



FIREHOUSE FOCUS

Community Newsletter from the Silverton Fire District

www.silvertonfire.com

Volume 3

UPCOMING

OCTOBER

- 5th Station 2 Open House
- 6th Station 3 Open House
- 7th Station 1 Open House
- 8th Station 8 Open House
- 8th Civil Service Meeting
- 9th Station 9 Open House
- 12th Columbus Day
- 13th Board Meeting
- 17th Chicken Dinner – Scotts Mills Fire Station
- 31st Halloween

NOVEMBER

- 10th Board Meeting
- 11th Veterans Day
- 26th Thanksgiving Day
- 27th Black Friday

DECEMBER

- 4th Silverton Christmas Tree Lighting
- 8th Board Meeting
- 21st Winter Solstice
- 24th Christmas Eve
- 25th Christmas
- 31st New Years Eve

JANUARY

- 1st New Years Day
- 12th Board Meeting
- 19th Martin Luther King Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

- 9th Board Meeting
- 14th Valentines Day
- 16th Presidents Day

MARCH

- 13th Board Meeting
- 17th St. Patrick's Day

FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE – FALL 2026

Dear Silverton Community,

As the leaves begin to change and cooler weather returns to the Willamette Valley, I want to thank the Silverton community for another year of support of the Silverton Fire District.

Our firefighters and volunteers have been busy throughout 2026 responding to emergencies here at home and assisting communities across Oregon. Behind every response are countless hours of training, preparation, equipment maintenance, and community education.

As we head into fall, I encourage everyone to take a few minutes to prepare your home and family for the upcoming season.

Charge into Fire Safety

This year's Fire Prevention Month campaign is from an Oregon State Fire Marshal partnership with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to encourage Oregonians to "Charge into Fire Safety". The campaign focuses on everyday charging habits that can reduce the risk of lithium-ion battery fires and help keep homes and communities safer.

Here are a few simple steps everybody should take to reduce the risk:

1. Use the charger and cord that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer. The wrong charger can damage the battery and increase fire risk.
2. Charge devices on a hard, flat surface. Never charge devices on beds, couches, or under pillows, where heat can build up.
3. Stop using a device if it feels very hot, is swelling, smoking, or giving off a strange smell. These are signs the battery may be failing.
4. Unplug devices once fully charged to prevent excess heat and stress on the battery.
5. Charge larger items like e-bikes, scooters, and power tools outside and away from exits. These bigger batteries store more energy and can create larger fires.
6. When flying, keep devices where you can see them while charging. Never charge devices in overhead bins, and do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on planes.

Five Things to do This Fall

1. Test Your Smoke Alarms: Press the test button on every smoke alarm in your home. Replace batteries as needed and replace alarms that have reached the manufacturer's recommended service life date.
2. Check Your Carbon Monoxide Alarms: Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless danger. Make sure CO alarms are installed where required and are working properly before you begin using heating equipment.



3. **Have Your Heating System Serviced:** Have furnaces, fireplaces, wood stoves, and chimneys inspected and serviced as recommended. Keep furniture, decorations, firewood, and other combustible materials safely away from heating equipment.
4. **Review Your Escape Plan:** Make sure everyone in your household knows two ways out of every bedroom and where to meet outside. Practice your plan – especially with children.
5. **Keep Fire Apparatus Access Clear:** As leaves, decorations, vehicles, trailers, and other items accumulate around homes and businesses, remember to keep driveways, fire lanes, hydrants, and emergency access routes clear.

Seconds matter during an emergency. Clear access helps us get to you faster.

Join Us For Fire Prevention Month

October 5-9 – 6:00-8:00PM

Come visit your local fire station during Fire Prevention Month! Bring the whole family and learn more about the people and equipment that protect our community every day.

Meet your firefighters – Tour the station – See the equipment – Learn about fire safety

See page 11 for the complete Open House schedule and station locations.

Have you ever thought about volunteering?

The Silverton Fire District is fortunate to have an incredible group of dedicated volunteers who give their time to serve their neighbors.

Being a volunteer firefighter is more than responding to emergency calls. It is about training, teamwork, helping people on their worst days, and becoming part of something bigger than yourself.

You don't need to be a firefighter today to become one. Training is provided.

If you have ever thought about volunteering, we would like to hear from you.

