



FULLY INVOLVED

ADAIR RURAL FIRE & RESCUE Newsletter Summer 2026



Letter from the Chief: The Reality of Our Aging Fleet



Chief Aaron Harris EMT/RN

Adair Rural Fire & Rescue is proud to serve the residents of Adair Village and the surrounding rural community. Our department provides fire suppression, emergency medical response, fire prevention, and life safety services across 18 square miles. In addition to serving our local community, we regularly provide mutual aid to neighboring fire agencies throughout Benton County and beyond, and we participate in Oregon's statewide fire service mobilization system during times of significant need.

Our ability to provide these services depends on a dedicated team of volunteer firefighters who respond to calls at all hours of the day and night. Our cadre of firefighters invested over 3500 hours last year at drill, training classes, community outreach and on emergency calls. Their commitment is the greatest strength of our department, and they deserve equipment that allows them to operate as safely and effectively as possible.

Like many volunteer fire departments across Oregon, Adair Rural Fire & Rescue is facing a significant challenge: maintaining and replacing an aging fleet of emergency response vehicles. Four of our apparatus have exceeded the recommended service life established by national fire service standards. Our fleet includes a 1983 water tender — originally built as a milk truck — along with front-line fire engines from 1993 and 2001, and a wildland engine that has been in service since 2004. These vehicles range from 22 to 43 years old.

We are proud of how well these vehicles have been maintained. Through careful stewardship, our volunteers and support personnel have extended their useful life well beyond what many would have expected. However, as these apparatus continue to age, repairs have become more frequent, more expensive, and more difficult as replacement parts grow harder to obtain. Apparatus maintenance has become the second largest line item on the budget. At the same time, the cost of purchasing new emergency vehicles has increased dramatically nationwide, making it difficult for a department of our size to save and replace apparatus through the operating budget alone.

The department has actively pursued other funding options, including applying for FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant program in each of the past two years. Those applications have not resulted in awards. As a result, the Board of Directors and department leadership are evaluating a capital bond measure that would fund the replacement of several aging apparatus. If the Board moves forward with placing a measure before voters, additional information regarding the proposed project, associated costs, and potential tax impacts will be shared with the community in the months ahead.

We believe it is important for residents to understand the services their fire department provides and the challenges involved in sustaining the equipment necessary to deliver those services. Over the coming months, we look forward to sharing more information, answering questions, and continuing this conversation with the community. We welcome your questions and encourage you to reach out to department leadership directly.

Thank you for your continued support of Adair Rural Fire & Rescue and the volunteers who proudly serve our community.

Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund and OSFM Upstaffing Grants

Grants empower small fire departments to upgrade equipment and secure critical staffing without burdening local taxpayers. Adair Fire applies for five or more grants every year. These requests span from small necessities, like a pallet of drinking water, to major assets like a new water tender truck from the federal government. Grant competition is fierce and we write many more than we receive; we are sincerely grateful for the awards we secure.

Recent grant awards include a \$9,606.25 matching grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund to replace worn-out firefighting coats and pants. The Siletz program is an exceptional supporter for our department. This marks our eighth award from them. Past funding has provided extrication tools, portable radios, AEDs, specialized brush truck bumper nozzles, pagers, and two previous sets of turnouts. To express our deep gratitude, Adair firefighters proudly wear the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians Salmon patch on our gear.

This year we received a \$35,000 Wildfire Seasonal Upstaffing Grant from the Oregon State Fire Marshal to strengthen our summer response. Adair relies heavily on volunteers responding from home, this funding allows us to hire two seasonal firefighters to be at our station during peak wildfire season. We can also add extra coverage on Red Flag days. Rapid station-based response is proven to stop small fires before they escalate. Last summer, this immediate availability proved vital, significantly cutting down response times compared to dispatching crews from home. Best of all, these firefighters are also available to answer medical calls and other emergencies instantly.



The Siletz patch worn on our gear

Two of our "Experienced" Fire Trucks

While these two trucks are dedicated workhorses in our fleet, time has caught up with them. We are increasingly concerned about their rising maintenance costs, reliability, and outdated safety features. Providing dependable service to our community and ensuring the safety of our volunteers is always a top priority.



Model Year 1983 Water Tender



Model Year 1993 Fire Engine

Visit our Website

WWW.ADAIR-RURAL-FIRE.COM



ADAIR RURAL FIRE & RESCUE
Established 1974



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Looking for backyard burning rules, insurance ratings, or building permit requirements? You can find all these answers and more on our website. As a primarily volunteer department with two part-time employees, our station is not staffed 24/7. However, our digital doors are always open.

Our dedicated **Burn Information** page tracks seasonal closures in real-time. When burning is permitted, you can easily click our ODF/DEQ link to check daily weather conditions and legal burn hours. You will also find clear guidelines distinguishing backyard burning from recreational cooking or warming fires.

Beyond safety regulations, our website is a window into our department to learn much more:

- **Explore Volunteer Opportunities:** Learn about our mission and see our team in action during Wednesday night drills (7:00 PM – 10:00 PM).
- **Meet the Team:** Visit the "Meet the Chief" page to learn about Chief Harris, or browse our personnel roster to see the ranks and medical certifications of our dedicated volunteers.
- **Review Operations:** Read our annual report or visit the **Provisions of Emergency Services** tab to see how we handle fire suppression, medical calls, and mutual aid.



FF Connor Goodwin

Visit our site today to dive deeper into how we serve you!

Adair Rural Fire and Rescue Association

The Adair Fire and Rescue Association is comprised of the members of the Adair Rural Fire & Rescue Department and works hand-in-hand with the Adair Rural Fire & Rescue Department to support vital fire prevention and life safety services in our District. We are a separate, non-unionized, group working together to improve the department's ability to safeguard our community.

We rely solely on donations, grants, and fundraising and as a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, your support of the Association can be tax-deductible under IRS rules. Every donation makes a difference to our ability to support the Firefighters with equipment, training or anything else they might need. You can support our next general fund initiative or earmark your gift for a specific project close to your heart. For all contributions of \$50.00 or more, we will send you a receipt for tax purposes.

Recent Association funded projects include:

- Two portable wildland pumps for accessing water sources away from hydrants.
- Handheld thermal imaging cameras to locate heat sources in poor visibility.
- Helmet lights for both structural and wildland helmets..
- Firefighter multitools for each member .
- Extrication gloves for safety and dexterity when working on motor vehicle collisions.
- Harnesses to secure our radios safely beneath our turnout coats.
- Dedicated training and education funds to further develop our volunteers.
- Upgraded Mobile Radios in our brush trucks.
- A specialty wheeled transport stretcher for moving patients in MacDonald forest.



More details on the Association and also donation information can be found on the Association/Donations page on our Website.

Be on the lookout for Adair Fire T-Shirts to support your local volunteers.

The Desire to Serve - The Ability to Perform - The Courage to Act

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