

FULL SPEED AHEAD

New boat is equipped with thermal imaging camera to aid in water rescues

TVF&R's specialized Water Rescue Team has a new vessel in its fleet to replace a 17-year-old jet boat that has served the community well.

The deployment of the new Boat 59 enhances the team's ability to respond quickly to water rescues; stranded swimmers, anglers, kayakers and boaters; boat fires; fires on islands or near shorelines with access issues by land; and incidents involving icy or swampy terrain.

"We are very pleased to put this new rescue boat into service," said Fire Chief Mike Duyck. "With warmer weather approaching, water rescue calls will be on the rise, and we want to be best prepared to respond to the needs of our residents and visitors."

The new 23-foot-long boat is outfitted to maneuver through all navigable waterways within the District in nearly all weather and water conditions. It is designed to travel in 6 inches of water with eight people onboard and is customized to support a high-pressure fire pump

that has the ability to deliver 200 gallons of water per minute.

Boat 59 is equipped with deck and overhead lights, quick startup, radio communications, navigation aids, increased fuel capacity, and a Forward Looking Infrared Radiometer generously donated by FLIR.

FLIR and TVF&R make an important pair for water rescue



missions. FLIR's roof-mounted thermal imaging camera and 12-inch screen display will assist the team, specifically in nighttime operations when most water rescues occur.

The device is able to give the rescue team "night vision" to see a person's body in the water more easily with thermal technology.

"This device can be used as a

nighttime navigation tool as well," said Captain Jon Voeller, who leads the Water Rescue Team. "It's a game changer. With such a large range of calls, FLIR's technology helps us perform our jobs in the safest manner."

Upgrades in the boat's design also enhance performance.

Unlike the older boat, this one tracks much better while traveling up and downstream in a heavy current, increasing safety and performance immensely, Voeller said.

A reverse feature on this vessel allows for critical slow-speed maneuvers around tight quarters for docking, approaching other boats in distress or use during rescue operations to pitch or ferry the boat to a specific angle to assist in rescue operations.

"The new boat also has ample onboard lighting, which improves response times during nighttime hours," Voeller said. "When our rescuers can't see, it really slows operations down."

Before you head to the water, have a safety plan.

- ◆ Watch kids at all times when they're in or near water.
- ◆ Keep young children within arm's reach of an adult.
- ◆ Teach kids how to swim and basic water safety rules.
- ◆ Have a charged cellphone close by at all times.
- ◆ Learn to perform CPR on children and adults.
- ◆ Wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life vest.
- ◆ Know your limits and never swim alone.
- ◆ Be aware of uneven surfaces, hazards and currents.



Support safety efforts at popular destinations

As part of the Safe Kids Coalition-Washington County, TVF&R fire stations serve as collection sites for those who would like to donate new or gently used personal flotation devices.

These life jackets are used to stock public kiosks at several loaner stations located at Hagg Lake, including Boat Ramp C and the Sain Creek Swim Area. Each kiosk offers an array of sizes for visitors to borrow.

As we welcome summer, Washington County park rangers have 250 donated life jackets available to stock the loaner stations. Funding for replacement life jackets comes from public contributions and grants. Hagg Lake is always in need of serviceable U.S. Coast Guard-approved

life jackets in various sizes to keep the kiosks stocked throughout the summer.

A similar community effort is underway in Yamhill County to stock a kiosk at Roger's Landing along the Willamette River in Newberg.

"Every year, we are so grateful for people in our communities who are willing to donate personal flotation devices for these kiosks," said Public Education Chief Joanne Hatch. "We know that by working together, we can save lives."

For information about how you can help, call 503-649-8577.

At a glance: TVF&R's Water Rescue Team

When people need help, seconds can mean the difference between life and death. TVF&R's Water Rescue Team trains once a week to ensure response readiness and hone specialized skills. On any given day, five to six water rescue technicians are on duty ready to respond around the clock. These are firefighters cross-trained in swift-water rescue, rope rescue techniques and boat operations.

The team is strategically positioned at Station 59 in West Linn and Station 21 in Newberg near the Willamette River.

In 2016, the team responded to 60 water rescue incidents.

TVF&R's team is a member of the Clackamas County Interagency Water Consortium. The consortium works to improve safety and performance in the water environment. This group trains together for water rescue incidents three days per month and responds to anywhere from 50 to 80 incidents per year.