Halloween Safety

Before the trick-or-treaters arrive, take a quick look around your home:

- Use flame-resistant or flame-retardant decorations
- Keep decorations away from candles, fireplaces, heaters, and other ignition sources
- Consider battery-operated candles instead of open flames
- Keep sidewalks, driveways, and exits clear
- Make sure children have a safe and well-lit route while trick-or-treating
- Drivers should slow down and watch carefully for children and pedestrians

Thank you for your continued support of the Silverton Fire District and for helping us keep our community safe.

From all of us at the Fire District, have a safe, healthy, and enjoyable fall season.

Warm regards,

Bill Miles

Fire Chief

Silverton Fire District

OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S WILDFIRE SEASON STAFFING GRANT



For the past five years, Silverton Fire District has been a recipient of the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Season Staffing Grant. The District has received \$35,000 each year to support additional staffing during the critical wildfire season.

The grant allows us to bring additional members in to staff the District during hours outside of our regular staffing. This provides another layer of response capacity, with personnel already at the station and ready to respond when a call comes in. It allows us to supplement the crews responding from home and put additional resources on an incident

early, when they can have the greatest impact.

That additional capacity becomes especially important during periods of high wildfire activity. When District crews are deployed to conflagrations outside our area, grant-funded staffing helps maintain coverage here at home so that we can continue responding to calls in our own community. It also gives us the ability to quickly build a larger response when a wildland fire starts, helping us gain control early and reduce the potential for a small incident to grow into a much larger one.

Times like these also highlight the dedication of the volunteers and staff who make that response possible. Whether they are staffing the station, responding from home, working on the fire line, or helping keep our community covered while others are deployed, their commitment makes a difference. We are grateful for the time, effort, and willingness they give to Silverton Fire District and the community we serve.

MAKING A SPLASH SAFELY

Silverton Fire District and the Silverton Volunteer Firefighters Association continue to support water safety in our communities through our life jacket program. Life jackets are available for the public to borrow at three local locations: Coolidge McClaine Park, Silverton Reservoir, and Scotts Mills Park.

The life jackets are available in both youth and adult sizes, giving families and individuals the opportunity to borrow a properly sized life jacket when enjoying the water. The program operates on a simple idea: if you need a life jacket, there should be one available when you need it. Borrowers are asked to return the life jackets when they are finished so the life jackets can be available for someone else.

Keeping these locations stocked takes the support of our community and our partners. This year, Silverton Fire District received a grant from the Nautical Safety Foundation to purchase additional life jackets and help keep the program going. Partnerships like this allow us to continue providing an important water safety resource at no cost to the people in the communities we serve.

The public can also help with this program! If you have new or gently used life jackets that are no longer needed, they can be donated at Silverton Fire District. Every jacket added to the program means another person has access to a life jacket when they head to the water.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND WILDFIRE AWARENESS

BEFORE THE LAST LEAF FALLS

It's finally fall! We've seen the last of the heat waves and are headed into the cooler months of the year. But that doesn't mean it's time to stop taking care of our properties. Before the snow and ice arrives, fall is a great time to take care of a few things around your home:

Yard Debris: One of the prettiest things about the Pacific Northwest is watching the leaves change color! Unfortunately, it also means those pesky leaves are going to fall and need to be raked up. Take some time to clean up leaves, branches, and other yard debris left behind from the summer months.

Gutters: Take a minute to check your gutters and downspouts. Keeping gutters clear helps rainwater drain properly and keeps water from pooling around your home or causing damage.

Trimming Up Trees and Bushes: Take a look around your property. Do you have any dead or low-hanging branches that could fall and damage your home during a winter storm? Are bushes growing into paths, windows, utility areas, or access points? Fall is a good time to get them trimmed up before winter weather arrives.

Flood Considerations: It's fall, and that means the rain is back! Look around your property and make sure drains, culverts, and downspouts are clear and directing water where it should go. If you live near a body of water or in an area prone to flooding, this may also be a good time to make sure you have sandbags and other supplies on hand.

Paths and Walkways: Fall and winter weather can bring rain, ice, and slippery surfaces. Check your paths and walkways to make sure they are in good condition and free of debris. It's also a good time to make sure you have ice melt or another traction aid on hand for those icy mornings.

Secure Loose Items: Summer months are the best for getting out all of your lawn furniture and yard games. Unfortunately, the fall and winter winds are on the way. Make sure any items you don't want to blow away are secure or put away. Cover your barbecues, weigh down your trampolines, and put away your umbrellas!



