



# FULLY INVOLVED

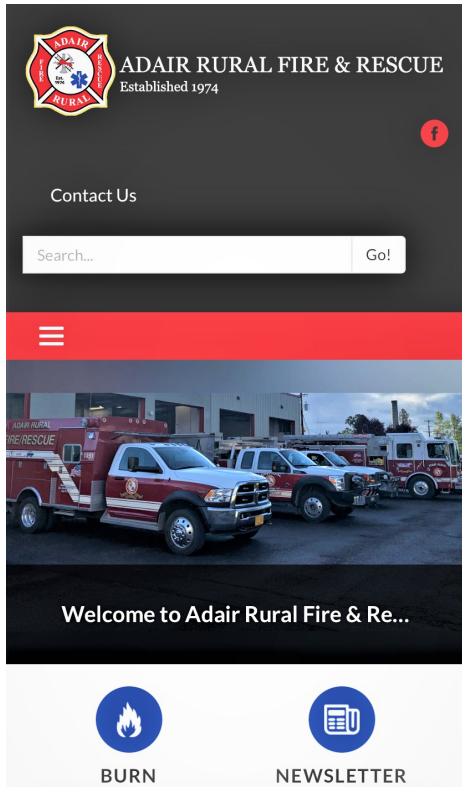
## ADAIR RURAL FIRE & RESCUE Newsletter Spring 2024



### Website Redesign

[www.adair-rural-fire.com](http://www.adair-rural-fire.com)

Adair Fire re-launched our website in 2024. The site's significantly expanded content is easier to access on your smart phone and computer. The website is full of details about the department and our operations. It is your go-to source for the daily burning status and much more. We encourage everyone to check it out.



### Words from the Chief: SLOW DOWN!?

Well Chief, which one is it? SLOW DOWN! or Slow Down? Well, it's both and I'll explain.

First, let's start with SLOW DOWN!

It is safer for me and my firefighters to fight fire inside a burning structure than it is to work along the roadside! We do our best to minimize the impact on traffic for your sake, but my firefighters' lives are more important than someone being a few minutes late. When we work on the highways and byways surrounding our district, we do our best to keep everyone as safe as possible. We wear special visibility vests over our uniforms or structure gear. We block as much of the road as needed while flashing our warning lights to increase visibility. We work as fast as we can to open the road back up. At times we even direct traffic. Typically, we are focused on stabilizing the scene and providing patient care, and if we are constantly looking over our shoulders for vehicles, the entire process takes longer. All of these activities become safer when you SLOW DOWN!



Chief Aaron Harris EMT/RN

Now, let's talk about Slow Down?

This has more to do with your driving awareness and less to do with your driving habits. Adair Village is growing. When I first lived here the city's population was 480 people. Now it is around 1400 with plans to grow even larger. Everyday more houses are popping up outside the city in the rural areas. The local private school and businesses bring in people from outside our neighborhood. More people equate to more vehicles on the road. The rock quarry has been moving "tons" of rock daily to other locations. Increasing numbers of large vehicles and semi-trucks from all over the state come and go from our local large regional landfill. This means extra-large and very heavy trucks driving around and through our neighborhoods. It takes significantly longer for these larger vehicles to react to any situation they come across. So, Slow Down?

Give yourself a few more minutes to complete your commute. Let's remove potential distractions. Let's pay a little more attention at intersections. Watch out for emergency vehicles. Keep our roads safer by keeping yourself safe. All your volunteer firefighters are your neighbors. So, let's stay safe and get everyone where they are going.

### EMS Corner - Why are there TWO ambulances outside?

If you call 911 for a medical emergency in the Adair Rural Fire District, your call is received by the Benton County Dispatch Center and medical responders are immediately heading your way. Dispatched to your emergency will be a Quick Response Team (QRT) from Adair's fire department and an ambulance from the Corvallis Fire Department (CFD).

One of the emergency vehicles will be the Adair fire department's QRT and they will be in the "Rescue" vehicle. Although the Rescue unit looks like an ambulance, it is not designed for transporting patients to the hospital. The primary functions of the QRT is to initiate patient care and stabilize the patient. The majority of the QRT responders are volunteer and will have received the call while at their homes.

