



## First Aid/CPR Class Schedule 2022

January 15th  
February 19th  
March 19th  
April 23rd  
May 14th  
June 18th  
July 16th  
August 20th  
September 17th  
October 15th  
November 19th  
December 17th

## Burn Season and Permits

A reminder that Open Burning will run from March 1st through June 15 and you must have a permit – every year you need to re-apply (and the permit can be particular days or for the whole season). Just remember that you have to check for burning information each day you wish to burn to make sure it's allowed by the DEQ in our area, 541-929-5903.



## Looking Back and Looking Ahead

As COVID numbers continued to increase in 2021, so did Philomath Fire & Rescue's calls for service. We set a new record of 857 calls; this is up from the year before with 769 calls. Which is an 11% increase from year to year.

We also set a record of the number of back-to-back calls which happened on 51 occasions in 2021. These are calls that we are paged out before the first unit has returned to quarters. This has required us to change our response matrix to ensure coverage of the Fire District. We can no longer afford to send all members of the response crew to every call. Instead, we are now keeping two personnel back in quarters, to be ready for when a second call arises.

A new addition to our response model is having two-personnel crew at Station 202 in Wren. Due to the lack of volunteers in the area and increased demand for calls to the Wren, Blodgett, and Kings Valley areas, we are staffing Station 202 in Wren in order to maintain staffing in Station 201 in Downtown Philomath. We are very excited about this change because stationing personnel in Wren will shaved off 7 minutes of response time to West Benton County, which means we can get an AED to a cardiac patient or start flowing water on a fire that much quicker. We have also added an extrication tool to our light rescue (221) which helps us trim response time, preserving the "golden hour" (the "golden hour" is when a trauma patient needs to be in surgery for the best chance of survival). The purchase of this extrication tool was possible because of a grant from the OSU Bookstore, sales of the 90-year commemorative apparel, and donations from the public.

Recruitment and retention of volunteers

continues to be a challenge for the Fire District. While we have an exceptional group of volunteers in Philomath, our volunteer participation is mirroring the national trends with fewer volunteers overall and fewer hours available to keep up with training in our complicated field. An additional challenge we are facing is a shortfall of local interest. Many of our recent recruits and volunteer applicants live in Corvallis and have at least a ten-minute drive to get to the nearest station.

Costs to outfit firefighters is going up as well. It now costs \$3500 to outfit a volunteer firefighter plus \$600 for a biannual physical that is required by NFPA. Attending the Firefighter I Academy, and EMS training costs \$2600 per person. Hence, the focus of the District is to continue to recruit Resident Volunteers (who reside in the station) and a recently added Daytime Firefighter to maintain staffing. This ensures that eight personnel are available daily Monday through Friday, from 8-5. Evenings shrink down to one Lieutenant and three Resident Volunteers with the other volunteers responding from home.

As you can see, things are definitely changing in the Fire District. Many of these changes are coming out of necessity and our willingness to adapt to the challenges that have been set before us. Expanding our service and spreading out our staffing has proven to be beneficial to West Benton County and offers a sense of security to our Wren Citizens.

Fire Chief Tom Miller  
Philomath Fire & Rescue

## Philomath Fire & Rescue

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Visit our website: [www.philomathfire.com](http://www.philomathfire.com)  
and follow 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.*

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

Local  
Postal Customer

## STCCF Helping Save Lives

In 2021, Philomath Fire & Rescue was awarded a grant from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contributions Fund allowing us to upgrade our emergency equipment to the latest technology for prehospital health care. The District was able to purchase two new Zoll X-Series Cardiac Monitors. These life-saving devices offer the highest level of prehospital care, ensuring patients have the best chances for survival after experiencing a life-threatening emergency. With this equipment, emergency responders can perform 12-lead ECGs (to determine if a patient is experiencing a cardiac emergency) and monitor oxygen saturation and carbon monoxide levels of the patient, all from one device. Additionally, this device allows emergency responders to transfer the medical readings they get while at the emergency scene directly to the hospital for review and diagnosis by a physician. This technology can help the receiving hospital staff prepare for the patient prior to arrival, another way that the chain of care can be shortened, improving survivability. These devices cost approximately \$32,000 each and the District would not have been able to purchase them without the charitable funds of the Siletz Tribe. Because of the

generosity of the Siletz Tribe,  
we will be able to  
better serve our  
community  
and  
potentially  
save more  
lives.



## Business Inspections

As we slowly climb out of the pandemic pit, we will be resuming our inspections of the businesses within our District. Some items that may likely have been put off include:



- Checking and servicing your fire extinguisher(s) – there must be a tag on each extinguisher, no more than one year out of date
- General cleaning – particularly around furnaces and water heaters where things seem to migrate over time
- Make sure nothing is blocking the front of your electrical panels (36" clearance minimum)
- Clear all aisles and exits – make sure your exit lights are working (check the emergency batteries using the test button) and make sure your exit doors are in good working order
- Watch that storage is at least 18" away from any sprinkler head or ceiling.
- 3G is no longer supported for cellular connections between alarm systems and central stations – be sure that you have upgraded your fire and/or burglar alarm systems that use cellular for communication.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call our Fire & Life Safety Officer, Rich Saalsaa, 541-360-0029.