DEFENSIBLE SPACE AND WILDFIRE AWARENESS CONT.

POWER OUTAGES? OH NO!

When the power goes out, we usually don't think about everything that depends on electricity until it's gone. The lights, the heat, the refrigerator, the internet, and even our ability to charge a phone can all be affected. With winter approaching, it's worth looking at how prepared your household is for a power outage.

A good rule of thumb during any emergency is to be prepared to be self-sufficient for 72 hours. Whether it's a snowstorm, wildfire, or another emergency, being able to take care of your household for those first 72 hours helps keep emergency resources available for those who need immediate assistance.

Take a look at some of the things you can have on hand to help your household get through a power outage.

- **First Aid Kits** are always good to have around the house, but especially during emergencies! Things like bandages, gauze, antibiotic ointment, elastic bandages, tweezers, and scissors could all come in handy. Adding antacids, antihistamines, ibuprofen, hand sanitizer, and a thermometer could also be considered. Think about what your household uses and needs could change what you put into your own first aid kit.
- **Food and Water** are important no matter what. If you don't have power, think about what food you are able to prepare and store. Non-perishable foods that can be prepared without heat or refrigeration are a good option. If you are utilizing canned goods, make sure you have a can opener that doesn't require power! If you live rurally, don't forget that most wells run on pumps powered by electricity. Set aside a couple cases of water with your non-perishable food.
- In the event power is lost during a cold weather event, **heat** could be a major concern. Wood and pellet stoves may allow some households to continue heating their homes during a power outage. Having plenty of blankets, sleeping bags, and warm clothing on hand can also help keep your household warm.
- **Backup Power Sources** could come in handy. Generators can provide power for important appliances and equipment, but they must always be operated outdoors and away from doors, windows, and vents. Never use a generator, grill, camp stove, or other fuel-burning equipment inside your home or garage. Power banks and other rechargeable battery packs can also be used to charge phones and other small devices.
- **Other Equipment** you should have on hand in the event of a power outage includes flashlights, lanterns and candles for light. Have a stash of batteries in various sizes that you can utilize. If you have pets, think about what supplies they may need. Don't forget books, puzzles, board games, or even decks of cards. Entertainment could help with passing the time!
- If you must leave for any reason, having **travel essentials** packed and ready to go might simplify a chaotic situation. Don't forget important documents, medication, your phone and charger, keys, cash, and basic toiletries.



FIRE PREVENTION

HOME HEATING SAFETY

Cold weather is on its way! As temperatures drop, many of us will be turning on furnaces, using wood stoves, or bringing out space heaters to keep our homes warm. No matter how you heat your home, there are steps you can take to prepare and do so safely.

Before turning on your heating system for the season, take a few minutes to make sure it is ready to use. Have furnaces and other heating systems inspected and serviced as needed, and make sure vents, chimneys, and flues are clear of debris. If you use a wood stove or fireplace, have your chimney cleaned regularly to help prevent creosote buildup.

Space heaters can be a convenient way to warm up a room, but they need plenty of space around them. Keep anything that can burn, including furniture, blankets, curtains, and clothing, at least three feet away. Place heaters on a solid, level surface where they cannot easily be knocked over, and plug them directly into a wall outlet rather than using an extension cord or power strip.

No matter how you heat your home, never leave heating equipment unattended when it could create a fire hazard. Keep children and pets away from hot surfaces, and make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working properly. A little preparation before the temperatures drop can help keep your home warm and your family safe all winter.

KEEP IT COOL IN THE KITCHEN

Fall brings cooler weather, football, family gatherings, and, of course, a lot more time in the kitchen. As we head into the holiday season, it's a good time to think about a few simple ways to keep cooking from becoming a fire problem. Stay nearby when you're frying or cooking with high heat. Keep towels, oven mitts, paper products, and other things that can burn away from the stovetop. Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove. If you're using a turkey fryer, keep it outdoors on a sturdy, level surface and well away from your home or other structures. The turkey should be completely thawed and dry before it goes into the hot oil.

It's also worth knowing what to do if a fire does start! For a small grease fire in a pan, turn off the burner if it is safe to do so and carefully cover the pan with a lid. Never put water on a grease fire. Water can cause the burning oil to splatter and spread the fire. Once the pan is covered, leave it alone until it has completely cooled. Keeping a fire extinguisher in the kitchen can provide another layer of protection. A multipurpose ABC extinguisher is suitable for many common household fires, while K extinguishers are specifically designed for fires involving cooking oils and fats. Whatever type you have, make sure it is easy to reach and that everyone in the household knows where it is and how to use it.

