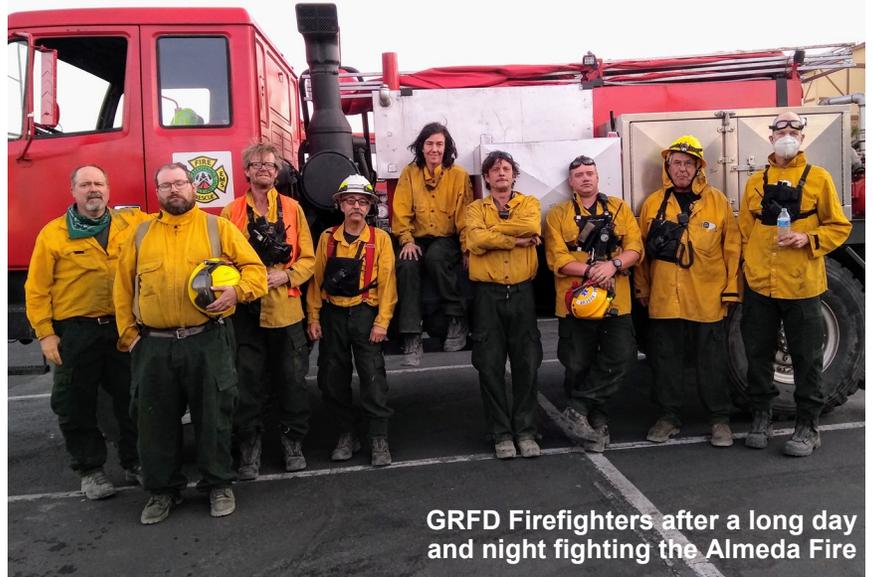


THE VOICE OF THE GREENSPRINGS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT (GRFD) AND GREENSPRINGS FIRE AND RESCUE (GSFR)

GRFD BOARD

Brandon Givens	President
Ron Garfus-Knowles	Vice President
Richard Holbo	Treasurer
Valerie Holbo	Secretary
Gene Davies	Fire Chief
Stephen Bender	Board Member

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of the GRFD is to provide professional quality fire fighting, emergency medical, rescue, and education and prevention services to the district service area.



GRFD Firefighters after a long day and night fighting the Alameda Fire

Letter from the President By Stephen Bender

Dear Residents of Greensprings,

What a momentous year this has been! COVID-19 has transformed life for all of us. We thought we had a good thing going with our bingo fundraising events and were looking forward to sponsoring three events this year. As our Pot o' Gold event approached in March, we realized that it wasn't safe for us to meet face to face. Of course, we cancelled subsequent meetings. This time of year it is especially regretful since our inaugural bingo event was Halloween Spooky Bingo Nite, now three years ago. That was an unqualified success in fundraising and in bringing the community together. It is history now and joins the archives of memorable Greensprings events. COVID-19 pushed our fundraising strategies in a different direction. As with so many other nonprofits, we resorted to Go-FundMe, under the guidance of Don Rowlett. The community response was stupendous. Donors, mostly community members, provided over \$6,000. The Zurlow Foundation continued to provide GSFR with a \$10,000 grant, as they have for last 10 years. Some very large donations have come from other community members. Gene Davies, our fire chief, pursues every grant he can find. He has personally raised an estimated \$180,000 in grant funding for GSFR since 2005.

It is notable that our yearly budget is about \$45,000. Some of the things GSFR pays for include operational expenses such as fuel, tires, tools, protective gear, and vehicle maintenance. There are also structure repairs, equipment upgrades, utilities and training costs to be

addressed. Our Chief has been working on installing a ventilation system in the firehouse so that our volunteers don't risk asphyxiation while vehicles are warming up. We are currently working on updating our website so that we have an integrated and seamless electronic media presence. Our goal is to have a social media presence that allows quick access to information for those who have Internet and/or cell phone.

The experience of the Alameda and Obenchain fires demonstrated our vulnerability in the event of catastrophic conditions. Communication chains to the public were subpar, probably because of the speed and magnitude of the event. Fire resources were strained to their limits. Our Greensprings volunteers performed heroically and admirably to help limit the damage. Chief Davies has trained the volunteers well. We community members can be rightfully proud of their efforts. We can also be thankful that our immediate community was spared the devastation that was visited on the valley. This season, our only major fire was the Grizzly Creek Fire near Keno Access Road. It was extinguished within two days in an effort led by ODF; GRFD played a supportive role.

