



# West Valley Fire Department

Issue I/ 2020

*"Protecting And Serving Our Community"*

## Help Us Help You

### When to call 911:

- An uncontrolled fire breaks out in a building, vehicle, power pole or a wildland fire is burning out of control.
- A life-threatening medical emergency such as chest pain, choking, difficulty speaking, confusion, drowning, loss of consciousness, shortness of breath, severe bleeding, poisoning/overdose, sudden intense pain, severe burns, a suicide, threat or trauma.
- A vehicle crash with injuries, hazardous material spill or a person in need of rescue.
- If you witness a crime such as assault or burglary.

When calling 911 know your location, it is one of the first things you will be asked, answer all the dispatcher's questions and don't hang up until they tell you to. Follow all instructions from the dispatcher to the best of your ability.

### When NOT to call 911:

- A loud party or barking dog, a power outage, burst water pipes or paying a ticket.
- You have a cold or flu symptoms, food poisoning, a fever, someone has a minor cut or injury capable of going to urgent care on their own.
- If you see smoke or flames off in the distance but can't tell what is on fire, odds are it's a controlled burn, please verify what is burning before calling 911.
- If you come upon a vehicle off the road or appears to be in a collision, please stop and ask if anyone is hurt or wants an ambulance before calling 911.
- You have a need to go to the hospital for a non-emergent reason but don't have a means of transportation call an ambulance company directly instead of 911.

Never call 911 for any situation that's clearly not an emergency.

Yakima County Fire District 12 is a combination fire department with 84 dedicated citizens that are on-call members supported by six full time members that respond to around 800 all-risk emergencies annually within our 90 square miles from four fire stations protecting a population of 14,155 citizens.

- Make sure your address is visible from the street. If you need an address sign contact us and we will install one free.
- Ensure you have working smoke detectors on every level of your home. If you need detectors contact us and we will install them for free.

**What we do:** Our Mission is to preserve and protect life then property through education, prevention, emergency services and disaster preparedness.

- Provide Public Education in Fire Prevention and Life Safety.
- Fire Suppression to save lives and minimize property damage.
- Fire Investigation, cause and origin to improve life safety.
- Rescue/Extrication to save lives.
- Emergency Medical Services, BLS first response.
- Hazardous Materials Emergency Response for life safety.
- Emergency/Disaster Management using the Incident Command System.
- Administrative Services, human resources, accounting and administration.
- Support Services, maintaining buildings and equipment.
- Member Safety through a safety committee and training.

### 2019 False Alarms

Outdoor open burning	37
Non-injury vehicle collisions or car off road	30
Automatic Fire Alarms	44
Automatic Medical Alarms	13
Medical call where no aid was wanted	37

### Help us reduce false alarms:

- In 2019 we had 161 false alarms.
- If you have a fire alarm system in your home or business have it serviced annually and ensure the alarm company has a valid phone number for you.
- If you have a medic alert type medical alarm, ensure the button for help is not too easily activated and the alarm company has a valid phone number for you.
- If you have either type of alarm and you accidentally set your alarm off notify your company right away it is a false alarm and/or answer your phone immediately.
- Remember we live in an agriculture community where open burning is common. If you see smoke or fire at a distance and are unsure what is burning, please verify the fire is not a controlled burn before calling 911. If an open burn is bothering you contact Clean Air.

### Resources you can use for non-emergency situations:

- An issue with a burn permit, open burning or smoke that is not a threat to life or property, call directly to Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency (509) 834-2050, they regulate burning.
- A Fire code issue such as driveways, weedy lots and other potential fire hazards are handled by Yakima County Fire Marshal (509) 574-2300.
- A building code issue or any other issue with codes call Yakima County (509) 884-9515.
- If you have a non-emergent need for an ambulance to transport to the hospital you may call them directly for assistance. In West Valley we are served by both Advanced Life Systems (509) 574-8444 and American Medical Response (509) 248-3611.
- Calling 911 and going to the hospital via ambulance, contrary to popular belief, does not get you seen faster. All hospital emergency rooms triage incoming patients and see them in order of priority based on severity of illness or injury. If you are sick and need to see your doctor we suggest, if you have a ride, contact your doctor's office or an urgent care clinic for treatment rather than calling 911. With the closing of Astria Hospital Yakima, non-life-threatening medical problems at Memorial will cause long delays in treatment.
- If you are unsure of who can help with your issue call 211 and ask for assistance.

**When in doubt call 911! Never hesitate to call 911 for an emergency. If you are not sure just call and the 911 operator will determine who best can help your situation.**

If you have any questions about our capabilities or limitations, please call us (509) 966-3111 and we can answer your questions.

YAKIMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #12  
 WEST VALLEY FIRE-RESCUE  
 10000 ZIER ROAD  
 YAKIMA, WA 98908

PRSR STD  
 U.S Postage  
**PAID**  
 YAKIMA, WA  
 PERMIT NO. 7

\*\*ECR WSS  
 POSTAL CUSTOMER

# 2019 CALL VOLUME

MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	%
Fires	97	11.10%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	598	68.42%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	1	0.11%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	9	1.03%
Service Call	51	5.84%
Good Intent Call	61	6.98%
False Alarm & False Call	57	6.52%
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS FOR 2019</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Calendar of Events

### February

17th Presidents Day-Office Closed  
 25th Commissioner Meeting 4:00 pm

### March

8th Daylight Savings Begins  
 10th Commissioner Meeting 7:00 pm  
 24th Commissioner Meeting 4:00 pm

### April

7th-13th National Volunteer Week  
 11th Egg Hunt April 1:00 pm  
 12th Easter  
 14th Commissioner Meeting 7:00 pm  
 27th Commissioner Meeting 4:00 pm

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Yakima County Fire District 12 is currently accepting applications for the positions of Volunteer Firefighter, and Non-Combat Support Services. If you are a self motivated individual that is looking for a way to serve your community in a fast paced, hands-on environment we encourage you to apply! The position of firefighter requires physical endurance. Firefighter's respond to all types of incidents including structure and wildland fires, hazmat, all-risk incidents and emergency medical situations. If the physical aspect of firefighting does not appeal to you but you would still like to serve your community, our Support Services team is also looking for members. Support Services, also known as "Rehab", primary function is to take care of our own members on extended incidents. This includes monitoring vitals, keeping members hydrated, as well as many other aspects of firefighter health and safety. If you are interested in either of these roles, please turn your application in before 5PM on March 31st. Applications can be found online at [www.westvalleyfire.com](http://www.westvalleyfire.com), or picked up/dropped off at our Administration office, located at 10000 Zier Rd, Yakima, WA 98908

## 2019 EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

**January: Jason Tupy**  
**February: Jessica Carter & Andrew Pfaff**  
**March: Amber Tupy**  
**April: Seth Merritt**  
**May: Jan Popejoy**  
**June: Nathan Hede**  
**July: Lindsey Christopher**  
**August: Carl Hendrickson**  
**September: Shauna Hubbard**  
**October: Angela Boyd**  
**November: Chris Payne**  
**December: Andrew Pfaff**

### West Valley Firefighter Associations

#### Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11th @ 1pm

- Pictures with the Easter Bunny & Sparky (Bring your camera)
- 3 different age groups (1-3, 4-6 & 7-9)

For questions call  
 509-966-3111

West Valley Fire Department



Daylight Savings March 8th



### Open Burn Season

Outdoor burn season runs from March 15-October 15. Burn permits are **REQUIRED** for the season and can be purchased at Stein's Ace Hardware or the Clean Air Agency. Please give us a courtesy call on the days you are burning to help prevent false alarms. 509-966-3111