

Greer Rural Fire District

Community Newsletter, Vol 5, Issue 4, November 2021

Our fire insurance is increasingly at risk! Are you ready for that?

An update from the commissioners on fire protection progress

Hello, I'm Linda Beard, Chairperson of the Greer Rural Fire District. I want to update you on our plans for a fire station in the district and ask for your help. Our need is getting greater. Please read on..

Even as we all feel for the people of California with their seemingly never-ending problems with wildfire, it is also an escalating problem here in the Pacific Northwest - and Idaho in particular, according to a recent survey by Corelogic. By late Sept this year, 1,200 fires had burned roughly 429,000 acres in Idaho - and this is considered "an average year". Predictions had been for much worse.

Can you imagine what it would be like if you couldn't get insurance? Are you prepared to self-insure your property? Can you imagine what will happen if you need to sell and potential buyers find out they must self-insure and can't get a mortgage without insurance?

Insurance approval depends on factors such as physical inspection of your property and an assessment of how quickly firefighting resources might get there to save it. No problem for us then? We've got a fire station being built on the Grade? Actually no. Our site plan fell through this summer. We have been searching for another site since then. We've approached some property owners - both private and state - but can you offer us an option we haven't already looked at? Basically, we need a minimum of 1/3 acre, with easy access to Highway 11. An existing water supply, power, and useful buildings would be a bonus. We want to benefit every resident of the district, so meeting a specific insurance requirement to bring everyone within 5 miles of an active fire station is the ideal. This led us to start out looking for a central location. We might now need to get creative and consider one at the top and one at the bottom of the hill, if we can somehow get 2 for close to the price of 1, or consider other mitigating actions for residents outside of 5 miles e.g. ponds, hydrants etc. All options have to be open!

"Active" is a critical word. We currently have only 2 consistent volunteers.

We need more! Are you willing to join the team?

Call me/any Commissioners if you can help. We need:

- A site - anywhere in the District!
- Volunteers to join the fire department team

Please offer anything you have to help solve our collective problem. Thank you!

Winter Fire Safety

Cold weather fire prevention tips for your home

Although many of these things seem like common sense you automatically do, it's easy to get complacent. A quick run through BEFORE each heating season is always a good idea.

Furnace: Each year you should have your unit checked and clean your unit and controls. Keep flue pipes clean, hole-free and well supported.

*Be sure trash, papers, paint, etc are kept away from the furnace area. Use metal contain for ashes.

Chimney Cleaning: Before and after each heating season, have the chimney cleaned* and checked for crumbling bricks, loose mortar, obstructions (ie bird nests) and creosote build up. Use only dry, well seasoned wood.

Fireplace and Woodstoves: Have a minimum recommended clearance between stove, combustible walls and ceiling. Stove should be positioned on base of non combustible material (metal, brick, etc) extending at least 18 inches beyond the stove in all directions.

Portable space heaters: Be sure heater shuts off by itself when tipped over. Avoid using a space heater in a garage or area where explosive fumes or materials may be present.

* Make sure curtains and blankets are not touching baseboard heaters. Never leave a vaporizer to run dry. Check that the cord at the plug is not too hot.

* Never fold or roll electric blankets. The heat will build up in the wires. Unplug and smooth flat when not in use.

Smoke Detectors: Install a smoke detector on each level of your home, especially outside of bedrooms. Smoke is responsible for 3 out of 4 fire deaths. Keep smoke detectors dust free and change batteries at least once a year. Test them frequently.

Now is a good time to replace the batteries.

Escape Plan: Establish a fire escape plan. Every room should have 2 means of escape. Make sure all windows can open and are not painted shut. An exit route out of the house without opening a bedroom door is important. Decide on a meeting place for all family members away from the house. If you suspect fire, get out and call the fire department from your neighbors. NEVER RE-ENTER A BURNING HOME, it could cost you your life.

From the Fire Chief:

The 11-3 Fire truck is drained and put away for the season in the tent at Gold Wagon Road. The red 11-2 fire truck is full and still in service. I hope we don't have an occasion to get it out over the winter but it will be available.