As we look to our community's future, we know that global climate change is a reality. As the woodlands continue to dry out, we need to be individually responsible for maintaining our personal fire protection. Keep a 100-foot perimeter clear of flammable shrubs, trees and plantings.

President's Letter continued on page 2

President's Letter continued from page 1

Make sure your property is accessible to fire trucks. Let the fire department know if you have a sizable water source. Apart from your generous financial support, our fire department is a volunteer facility. If you have the time and can spare the effort, join as a volunteer.

A special thank you to the members of the GSFR board: Gail Colbern (treasurer), Denise Rowlett (VP), Jim Impara (secretary), Mary Jo Davies, Gene Davies (fire chief). My personal thanks as well for your continued dedication. To the community at large, stay safe. Thank you all for your continued support. On behalf of the Greensprings Fire and Rescue, Happy Holidays!

Steve Bender
President GSFR

Greetings from the GRFD Board of Directors

By Brandon Givens

Ron Garfas-Knowles and I were elected to the District Board in July of 2019. At our first meeting, and somewhat to my surprise, I was elected Board President. I recall thinking, "Ok, I guess I'm doing this now." In the time since, I have learned a great deal about how a Special District works within State law. In this short time, I have also gained a comprehensive view of our District and our Fire & Rescue operations.

Greensprings Fire is really a three-part system: the Fire Department (Operations), the Special District of elected board members (Administrative), and the original non-profit GSFR (Fundraising). These three elements align to support the Fire & Rescue services in our District. The GSFR board works hard to generate the necessary funding, the GRFD Board ensures we adhere to State law and maintains good relationships with regional partners (public and private), and our volunteer Chief and crew work diligently to maintain a high functioning Fire & Rescue force at minimal cost to the community. There have been many who have given of their finances, property, expertise, and blood, sweat, and tears to make GRFD what it is today. Everyone in the community can be proud of their contributions and the work that we do.

I write to you today on behalf of the District Board, but also as a volunteer firefighter.

It has been quite a year. 2019 was fairly quiet, but we did see a number of grants roll in, which enabled the acquisition of helpful new gear and fixes to equipment. We carried that momentum into 2020. When COVID-19 struck and we were forced to take our meetings onto Zoom, we continued the work of maximizing resources for the GRFD. We are all grateful to Chief Davies for taking advantage of grant opportunities as they become available, and for identifying operational needs and con-

stantly thinking of ways we can improve our capabilities.

Despite plenty of recreation taking place in our community over the summer, there were few fire or medical calls. But as the summer wore on and conditions became hotter and drier, we knew to be wary of likely incidents. The volunteer crew was running drills and staying alert. As we approached the Labor Day weekend, it felt like something was coming. GRFD responded to two calls on Thursday, September 3rd. The first was a medical incident early in the day; just a couple of hours later, smoke from the Grizzly Creek fire was reported. GRFD volunteers worked all evening supporting ODF. Our fire season had just become active. The weather was projected to worsen the following week, and ODF briefed firefighters to be prepared, as a historic wind event was approaching. That wind event did hit us, but not in the way we expected. Rather than battling flare-ups on the mountain in our own District, GRFD was called to support the crews in the valley battling the Alameda Fire. It was a daunting day for the volunteers who responded to that call, and an unforgettable one. A lot of experience and perspective was gained by the crew. Everyone learned what GRFD was made of on September 8th, and we can be proud of our contributions to that fire response, despite the devastation that weighs so heavily on all of our minds.

As fire season wound down, we continued working on clean-up of the firehouse property and keeping vehicles maintained. Chief Davies has also been able to deploy some fun and very useful new tools! The GRFD is now able to deploy drone and infrared technology when responding to calls. This gives operations a huge boost in spotting fires and finding hot spots, hopefully saving time in locating fires and ruling out false alarms.

We would like to thank you all for your financial and emotional/moral support of GRFD. This year has once again illustrated how vital the service is, and it wouldn't be possible without the warm and generous support of our entire community—and from quite a few folks in the valley this year, too.

**Congratulations! to
Firefighter Kyle Miller and his
wife Mary Miller
on the birth of their son,
Carson James
October 23, 2020**

New High-Tech Tools for GRFD

By Gene Davies

Significant advancements in technology have improved the affordability of some great new tools for the Fire Service. Thanks to a grant from the Josephine County Foundation, GRFD was able to acquire two new items for use on fire and many other emergency calls.

