

GREER RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

Community Newsletter
Volume 4, Issue 1—June 2020

FIRST RESPONSE—IT’S A PLAN!

Last year we talked about our biggest problem—**40-45 minutes** before Orofino or Weippe can get to a fire in the middle of Greer Grade. There is no magic to fix that. We agreed to create a first response plan for faster fire-fighting response, to buy time before Orofino, Weippe, or even CPTPA can arrive to take over. This is NOT a full-scale, independent firefighting solution. We will still contract with Orofino and Weippe for full fire-fighting services. Think of this as a satellite solution.



It’s going to take time, fundraising, and volunteers/ sponsors to keep costs down. We are being supported by Orofino Fire Department, who are donating training, radios etc., and CPTPA who can provide a truck free-of-charge. We have a site identified, 5.5 miles up the Grade, thanks to Pam & Jim White.

Longer-term there are other benefits. The building can serve as a community center. It’s also possible we can all benefit from reduced property insurance costs by living much closer to a fire station. More on that at our Annual Budget meeting on 6/27 – see back cover for details.

Cont’d on page 2.....

PREVENTION IS EVEN BETTER THAN CURE!

We don’t want to just plan for a fire scenario when it is better to not have a fire at all! Take a look at page 3 for a **simple checklist** to ensure you are wildfire ready.

If you need help assessing your property readiness, you can also call our neighbor, Ron Dwyer, on (208) 435-4308. The Beards and the Millers both had their properties assessed by Ron and are very positive about the experience. Ask them!



Living with the trees brings special challenges and responsibilities



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ABOUT GREER RURAL FIRE DISTRICT

COMMISSIONERS:

- District 3 & Chairperson:
Linda Beard (208) 660-6261
- District 1: Bill Miller
(208) 816-1041
- District 2: Jim White
(208) 435-4162

SECRETARY:

- Christine Betts
(208) 553-7365

TREASURER:

- Connie Miller
(208) 553-0484

Call any of us with your questions, concerns or ideas. If we don’t know we will gladly direct you to someone who does.

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Hidden costs? No. This is a multi-year solution. We plan to seek out grants and to work with the newly forming Clearwater Valley Fire Districts Auxiliary organization, headed by our own Pam White. We can also do local fundraising. Who remembers the Blackberry Socials of previous years?

Come to the Annual Budget meeting on 6/27 to learn more—see back page for details.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

ACTIVITY SINCE LAST MTG

Supporting the firefighters – CPTPA, Orofino and Weippe FDs

- Paid OFD \$1,636 and WFD \$600
- Planned for a first-response solution
- Selected a site for the station
- Getting a CPTPA truck for summer
- 6 people ready to start training
- Signed up to be part of Clearwater Valley Fire Districts Auxiliary organization
- 4 people attended Fire Academy

Supporting the community to be fire-wise and ready

- Bill Warren. U of I, discussed Fire Preparedness with some of our community
- Ron Dwyer assessed 2 properties for fire-readiness
- 2 people attended FireWise program at the Orofino Fire Academy

2020-21 ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Supporting the firefighters – CPTPA, Orofino and Weippe FDs

- Continue to contract with OFD & WFD
- Investigate grants and other fund-raising opportunities to enable the build-out of the full first-response solution as soon as practical.
- Recruit more helpers

Supporting the community to be fire-wise and ready

- Assess more properties
- Bring FireWise training to the district

This Yr	2020/21	2021 +
Start with a truck	Fundraising – lots of it!	Complete the build—depends on funds available
Train, test, and kit out at least 6 volunteers	Start the build—depending on funds available	



**Is this you?
We could use your help!**

- Builder
- Project Overseer
- Radio Operator/ Comms Controller
- Fund-raiser or Cookie Maker
- Firefighter or Truck Driver

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Let us know what you can do!



✓ CHECKLISTS

BEFORE A WILDFIRE THREATENS

Your Home

- Build with nonflammable materials, especially roof, decks, and siding
- Enclose undersides of decks, eaves, soffits, and fascia
- Install double paned or tempered glass windows
- Have screens on vents, and covers for attic and basement openings
- Clearly mark property with non-flammable signs, with clear letters at least 4 inches high
- Provide access for fire equipment

Your Landscape

- Treat a minimum distance of 100 feet around your home, removing highly flammable brush, and dead trees and shrubs
- Eliminate ladder fuel configurations, and prune trees up 6 to 15 feet
- Concentrate plant materials in islands surrounded by non-flammable walls and well-watered or short turf
- Keep lawn and plant materials well-watered and trimmed
- Store firewood away from structures
- Clean debris from roof and yard frequently
- Remove contiguous fuels (i.e. wooden fence to wooden stairs and wooden deck) and combustible enclosures from around propane tanks and wood piles
- Choose fire-resistive plant materials
- Maintain your irrigation system

Beyond 100 Feet

- Eliminate ladder fuel configurations and thin dense stands

Landscape Maintenance

- Keep lawn and landscape materials well-watered
- Regularly remove flammable debris by pruning, raking, mowing, and removing
 - Pay attention to debris removal from roof, gutters, and from corners, under stairways and along the foundations of your structures
 - Maintain spacing of thinned areas by pruning, mulching, grazing, or chemical removal of small trees and shrubs
 - Watch for establishment of noxious weeds and control when populations are small

Evacuation Planning

- Establish an evacuation plan
- Plan an emergency escape route
- Place important documents in a fireproof box and keep in an accessible location
- Arrange for a place for you and your animals to go

WHEN A WILDFIRE THREATENS

- Know fire protection agencies, post numbers by phones
- Dress for safety
- Put clothing, food, water, valuables, and pets in car
- Load horses or other livestock to be evacuated
- Park in the direction you will escape
- Leave key in the ignition

IF THERE IS TIME:

- Use aluminum foil or flashing and cover areas where debris collects
- Cover attic and basement vents
- Shut off gas supply, move gas grill away from structures
- Look for flammable materials around your home
- Ready emergency generator
- Wet down deck siding, lawns, and roof
- Turn on all indoor and outdoor lights to make your house easier for firefighters to find in the dark

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Budget Meeting

AGENDA

- Review 2019/20 activity and expenditure
 - Discuss priorities and plans
 - Discuss 2020/21 budget
- Meet your neighbors; see how to get involved

Greer Rural Fire District

Greer Centennial Park

Learn about our plans for a fire station in the district

Your opinion counts!

Bring a chair, a snack, and a beverage of your choice

Saturday, June 27th, 2020

4:00 pm

This is a significant year as we kick off our long-term plans to improve firefighting coverage. Your attendance can make a real difference to the value you get from your tax dollars.

Greer Rural Fire District
PO Box 708
Orofino
ID 83544

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Label Here