I urge you all to take stock of your winter fire sources and make sure chimneys are cleaned out, smoke detectors have good working batteries, etc.
Thanks, Matt

Change in Commissioners

District 2 Commissioner Joe Chamberlayne has resigned his position. Brian Bryne will likely be replacing him for the duration of the 2 year term. Welcome Brian!

Annual Treasurer\$ Report

Submitted by Connie Miller, interim treasurer

For our Greer Fire District Fiscal Year of 2020-2021
Budget \$10,041. Expenditures \$16,501, including new truck, and fire station expenditures.
Ending balance in building fund: \$37,350

Income Tax revenue \$6853.
Fund raisers \$2320. Oct. 2020 bake sale and 2021 Sno-cone sales. Donations \$1646.
Special thanks to Dixie Armstrong, Matt Turner, Bill Miller, Josef Chamberlayne
Deficit came from building fund.

Fiscal yr 2021-2022 to date...
Budget \$8941. Expenditures to date: \$4037.

Anticipated tax revenue: \$6600.
Fund raisers to date: \$770. (Bake sale)
Donations: \$312. Thank you to Josef Chamberlayne, and Fraser Ladies Get Together Club.

Thank you to all who donated baked goods, crafts and their time for our fund raising efforts. Keep in mind future fund raisers, ie, Community Yard Sale, Dinner and/or Breakfast. Let us know any and all your ideas!!

About Greer Rural Fire District:

Commissioners:

District 3 & Chairperson:
Linda Beard (208) 660-6261

District 2: Brian Byrne

District 1: Bill Miller
(208) 816-1041

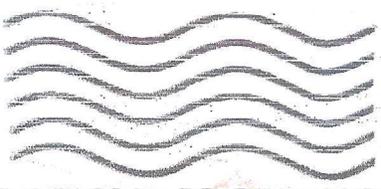
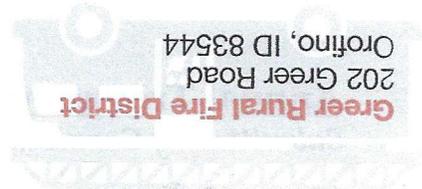
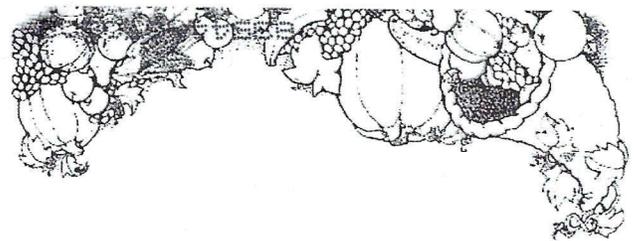
Fire Chief:
Matt Turner
(208) 582-2809

Secretary/Treasurer:
Connie Miller
(208) 553-0484

Position Open for either
Secretary or Treasurer

Call any of us with your
questions or concerns.

Next Commissioners
Meeting:
December 10, 2021
Matt Turner's House



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SPOKANE WA 990

Going Digital!

Starting in 2022, I will be sending newsletters and other correspondence to our district via email. If you prefer to continue receiving postal delivery, I can do that as well. I do have email address for many of you but the list needs to be updated. Please contact me regarding your preferred method of contact. Thank you,
Susan Turner

GFDnews@gmail.com

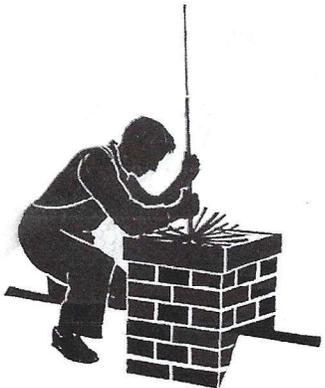
Clearwater Valley Fire Districts Auxiliary!

This organization raises needed money for ALL the fire districts in our area, supports families that are displaced due to fire and help our community and firefighters anyway we can. We meet once a month, the first Thursday of each month.

\$25 annual membership.

It would be great to have some other members from our Greer district involved. Not much time is required, its fun and a great way to meet new people and help out your community.

Contact Susan Turner at 208-512-3753 for more membership information.



Chimney Cleaning

It's that time of year to get your chimney cleaned and ready for the winter! Chimney fires are frequent cause of home fires in Idaho. One chimney sweep in our area is **Kenny Fisher**. Give him a call at 208-790-1971 to schedule an appointment.