Our first new device is a hand-held thermal imaging camera, TIC for short. The TIC is basically an infrared camera with a large viewscreen. Equipped with a TIC, emergency personnel can see specific heat signatures that might indicate the presence of an otherwise hidden fire; for example, fire inside a wall. We can scan for embers or hot spots around structures, locate a victim in complete darkness, and check for overheating flue pipes and chimney structures. The TIC can also be of use in mopping up wildland fires by locating the hottest areas. Crews can then concentrate more on those areas, reducing the time for complete extinguishment and reducing the chance of re-ignition.

The second item is a UAV or Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Drone). This has been on our wish list for years! Our specifications required something that is relatively easy to pilot, with excellent daylight camera quality and forward looking infrared, or FLIR. With our Josephine County Foundation grant funds in hand, we were able to purchase a very capable UAV that meets all those requirements. The list of uses for this device is large and includes some of the following:

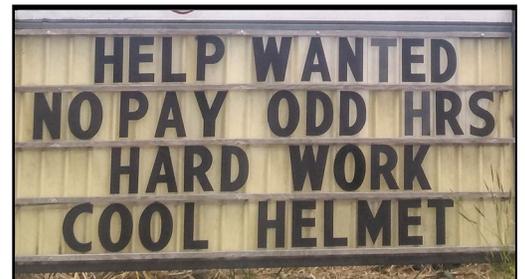
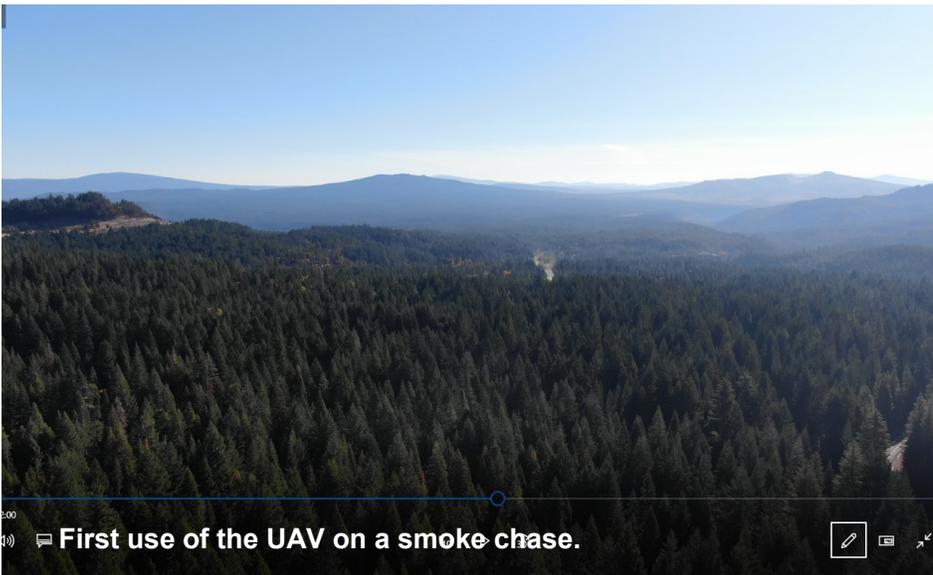
- Scene size-up and safety on developing incidents
- Provide an airborne lookout on wildland fires
- Detection of hot spots within a fire area
- Locate and monitor safety zones and escape routes
- Assist in locating new reports of smoke or fire in our area



Handheld FLIR demonstration: Finding Jack in a pitch-black room. Note the heat signatures from his recent footsteps.

We have discovered that the UAV is a VERY handy tool for the last task on the list. In fact, the first use of the UAV outside of training was to help locate a stubborn smoke that ODF and GRFD had been chasing for days. This smoke was reported to be right in the Greensprings area. On the third call from 911 dispatch we launched the UAV and flew a few hundred feet above the treetops. It took less than a minute to find the smoke and pinpoint its location.

On behalf of GRFD and the Greensprings Community, I would like to thank the Josephine County Foundation for this valuable addition to our hi-tech toolbox. You have already made a difference!



Volunteer firefighters are always needed. Training is Mondays 6:00—8:00 pm. For more info, call Chief Davies at 541.621.2859

GRFD and the Almeda Fire

By Juliet Grable

Many of us will never forget September 8, 2020. That, of course, was the day the Almeda Fire swept through the Rogue Valley, devastating the towns of Talent and Phoenix. GRFD was one of many agencies called in to provide mutual aid that day.