Other members of the consortium include Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Dive/Rescue Team, Clackamas County Fire District 1, Lake Oswego Fire Department, Gladstone Fire Department, Estacada Rural Fire District 69, Canby Fire District 62, Sandy Fire District 72, C-COM and American Medical Response.



safety matters

2017 News & Tips Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue



Serving you around the clock

Firefighter Paramedic Griffin Rojo was home with his wife, when PulsePoint triggered the Verified Responder alert on his phone.

A glance at the screen told him CPR was needed at a residence just a few blocks away.

Knowing the neighborhood, he and his wife, who is a registered nurse, rushed to the scene to provide assistance.

Upon arrival, Rojo identified himself as an off-duty firefighter with TVF&R who was there to help. The patient's wife, who was on the phone with an emergency dispatcher, was relieved to see him. "She didn't ask, 'Who are you?' She said, 'Please come inside and help.'"

Rojo didn't hesitate. He moved the man to the ground, checked for a pulse, initiated CPR and gathered medical history. He could hear the on-duty crews from Station 51 coming, relayed information to them via the 911 dispatcher and continued to assist them when they arrived.

"The PulsePoint alert was very straightforward and easy to use," Rojo said. "It's a fantastic way to get trained people on scene quickly. I was able to get there two to three minutes before the crews and begin care. It saves time, and I can see how it could improve patient outcomes and save lives."

You can also help our crews.

Bystander CPR and AED use can triple the chances of survival. You can be a civilian lifesaver! Download our free PulsePoint app on your smartphone today. Subscribers are alerted to a nearby cardiac emergency in a public place, so they can give hands-only CPR until responders arrive and take over patient care.



VERIFIED RESPONDER

New program taps off-duty firefighters to respond to cardiac emergencies with AEDs

Each year, approximately 350,000 sudden cardiac arrests occur outside a hospital in the United States. Nearly 90 percent of these events prove fatal, and the chance of survival decreases by 10 percent with every passing minute without CPR.

Though survival rates in the Pacific Northwest exceed the national average, TVF&R is boosting efforts to continually improve cardiac arrest response, survival and patient outcomes.

In February, TVF&R and Tualatin Valley Firefighters Local 1660 teamed up with the PulsePoint Foundation and Philips Healthcare to launch the new Verified Responder Pilot Program.

The program unlocks a new PulsePoint feature that activates 281 of our off-duty, professional firefighters who live throughout our area to respond to nearby cardiac arrest calls in both public and private settings.

Because our firefighters are certified emergency medical technicians or paramedics who receive background checks in Oregon, they are able to respond to cardiac emergencies that happen in people's homes even when they're off the clock.

Philips Healthcare loaned every participating firefighter an automated external defibrillator (AED) so that if they respond, they can employ similar technology used by on-duty crews to restart a heart that has stopped beating.

"Four years ago, we were the first fire department in Oregon to launch PulsePoint's app for civilian responders," said Fire Chief Mike Duyck. "We are humbled to partner with them again as the first agency to pilot the Verified Responder Program and hope that it's the beginning of a national movement."

The effort will gather important data and combine it with existing technology and

clinical insights to inform future lifesaving strategies and products. During the pilot, King County EMS (Wash.) will assist in evaluating the program for potential expansion to additional communities across the nation.

"Firefighters know all too well that their skills are sometimes needed when off the clock," said Richard Price of the PulsePoint Foundation. "In some ways, PulsePoint Verified Responder simply formalizes the 'always in service' dedication and full-time commitment that comes with the badge."

"We understand that the moments between someone's heart stopping and when the emergency responders get to the scene are crucial, and we are grateful for the opportunity to be part of this important pilot program," added Joe Sovak of Philips Healthcare. "The faster help is able to intervene, the greater the opportunity for another life saved."

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This past year marked another milestone in our history and mission to improve the safety and reliability of service in our region.

On July 1, the communities of North Plains, Midway, Scholls and portions of central Washington County will become a permanent part of Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue.

I have long believed that active partnerships between individuals, community organizations, businesses, and local government are key to community health and safety. With that in mind, I am pleased to share ways we are working — on and off duty — to improve cardiac arrest survival, provide critical medical care in the field, and respond faster to calls for help with well-trained firefighters while preventing emergencies through education and preparedness.