The Corvallis Fire Department (CFD) ambulance receives the call at the same time as the QRT and immediately heads north. They are the second emergency response vehicle at the scene. When the CFD crew arrives, they will receive patient and incident information from Adair's QRT and patient care will be transferred to them. Collectively, the CFD crew and the QRT will work as a team to manage the emergency. If your emergency requires transport to the hospital, the CFD ambulance will transport the patient.

The Adair Fire Department, in collaboration with our partners at the Corvallis Fire Department, are committed to providing everyone in our district prompt, high quality medical responses to your emergencies and we are honored to serve.

### Adair's 2024 LSS stair climb team raises \$11,176.00

Climb. Conquer. Cure. Adair's volunteers joined 2000 other firefighters in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's firefighter stair climb in March. We tested ourselves climbing 69 flights of stairs to the top of the Columbia Tower in Seattle. We ascended wearing 60 lbs. of firefighting gear while breathing through our air packs. Our efforts raised \$11,176.00 to help find a cure. It was a great event that supports an even greater cause.



# Steps to determine if backyard burning is allowed



Backyard Burning is the building and burning piles of yard debris consisting of branches, brush, stumps, and other vegetation. It is regulated daily by the DEQ and Adair Rural Fire District. Backyard burning is never allowed outside burn season or during a burn ban.

During backyard burning season, the Adair Rural Fire & Rescue District follows the daily DEQ advisory for “backyard burning”. However, Adair’s Chief Harris also has the authority to make a local decision that burning will not be allowed. His decision will be clearly communicated on Adair’s website.

## Steps for the public to know if backyard burning is allowed:

- 1) Determine if burning season is open or closed. Burning season is currently open until June 15, 2024 unless a burn ban is announced on our website and Facebook page.
- 2) If burning season is open, go to the ODF/DEQ website <http://smkmgt.com/burn.php> for the daily approval and hours. There is a link and sample on Adair’s website. Locate the section: “Backyard burning inside special control areas:” and follow the regulations for that day. The website will say in bold if backyard burning is allowed and during what times. The ODF/DEQ website uses the phrase “when allowed locally”. Burning is allowed locally in the Adair Fire district unless specifically stated otherwise on the Adair Fire webpage.
- 3) Note: Adair does not have a recorded burning status phone line. There is no need to call the fire station for the daily burning status.

The following items can never be part of backyard burning: construction and demolition debris, waste from commercial establishments, rubber or plastic products, tires, wet garbage, petroleum and petroleum-treated materials, or any material that creates dense smoke or noxious odors.

## Volunteers serving our community. By Lieutenant Tom Jones

At Adair Rural Fire & Rescue, we have volunteers from all walks of life who dedicate themselves for the sake of our community. Most of our volunteers have full time jobs to support their families and still manage to find time to train to become proficient firefighters and to answer the call when the siren wails.

Our firefighters are trained to fight structure fires, wildland fires, perform motor vehicle extrication, rescues, and provide emergency medical response. Our firefighters participate in continual training to improve their skills, become more efficient, and maintain their certifications. They do this by attending weekly drill nights and signing up for additional training and certifications.

Why do we do this? Because we love our community and really want to help people. Because our district is so small, it truly means that we are responding to our neighbor’s emergency, sometimes literally.

Can I just brag on our volunteers for a minute? From top to bottom, our volunteers are here to serve their community in a very real way. We have retirees who find free time to show up consistently and are eager to learn and to serve. We have family men who juggle family and full-time work, but still find enough time to help their community. We have younger students who think they might want a future career in the fire service or emergency medical service and donate their time for experience. These are all people of great integrity and huge hearts. They serve with compassion and empathy with those having a “bad day,” in hopes that they can make someone’s day a bit better.

If one of these men or women is your neighbor, get a chance to meet them. They are great people to know with big hearts and are fun to be around. Maybe thank them for their service to our community. I know they do not do this for the praise of others, but I think they should be recognized for the sacrifices they make to help a stranger or a neighbor they know.

Currently we are looking for new volunteers who live within our fire district. We meet every Wednesday night from 7pm to 10pm for training, and anyone is welcome to come and see what we do. You may be a younger adult and are curious about a future career with the fire service. This is a great place to get experience. You may work from home and have the flexibility to respond to calls during the day. If you have a day job out of the area, we need evening and weekend responders too. You may be retired and wanting to do something different. Whoever you are, and wherever you come from, if you want to assist those in your community in an important and real way...come see what Adair Rural Fire and Rescue is all about.



LT Tom Jones

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

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