For us, the call came in at 11:00 am as a grass fire. We convened at the firehouse; fortunately, most of our crew was available. As we listened to the radio traffic en route, it became clear that a catastrophe was unfolding in the valley. An already surreal day was made even stranger when we were intercepted by another, unrelated call on the way to the main event: a vehicle fire in a pull-out near Emigrant Lake. This was truly a case of



Firefighter Kyle Miller sprays down debris near a house on West Valley View Road.

being in the right place at the right time. We were only a few miles away when the call came in. We arrived to find the vehicle fully engulfed. The wind was whipping flames toward the road; still, we were able to extinguish the fire quickly. The wind conditions being what they were, if the fire had spread to vegetation we could have been looking at a disaster for the south end of the valley.

We were assigned to the West Valley View Division, which included areas east of the freeway between Ashland and Talent. Working alongside us were personnel from ODF, Grants Pass, and Rural Metro Fire of Josephine County. At some point, Chief Davies took over for the Grants Pass Battalion Chief as the Division Commander.

Chief Davies oversaw our operations from our new command vehicle, 8651. Also deployed were our Type I fire engine (8601), wildland attack vehicle (8663), and our water tender (8641). Norm Dean and Bob Given staged the tender on Valley View Road and drafted water from the creek. Hour after hour, apparatus from our

agency and several others returned to the tender to fill their tanks.

The fire had already swept through the area by the time we arrived on scene, and many houses, structures, and vehicles had already burned. Our main tasks were to protect those structures that were still standing and to keep spot fires from flaring up and crossing West Valley View Road. I'm certain we saved several homes, including residences in an RV park next to Bear Creek.

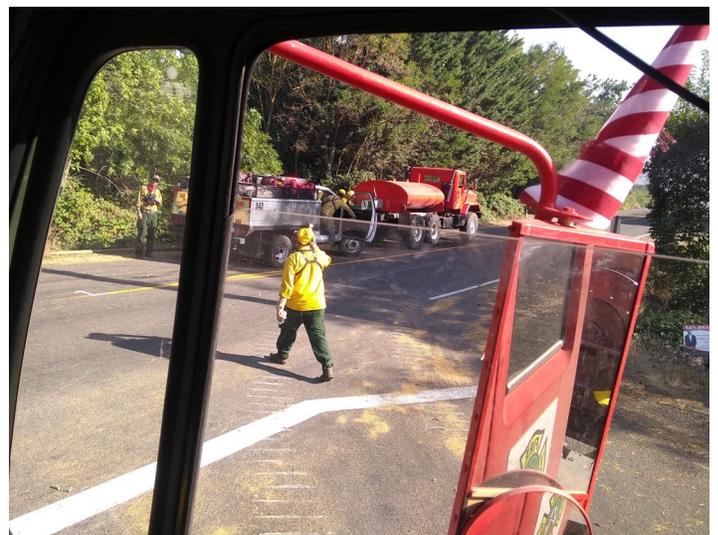
As day dragged into night, one of the hardest things was not understanding the big picture. We could see the horrible orange glow above the trees to the northwest. We knew it was bad, but we didn't appreciate the full scope of the disaster until later.

By the time we were relieved, late in the afternoon on Wednesday, September 9, we had been working for over 24 hours. I'm proud of our crew and Chief Davies. We kept our heads and kept going, even when we were beyond tired.

I'm sure many, if not most of us know people who lost everything in the Almeda Fire. I know that many in our community have donated generously of their time, money, clothing, and other items; a few have even provided shelter to people who were displaced.

We in the Greensprings were lucky this time, but we know that before long another fire season will be upon us. In the meantime, enjoy the holidays and the snow and the beauty of our mountain in winter. And please stay safe!

Thanks to Chief Gene Davies, Captain Phil Newby, and firefighters Bob Given, Norm Dean, Kyle Miller, Brint Borgilt, Brandon Givens, Jeff Scranton, Ben Pellow, and Dominic Barth. Thanks also to Leslie Sargent for the wonderful baked goods, and to all who have expressed their gratitude. It means a lot!



Our water tender, 8641, proved to be an invaluable asset during the Almeda Fire.

Animal First Aid: Are You Ready?