Without the investment from our community, we would not be able to make such strides.

We will not take your support for granted, and we will continue to carry the mantle of stewardship and craftsmanship with pride.

In service,

Michael R. Duyck

Michael R. Duyck,
Fire Chief

Follow Chief Duyck on Twitter: @TVFChief



CHIEF'S CORNER



PREPARING FOR FIRE SEASON



Wildfires can happen here, and TVF&R crews are gearing up

It's important for property owners living in rural or interface areas to take steps to assist in helping to protect their home and land from potential wildfires this summer.

During a wildfire, time is crucial, and resources are limited. What you've done before a fire strikes may determine whether firefighters are able to save your home and other structures on your property.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue has taken deliberate steps in the past 20 years to ensure a quick and effective response to wildfire, including investing in specialized wildland vehicles and equipment.

Firefighters also participate in hands-on training, and TVF&R offers complimentary inspections to homeowners to discuss preventative measures.

Ensure firefighters can quickly find your home by posting your address at the beginning of a long driveway. Make sure your street is named or numbered and a sign is posted at each street intersection.

Access to your property is also crucial. To ensure crews can safely respond, cut back low-hanging tree limbs and clear dense vegetation and debris from the road or driveway. Driveways should be 20 feet wide and have a minimum clearance of 15 feet overhead.

TVF&R urges residents to use extreme caution with smoking materials, barbecues, and other open flames.

Create a defensible space

Now is the perfect time to create a 30-foot defensible space or safety zone around your home.

You can help us protect your property.

- De-limb trees at least 10 feet up from the ground and cut back tree limbs hanging over your roof. Trim branches that are within 10 feet of a chimney.
- Remove leaves, brush, and other debris from gutters, rooftop, stairs and underneath decks and crawlspaces.
- Regularly mow and water lawns and other green belts on your property. Keep landscaping well pruned and watered.
- Plant low-growing, fire-resistant plants such as groundcover, perennials, and annuals near your home. Plant individual shrubs and hardwood trees at least 10 feet from structures.
- Store firewood and other combustibles at least 100 feet from your home.

For more wildfire safety tips, visit www.tvfr.com



REINFORCING MEDICAL RESPONSE

District welcomes first recruit academy of specialized paramedics to ranks

Not all calls require an engine with four firefighter EMTs/paramedics and a full cache of tools.

Depending on the severity and type of situation, TVF&R can strategically respond with an engine, truck, medic unit, heavy rescue, water rescue boat, hazardous materials unit or even a car staffed by one firefighter paramedic.

Now, for the first time in TVF&R's history, we have paramedics assigned to some of our stations who are not required to also serve as firefighters.

"Our new paramedics will respond to emergency and non-emergency medical incidents, provide advanced life support care during complex calls, and may transport critically ill patients," said Assistant Chief Deric Weiss, who oversees TVF&R's emergency operations. "We believe



this will improve our ability to respond quickly while maintaining reliability of firefighter crews when more people with technical expertise are needed to perform rescues or fight fires."

In 2016, TVF&R crews provided medical care at 29,693 incidents, representing nearly 70 percent of the total incidents in our service area.

TVF&R's medic units also transported 3,051 patients. This includes transport services provided primarily within the Newberg Ambulance Service Area as part of our contract with the city and in Clackamas County through a partnership with American Medical Response.

Twelve paramedics recently completed TVF&R's new paramedic recruit academy, and in June began their medic unit assignments with field training officers.

"Our goal for this academy was the same we have for every academy — preparing really great responders who will serve with the same high level of compassion and commitment our community has come to expect from TVF&R," said EMS Division Chief Brent VanKeulen.

"These are qualified, well-trained paramedics," said Training Officer Phil Gately. "Many of them came to us with extensive patient care experience. They're extremely talented and bring an amazing amount of knowledge and medical skills to our existing team of firefighter EMTs and paramedics."

As part of the academy, the recruit paramedics completed more than 250 hours of additional training. They were tested weekly on practical skills and medical protocol knowledge and were required to reach performance benchmarks.

Recruits also gained insight on the culture of our organization and how to provide medical support to firefighters on the scene of fires, hazardous material incidents, vehicle extrications and other complex emergencies.

