



• SUPPORTER •

If you're interested in helping support the Philomath Volunteer Fire Department, 90-year commemorative items are being sold as part of a fundraiser for hydraulic rescue equipment. Call or stop by Station 201 at 1035 Main St, 541-360-0030.



## Philomath Fire & Rescue: Knowing Where We Are Going

Yankee's baseball legend Yogi Berra is credited with saying, "If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up someplace else." In a nutshell, that is why Philomath Fire & Rescue plans for the future. We plan so that we know where to go.

First, let's look at where we have been. In 1930, Roy Scott and 19 volunteers signed up to form the Philomath Fire Department. At that time the department had one objective: get a motorized fire-fighting vehicle as soon as possible to improve fire response. The volunteer firefighters canvassed Philomath for donations and held fundraisers. With the money collected, the department built its first fire truck, Old #1.

Ninety years, 10 chiefs, and many plans later, the department has changed. We have 12 paid staff, some of which work part-time, and about 30 volunteers. Our service area is the incorporated City of Philomath and 55 square miles of unincorporated areas of rural Benton County. Within that area, we have more residents, businesses, traffic, and calls for help than ever before. Seventy-seven percent of the assistance provided is medical or accident related, not fire.

Because cooperation is essential in emergency response, we also have agreements to provide mutual aid to other departments around us, and we often send staff and vehicles to major regional emergencies, like wildland fires. Clearly, we are not isolated, and the world in which we respond is complex and changing.

The District recently adopted a new strategic plan looking forward to the year 2030. The new plan has goals related to facilities, staffing, apparatus, equipment, programs,

funding, and customer service. There is too much ground covered to capture here, but one area stands out—staffing.

Planning for the right balance of paid and volunteer staff is an ongoing challenge. Volunteers are a vital part of District operations, but volunteering is declining, in part due to increased training requirements for volunteers. Many volunteers find it difficult to set aside the time for required training. As a result, we are seeing fewer volunteers than before. This labor shortfall can be mitigated by hiring and training more paid staff but doing so can further dampen the participation of volunteers while increasing expenses.

This takes us full circle to the topic of knowing where we are going. In the new Master Plan, we describe how we will continue to respond with a mix of paid and volunteer staff and prioritize day-to-day response to emergencies, safety, training, community education, and preparedness for big disasters. We will increase the amount of funding set aside for the replacement of equipment and apparatus and for maintenance of facilities. And, because we estimate that the costs to do all of this will increase at a faster rate than our revenue from property taxes, we will look to grants and creative solutions to augment our budget.

To learn more about our updated Master Plan, visit our website, [www.philomathfire.com](http://www.philomathfire.com). We are your District, and we always welcome discussions about where we are going and how we get there.

# Philomath Fire & Rescue

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

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

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

Local  
Postal Customer

## Volunteer Association Celebrates 90 Years

In 1930, local businessmen got together and began the Philomath Fire Department. Over the last 90 years, the Department has seen many changes, including separating from the City, beginning medical call response, and establishing substations in strategic locations in the District. During the 2020 calendar year, we will be showcasing the history of the Volunteer Association.

In addition, the current Volunteer Association is running a fundraiser, working towards a goal of \$9,500.00 to put toward the purchase of additional life-saving equipment. As part of this campaign, the Volunteers will be selling t-shirts, hats, glassware, and other items showcasing the commemorative 90-year logo. If you want to help the volunteers work toward their goal, you can swing by the office and purchase merchandise or look for the upcoming community events that will be hosted throughout Philomath.

90 years of service to the Philomath Community and its members is quite an accomplishment! Help us celebrate this group of committed volunteers!

## Insurance Service Offices and You

Insurance Service Offices recently evaluated the fire suppression capabilities of Philomath Fire & Rescue. They evaluated the District using a set of criteria relating to emergency communications, equipment, staffing, training, station location, operations, community risk reduction, and water supply. Information they gathered is used to assign PPC ratings. These ratings are used by many insurance companies to establish property insurance rates, with lower premiums generally given to those with better fire protection.

Based upon a comprehensive evaluation of the fire suppression capabilities of the Fire District, we were recently re-evaluated and received a **Class 4** ISO Public Protection Class rating in areas with hydrants and **10W** for areas beyond 5 miles of one of our stations. The Class \$ rating only applies if the property is within 5 road miles of one of our 3 fire stations. The addresses of our fire stations are:

Station 201- 1035 Main Street in Philomath

Station 202- 34925 Wren Road in Wren (Philomath)

Station 203- 25700 Llewellyn Road in Inavale (Corvallis)

If your property is more than 5 road miles from any of these locations, your rating will be a 10W per ISO. In these areas we strongly suggest the installation of fire sprinklers. For more information on residential fire sprinklers please contact Fire & Life Safety Captain Rich Saalsaa at 541-360-0029.

For more information on ISO and the PPC rating for our community, the report can be found on our website at [www.philomathfire.com](http://www.philomathfire.com) and click on the ISO link.