By Gail Colbern, DVM, MS, DACT

Emergencies, even disasters, can happen and our pets, horses and livestock are at risk as much or more than we are. We need to be ready to address their issues as well as our own. First and foremost, stay calm in an emergency. This will provide your best chance of a successful outcome.

Many emergencies happen outside the home, such as car accidents or hiking injuries. It's important to ensure your safety first as you can't help your animals if you become injured as well. Make sure the animal does not become overly aggressive because of pain. You may need to muzzle a dog. If you don't have one, you can make one with a leash or thin rope. Tie it around the muzzle (nose) with a half hitch on the bottom then at the back of the neck with a square knot.

Once the situation is stable, examine the animal. Is he responsive? Stay calm as this will help relax the animal. Check for breathing. Check for obvious injuries. Remember, just because you don't see obvious injuries doesn't mean there aren't severe internal injuries. Palpate the body and look for signs of pain. Use this information to determine how quickly your animal should be seen by his veterinarian. It's always a good idea to get an animal checked out after a trauma to be sure they are okay.

Traumatic Injuries: Wounds, Bleeding, Fractures

Minor wounds may be managed at home, but if there is excessive bleeding (continuous after 10 minutes of constant pressure), seek veterinary care immediately with your veterinarian or with your local animal emergency clinic (SOVSC 541-282-7711). Reduce environmental contamination by cleaning the wound with water to remove dirt and debris. Trim hair if you can. Do not use human medicines such as antibiotics or pain medications. Cover the wound with a clean dry cloth and lightly bandage over that. If the bleeding is severe, keep pressure on the wound throughout transport to your veterinarian. Signs of internal injuries include pale gums, weakness/collapse, distended belly and difficult breathing.

Fractures can be extremely painful, so be careful that the dog or cat doesn't try to bite. Try to keep the limb stable during transport to the veterinarian. Securing the animal to a hard, flat surface is best. Do not apply pressure to the chest as this can make breathing more difficult. Do not bandage or splint an open fracture as this can cause more pain or make the fracture worse.

Do NOT use human pain medications. They have potential for toxicity as each species has different enzymes to metabolize these drugs. Consult your veterinarian about any potential pain medications.

Seizures:

Seizures manifest as rapid, uncontrolled jerking movements. Remain calm. Often the seizure is more distressing to the owner than the animal. Time the seizure and keep notes on when and how long they last. Seizures lasting less than two minutes may not be severe, especially if the animal appears fine after it stops. But you should still see your veterinarian and have blood work done to determine if there is an organic cause that can be treated to eliminate seizures. Seizures that last longer than two minutes are a medical emergency and the animal should go immediately to their veterinarian or animal emergency clinic.

During a seizure, keep your pet away from harmful objects or areas where it could sustain injury, like stairs. Keep other animals away from the seizing animal as they may attack the seizing animal. Do not restrain or hold the animal down. This could result in further injury. Do not place your hand near the mouth as seizing animals often bite down and could injure your hand.

Seizures may be caused by poisoning, liver disease, meningitis or a brain tumor. Or a cause may not be identified, leading to a diagnosis of epilepsy. It is important to have blood work done. If an organic cause is identified, it may be treatable. If epilepsy, medication can be prescribed to control and hopefully eliminate the seizures.

Our next newsletter will cover summertime first aid: Heat Stroke, Insect Bites and Stings, and Snake Bites. Enjoy the winter!

Greensprings Emergency Network

By Mary Jo Davies

After the destruction of the Alameda Fire, and after reading endless Facebook posts about peoples' fears, anxieties, and hopelessness, I got together with Valerie Holbo and Jennifer Jensen to discuss what could we do for our community. We decided to call a community meeting. For those who came and spoke, we heard you.

A Committee was formed. Now we are working on an emergency plan for the community and on creating a communication system for both residents and those who visit the Greensprings. For now, here is our Mission Statement for the Greensprings Emergency Network:

We will work together to preserve the life and safety of all residents and visitors to the Greensprings area, building on existing systems to inform everyone in a timely manner of natural disasters in the event of a loss of power and other key infrastructure.



Greensprings Rural Fire District

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Ashland, OR 97520

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Happy Holidays Stay Safe!

As of now, all in-person fundraisers and events have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We will keep you updated about any new fundraisers via email and Facebook. Meanwhile, you can make a donation through our website:

<http://www.greenspringsfire.net/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/greenspringsRFD/>

Twitter: @GreenspringsRFD