



Hot off the Press

Summer 2019

Community Events:

No Backyard Burning
June 16th through
September 30th

First Aid/CPR Class
August 17
9am—4pm

Back to School
August 28 & 29

**Public Safety Chili Cook
Off**

September 8th
3 pm—7 pm
Frolic Grounds

First Aid/CPR Class
September 15
9am—4pm

**PYAC Community
Carnival**
September 20
5:30—8:30 pm

**Philomath Fire & Rescue
Open House**
October 5

11:00 am—2:00 pm
Come down for
community education
and an engine ride!

Fire Prevention Week
October 6—12

First Aid/CPR Class
October 19
9am—4pm

First Aid/CPR Class
November 16
9am—4pm

Bridges and Access Roads and Gates...oh my!

If you live in the Philomath Fire District, in our rural areas, and you have a **private bridge** or a culvert that travels under your driveway, we want to talk to you. Currently the District has 50 known private bridges in our response area.

Unfortunately, 28 out of the 50 private bridges cannot be crossed with our fire equipment including our medical response vehicles. Many bridges are not engineered for the weight of our vehicles and others we simply don't have any information about their load capacity. We have a list of bridges that are OK TO CROSS. If you are unsure whether or not your bridge is on that list, please call Captain Rich Saalsaa, our Fire & Life Safety Officer, at 541-360-0029. We can talk to you about what needs to be done to get your bridge certified by a State approved bridge engineer. It is important to know that your bridge can be safely crossed for fire and life safety purposes as well as for fire insurance purposes. Uncertified bridges can delay response to your home in an emergency.

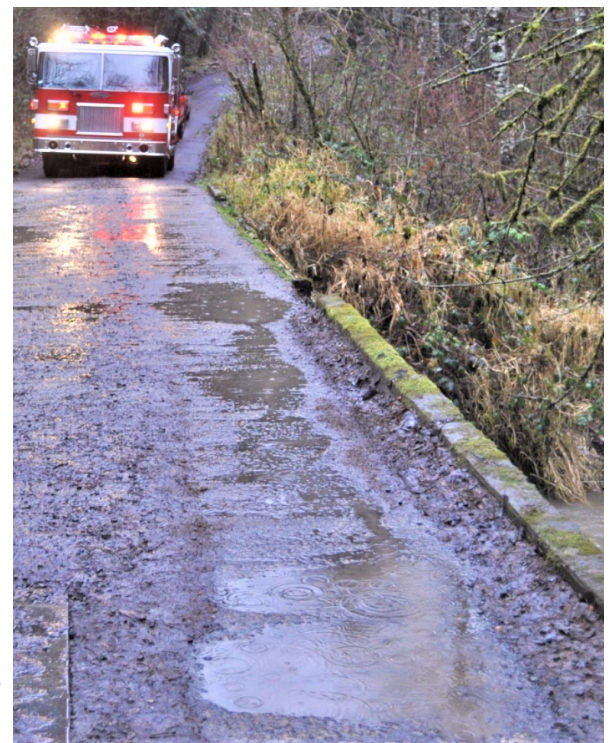
Later in the year and in Spring we will be conducting a survey of **driveways and access roads** to ensure that we can safely access your property in case of a fire or life emergency. Current Oregon Fire Code and Linn-Benton Fire Protection Standards call for a minimum of a 16-foot drivable surface that can hold 60,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, plus an additional 2-feet of clearance on each side of the road, for a total of 20 feet of clearance. Bridges follow the same minimums and include additional requirements like turnout areas on either side of the bridge. **Overhangs** on driveways can impede response as well. There should be a minimum of 13 ½ feet clear over the road or approach. Clear away any low branches or other overhanging obstacles.

Gates across any access roads or driveways also must have a minimum of 16-foot width and if the gate is lockable, we recommend having a KNOX brand padlock in addition to your own padlock so that emergency responders can quickly gain entry without having to cut your chain or cable.

Lastly, there are **grades** to consider. Generally, driveway or approach grades should be 10% or less. There are exceptions if you have a residential sprinkler system installed inside your home.

We know that some older driveways and access roads were constructed in compliance with earlier versions of the Fire Code. While we cannot compel anyone to come up to the latest standard we would like to work with you to ensure timely emergency response to your home.

If you would like to have your property surveyed for bridges and access, or if you have any questions on this or other fire and life safety issues, you can schedule an evaluation with **Captain Saalsaa** at **541-360-0029**. The Linn-Benton Fire Protection Standards document, which has all of the details above, can be mailed to you upon request or found on our website, Under Programs, Inspection/Plan Review: www.philomathfire.com/inspection-plan-review.



Philomath Fire & Rescue

1035 Main Street, P.O. Box 247
Philomath, OR 97370
Phone: 541-360-0030

Visit our website: www.philomathfire.com
and like us on Facebook!

Our Mission:

*The preservation of property through the
extinguishment and prevention of fires.*

*The protection and care of human life through
education and treatment.*

*The development of character through
commitment and teamwork.*

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New Deputy Chief Chancy Ferguson

At the beginning of June 2019, we hired a new Deputy Chief, Chancy Ferguson. Deputy Chief Ferguson came to us from La Grande and is a 19-year veteran of the fire service. He began his firefighting career as a Volunteer Firefighter at Molalla Rural Fire District and as a Seasonal Firefighter for the Oregon Department of Forestry. He is a graduate of Chemeketa Community College Fire Science and Emergency Medicine Program. His career as a Professional Firefighter started in July of 2004 at the City of La Grande Fire Department. During this time at La Grande, he served as the Assistant Training Officer and Training Officer/Coordinator. He has also served as a Task Force Leader and Division Group Supervisor as part of the Blue mountain Interagency Type 3 Incident Management Team, and as a Tactical Medic as a member of the Northeast Oregon SWAT team.



He states that his commitments to Philomath Fire & Rescue and the citizens we serve include:

- Always doing the right thing.
- Leading in a way that is fair and just.
- Seeking to develop and mentor each member of the department.
- Developing a team that is highly effective, well-trained and proficient at providing emergency services.
- Providing training that is relevant and current.

We hope you'll join us in welcoming Deputy Chief Ferguson to Philomath! Feel free to swing by Station 201, on Main Street, to say hello!

School Starts—Buses on the Road

With the start of the school year commuters can expect to see kids in crosswalks and buses on the road. On August 28th and 29th you will see us around town, reminding commuters to keep their eyes open for the kiddos.

Additionally, Mary's River Lumber, located on HWY 20 just West of Philomath, will now be housing about 60 school buses. They'll be pulling out onto the roadway between 6:00 - 8:00 in the morning and again between 2:00 - 4:00 in the afternoon. Drivers are

encouraged to keep their eyes open and be extra attentive during those hours.



Firewise Communities

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed a Firewise Community Program which teaches people how to adapt to living within wildfire areas and encourages neighbors to work together and take action to prevent fire-related losses. Wren, west of Philomath, was recognized as a Firewise Community in 2016 for their efforts to reduce fuels and mitigate fire risks to their community. To learn more about the

Firewise program, come down to our Open House on Saturday, October 5th, to meet with members from the Wren Firewise Community. You can learn about ways to get your property evaluated for fire-related risks and learn what you can do to protect your home and your

