow into). These blowing sparks and embers are the most common way for a wildfire to damage or destroy a home.
- Storing firewood at least 30 feet away from home, or completely covering it to protect it from the same blowing embers and sparks.
- Properly maintaining the plants in the area by pruning, keeping them well-watered and green, and removing dead and dying materials.

A defensible space allows room for firefighters to fight the fire safely.

Protecting your home from wildfire falls into 3 categories:

- Using fire-resistant building materials (such as roofing)
- Reducing fuels around your home (such as woodpiles)
- Planting fire-resistant plants in your landscape



Fire Resistant Plants and Landscape

Fire-resistant landscaping and plantings and landscape are a great way to protect your home from wildfire.

Fire-resistant plants do not readily ignite from a flame or other ignition source. They may be damaged or even killed by wildfire, but their foliage and stems do not significantly contribute to the fire’s intensity. They can be used to create a fuel-break that reduces and blocks intense heat.

Plants that are fire-resistant have moist and supple leaves; little dead wood or accumulated dry or dead material within the plants; waterlike sap with no strong odor; and low sap and resin. Most deciduous trees and shrubs are fire resistant.

For a downloadable list of fire-resistant plants for home landscape, check out this link: <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw590>.

CREATE A DEFENSIBLE SPACE!





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