Finally, make sure your smoke alarms are working before the holiday cooking begins. If an alarm sounds while you're cooking, don't remove the battery or disable it. Use the alarm's hush feature if available and clear the smoke from the area. And if a fire gets beyond your comfort or ability to safely control it, get everyone outside and call 911. A little preparation can help keep a holiday meal memorable for all the right reasons.



FIRE PREVENTION CONT.

LET'S TALK LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES

Lithium-ion batteries are everywhere in our day-to-day lives. Smartphones, laptops, cordless tools, e-bikes, and even cordless vacuums use lithium-ion batteries. They provide a convenient, rechargeable source of power and can store a lot of energy in a relatively small and lightweight package. Their long lifespan and ability to be recharged repeatedly have made them a common part of everyday life.

What makes lithium-ion batteries different from older types of rechargeable batteries is the way they store and release energy. Their chemistry allows them to hold more energy while keeping the battery relatively small and lightweight. That makes them useful for everything from the phone in your pocket to larger equipment like electric vehicles and energy storage systems. With so many of these batteries in our homes and communities, understanding how to use, charge, and store them safely is an important part of preventing battery-related fires.

USE:

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory, such as UL
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Attempt to use the device until the battery is fully depleted
- Educate household members about the risks and proper use of lithium-ion batteries

CHARGING:

- Only use the manufacturer's charger
- Charge devices when they are resting on a firm, flat surface
- Keep batteries at room temperature and away from sources of heat
- Avoid overcharging or leaving devices plugged in overnight

STORAGE:

- Store in temperature-controlled areas, avoiding extreme cold or extreme heat
- Keep out of high humidity areas
- Store away from flammable materials and combustibles
- Avoid stacking heavy objects on batteries or items that may puncture batteries

SIGNS OF PROBLEMS:

- Stop using the battery if you notice odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, swelling, leaking, or odd noises
- Damaged or malfunctioning batteries should be moved away from combustibles, if safe to do so
- Handle swollen or damaged batteries with care
- Call 9-1-1 if you believe there is an emergency

DISPOSAL:

- Lithium-ion batteries and the devices that contain them should not go in household garbage or recycling bins.
- Local waste management or recycling centers can take lithium-ion batteries. To prepare batteries for curbside-recycling or household hazardous waste collection, tape the terminal with non-conductive tape and separate batteries into its own clear plastic bag.

CARBON MONOXIDE: THE INVISIBLE DANGER

You can't see it. You can't smell it. You can't taste it. That's what makes carbon monoxide (CO) so dangerous. This colorless, odorless gas can build up when fuel-burning appliances or equipment aren't properly vented, and you may not realize there's a problem until you start feeling the effects.

Signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide exposure can include:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Weakness or unusual fatigue
- Confusion
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Loss of consciousness

If you suspect carbon monoxide is present, get outside into fresh air immediately. If it can be done safely, turn off the equipment causing the problem. Don't stay inside trying to track down the source or open windows and doors if doing so puts you at additional risk. Once you're safely outside, seek medical attention, particularly if anyone is experiencing symptoms.

The best way to prevent CO exposure is to keep fuel-burning appliances and equipment properly maintained and make sure they're used with adequate ventilation. Generators belong outside. So do grills, camp stoves, and other equipment that produces carbon monoxide. Never use them inside a home, garage, basement, shed, or other enclosed or partially enclosed space. Keep generators away from doors, windows, and other openings where exhaust could enter the building.

A carbon monoxide alarm is another important layer of protection. Install CO alarms near sleeping areas, test them regularly, and replace them according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

Carbon monoxide may be invisible, but that doesn't mean it has to catch you off guard.

BURNS: A LITTLE HEAT CAN CAUSE A LOT OF DAMAGE

Winter brings plenty of reasons to turn up the heat. Wood stoves are burning, space heaters are warming up cold rooms, heating pads are helping sore muscles, and holiday cooking puts more hot food and liquids in the kitchen. All of that extra heat also means more opportunities for burns.

Burns can happen quickly, so knowing what you're looking at – and what to do next – matters.

So, how bad is the burn?

Not every burn is an emergency, but some need medical attention. Burns are generally described by how deeply they damage the skin.

