

News From The Ellsburg Volunteer Fire Department 20161005

Our October meeting took place on October 5, 2016 at 7pm. We responded to 1 fire call in September. October 9-15 was Fire Prevention Week. Our department put baskets of free literature at SA, OSL, Wilbert, and Melrude's Whistle Stop Bar. These booklets and brochures contain a wealth of information on fire prevention in your home. We hope you took one and read it!

Cooler weather is here now. It is time to fire up the furnaces and other sources of heat. It is also time to perform some safety measures to ensure that this heating season is a safe one for you. Make sure your furnace has been inspected so that there are no leaks. Clean your chimneys. Space heaters must be vented to the outdoors and have free space around them. Fireplaces and candles should never be left unattended. Don't forget to put a screen in front of your fireplace. Children are very curious about fire. Watch them and teach them fire safety. It is a good family project to go through the house and identify two ways out of each room in case of fire. Practice a family fire drill from each room. Children should be taught never to hide under their bed or behind a sofa if there is a fire. Decide on a family meeting place outside of the house, and away from the house, where family members will go in case there is a fire. Practice this with children often so that it becomes a habit. Now is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. If the alarms go off, get out of the house and call 911. Do not try to figure out if there really is a problem. You could be overcome before you can get out. The fire department has a thermal imaging camera to determine if there is fire in a hidden area such as in a wall. We also have a gas monitor that can determine if there is an unsafe level of oxygen, carbon monoxide, or hydrogen sulfide in your house or garage. Play it safe! Get out, call 911, and let us figure out if there is a problem.

On September 28, we trained with our ATV and Rescue Sled. We made sure that these vehicles were functioning properly and were stocked with all the equipment that we need to respond to someone lost or hurt in the woods or swamps of our township. Fall and winter draw people into the woods for various recreational activities such as 4-wheeling, hunting, hiking, and snowmobiling. Some preparation can keep these activities fun and safe for everyone. If you plan on being out in the woods, make sure that someone knows where you are planning to go and when you plan to return. Take warm clothes, fluids, and a fully charged cellphone. It is also good to have some GPS access, whether a hand-held unit or an app for your phone. If you feel that you are lost or injured, call 911 right away. Our department has a GPS unit that will help locate you, especially if you can give the coordinates of where you are.

Hunters generally know all the rules of safe hunting. Orange clothing, unload the gun before climbing into or down from the hunting stand, know where your hunting partners are....Yet, too often, someone gets shot. Hemorrhage, the second leading cause of death for injuries, can occur with a gunshot wound. This bleeding must be controlled as quickly as possible. Over 50% of people who die from gunshot wounds die from uncontrolled hemorrhage. There is a "Stop the Bleed" campaign that is spreading throughout the nation. This campaign resulted from events such as school and mall shootings. The purpose of this campaign is to teach bystanders how to stop hemorrhage by packing the wound with gauze and applying a tourniquet. Bleeding control kits are being placed in public places such as schools, courthouses, airports, and malls. The goal is to place these kits wherever AED's are placed. The kits contain gloves, gauze, tourniquets, shears, and other bandaging supplies. The gauze in most of these kits is impregnated with a substance that helps the blood to clot. Put the gloves on. Use the shears to cut away clothing from the wound. Shove the gauze deep into the wound and pack it in tight. Apply forceful, direct pressure until the bleeding stops. Apply a tourniquet if the bleeding doesn't stop. A homemade tourniquet usually can't get tight enough, but is better than no tourniquet. The important thing is to stop the bleeding. Many of these kits are being sold at hunting supply stores. Gander Mountain has some kits for sale by the checkout area. They cost around \$30 but they can save a life. They are only the size of the shears so it would be easy to take a kit with you when you hunt. Even purchasing just the gauze would make a difference. You could pack your own wound depending on its location. Of course you will call 911, but it takes time for responders to get to you. Being able to stop the bleed immediately can make the difference between life and death. Be prepared!