"Having these paramedics on our team bolsters our ability to provide high-quality medical care on every incident," VanKeulen said.

252

Firefighter/
Paramedics

174

Firefighter/
Emergency Medical
Technicians

12

Specialized
Paramedics

EXPANDING SERVICE

Washington County Fire District 2 joins TVF&R as Newberg considers its future options

It's official. As of July 1, Washington County Fire District 2 will permanently join Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue's service area.

This addition expands our western boundary to include the communities of North Plains, Midway, Scholls, Helvetia, Rock Creek, and central Washington County and ensures emergency services in the area will continue in the future.

The action follows 67 percent voter approval of a November ballot measure to dissolve District 2, allowing its territory to annex into TVF&R for fire protection and emergency medical services.

As part of an effort to strengthen response efforts across the region, TVF&R is continuing to offer contract services to the city of Newberg and surrounding rural area. Because the contract is not a long-term solution, leaders from Newberg and TVF&R are gathering community input to evaluate whether joining forces permanently will be a good fit financially, operationally, and politically.

District 2 and Newberg initially approached TVF&R for contract services due to funding limitations that have made it difficult to sustain adequate staffing, maintain equipment, and comply with national standards given increased service demands in their areas.

As part of our contract commitments, TVF&R increased staffing at North Plains Station 17, Midway Station 19, and both stations 20 and 21 in Newberg by securing a federal grant to fund the positions. The District also improved apparatus, offered ongoing critical skills training, provided vehicle maintenance and reserve apparatus while preserving each department's community engagement in public events.

Fulfilling contract commitments has not disrupted services TVF&R provides to Beaverton, Durham, King City, Rivergrove, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin, West Linn, Wilsonville and unincorporated portions of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington counties.

The TVF&R of today is rooted in similar partnerships. TVF&R took shape between 1972 and 2004, as a number of small and rural fire departments consolidated to share limited resources and save money. It's because of these consolidation and annexation efforts that the District has the benefits of a large cooperative while maintaining a small-town feel. TVF&R achieves cost savings through economies of scale such as buying trucks and equipment in bulk, reducing administrative overhead, and leveraging a system of response to strategically locate stations, resources, and personnel.

We were humbled by the endorsement we received from the community. We are eager to provide service permanently to area residents and excited that District 2 firefighters and staff have joined our family. We will be good stewards and fulfill our commitment to provide fast and effective fire and emergency medical services.

— Fire Chief Mike Duyck

We're hiring firefighters to join our team

Do you have what it takes?

Now is your opportunity to learn more about a career in the fire service.

TVF&R is offering a Career Day on October 14 that includes hands-on experiences in primary firefighter responsibilities and presentations on station life, volunteer opportunities, the hiring process, emergency medicine, prevention, public safety education and more.

The application period opens July 14. We will review the first 150 applications and select 24 participants to join us. The deadline to apply is September 15, but may close earlier if we receive enough applications for consideration.

Candidates must be 18 or older. We are an equal opportunity employer and encourage applications from minorities, females and veterans.

Apply online at www.tvfr.com/careers.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue is recruiting entry-level firefighters to join us in our mission to provide fast and effective emergency response.

We plan to hire 16 new recruits in the next fiscal year to staff additional apparatus and stations as they come online and backfill for retirements.

The District will begin the recruitment process in mid-September to fill firefighter openings in early 2018. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for mid-October. Successful candidates will then begin our four-month recruit academy in March.

After graduation from the academy, recruits will be assigned to a fire station with a field training officer and must successfully complete several benchmark tests of their skills over the next eight months. We look forward to training and welcoming the newest members of our team.

Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue is well positioned for the future because of the communities we serve.

Voters approved a five-year local option levy in May 2014, allowing TVF&R to retain 42 firefighters hired since 2000 and add 44 more over time to ensure response reliability and create safer communities.

Since November 2015, we have welcomed 56 firefighters to our team. That includes 12 professional firefighters from Washington County Fire District 2 and 23 from the Newberg Fire Department.

As we enter the third year of the replacement levy, we continue to invest in response enhancements, including the purchase of new apparatus. Your levy investment has also enabled us to begin construction of Rosemont Station 55 in West Linn and secure land for future stations within our service area to meet increasing response needs.