Superficial burns affect only the outermost layer of skin. The skin is usually red, dry and painful, similar to a sunburn. There are no blisters, and the skin isn't broken. These burns can generally be treated with basic first aid at home.

Partial-thickness burns extend deeper into the skin. They are often red, swollen, very painful and may develop blisters. Some smaller partial-thickness burns can heal with proper care, but larger or deeper burns may require medical treatment. **Don't pop the blisters.** They help protect the damaged skin underneath.

Full-thickness burns destroy the full thickness of the skin and can extend into deeper tissues. The skin may appear white, brown, black, or charred and can have a dry, leathery appearance. A full-thickness burn may be less painful than a more superficial burn because the nerves can be damaged. **These burns require immediate medical attention.**

And remember, depth isn't the only thing that determines how serious a burn is. The size and location matter, too. Burns involving the face, hands, feet, genitals or major joints should be evaluated by a medical professional. Large burns, burns that completely surround an arm or leg, and burns associated with trouble breathing or possible smoke inhalation require immediate medical attention.

What do you do when a burn happens?

First, stop the burning. Move away from the heat source and remove clothing or jewelry near the burn unless it is stuck to the skin.

Then, cool the burn. Hold the affected area under cool, clean, running water for about 20 minutes. Don't use ice. Ice can cause additional damage to already injured skin.

Once the burn has been cooled, loosely cover it with a clean, dry, nonstick dressing or clean cloth. Don't put butter, oil or other greasy substances on the burn, and don't pop blisters.

Call 911 for serious burns, including deep or extensive burns, burns involving the face or airway, burns associated with trouble breathing, or burns caused by electricity or chemicals. For burns that aren't an immediate emergency but are large, blistering, deep, or involve the hands, feet, face, genitals, or major joints, seek medical evaluation.

How do I prevent burns around the home?

A little prevention goes a long way, especially during the colder months.

Wood stoves and space heaters: Keep furniture, curtains, blankets, clothing and other combustible materials away from heat sources. Use a sturdy screen around a wood stove or fireplace, and plug space heaters directly into the wall outlet rather than an extension cord or power strip. Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

Heating pads: Heating pads can cause burns even when they don't feel extremely hot. Follow the manufacturer's instructions, avoid sleeping with a heating pad, and check your skin regularly if you're using one for an extended period.



In the kitchen: Keep pot handles turned inward, use oven mitts when handling hot cookware, and keep children away from the cooking area. Be especially careful when cooking with hot oil or moving pots of hot liquid.

Winter gives us plenty of reasons to enjoy the warmth. Just make sure the things keeping you warm don't become the things that hurt you.

CHICKEN DINNER

480 3RD ST
SCOTTS MILLS

SCOTTS MILLS
FIRE STATION

OCTOBER 17
4:30 – 7:00 PM



ADULTS	SENIORS	KIDS
\$15	\$12	\$10

LITHIUM ION BATTERY SAFETY

SMALL DEVICES. BIG IMPACT. SAFE CHOICES SAVE LIVES.

Lithium ion batteries power our everyday lives, but if misused or damaged, they can pose serious fire and injury risks. Learn how to use, charge, store, and dispose of batteries safely.



- USE QUALITY PRODUCTS**
Use certified chargers and batteries.
- CHARGE SAFELY**
Charge on hard, flat surfaces away from flammables.
- KEEP IT COOL**
Avoid extreme heat and direct sunlight.
- DISPOSE RESPONSIBLY**
Recycle or dispose of batteries properly.

SILVERTON FIRE DIST. OPEN HOUSES

THE WEEK OF

⚡ OCTOBER 5TH – OCTOBER 9TH ⚡

🕒 EACH DAY FROM 6:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

MONDAY OCTOBER 5 TH	TUESDAY OCTOBER 6 TH	WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7 TH	THURSDAY OCTOBER 8 TH	FRIDAY OCTOBER 9 TH
STATION 2	STATION 3	STATION 1	STATION 8	STATION 9
13404 Riches Rd SE	17447 Abiqua Rd NE	819 Railway Ave	480 3rd Street Scotts Mills	4724 Crooked Finger Rd NE Scotts Mills

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF

 FREE FOOD	 GAMES	 STATION TOURS	 MEET THE FIREFIGHTERS	 VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT	 FREE MERCH
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SAFER HOMES | STRONGER COMMUNITIES | TOGETHER