



WILDERNESS RANCH FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Commissioners: Chris Collins (District 1) • Josh Owens (District 2) • Paul Knepper (District 3)
Fire Chief: Colton McCarthy

Insurance companies and district residents

July 17th, 2024

To whom it may concern,

Wilderness Ranch Fire Protection District is a political subdivision of the state per Chapter 14, Title 31 of Idaho Code. This means the fire department is funded through a levy that the county collects along with property taxes, which nearly guarantees a regular budget for continued operations, as opposed to a regular volunteer fire department which relies on fundraisers and subscriptions for their funding.

The department has one paid position, the fire chief, who ensures a level of coverage for initial response, meaning we always have people on hand to respond. Currently we do not staff the station 24/7, but the fire chief works at the station in general 5 days a week. We always have one leadership position on call, and ensure we have firefighters and EMTs in district for response. Members go through regularly scheduled training throughout the year along with extracurricular training outside the department. There are approximately 30 members on the roster which helps keep us well staffed to take care of incidents. We also have strong mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments (9 other Boise County Fire Departments, Atlanta Fire in Elmore County and Gem County 2 Fire in Gem County). We also hold Mutual Aid Agreements and Memorandum of Understanding with the local state wildland firefighting agency, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), that helps ensure assistance from state and federal wildland agencies for the suppression of wildland fires. Our district also resides within the IDL Southwest District and adjacent to Boise National Forest and Boise District BLM. There are ample wildland resources stationed a short distance away to suppress any wildland fire in the area. This area is a targeted area for keeping an adequate supply of firefighting resources on hand throughout the summer.

The district has one primary station within the Wilderness Ranch Subdivision at 46 Wilderness Ranch Road, Boise, ID 83716 and another satellite station in Osprey Subdivision at 104 Falcon Drive, Boise, ID 83716. At our primary station, we house a command vehicle, rescue vehicle (equipped for various types of rescue), a type 5 brush engine, a type 1 structure engine, a type 1 tactical water tender a motorized rescue raft and a swiftwater rescue raft. At our satellite station we house 1 type 6 brush engine, 1 type 2 structure engine and 1 type 2 water support tender. The furthest we need to travel to a home within the district is approximately 4 miles by road. Primary roads within the district are maintained regularly. All but one vehicle of the department is a 4x4 or 6x6 and remains chained during winter months to ensure the ability to respond to any home.

Wilderness Ranch Fire Protection District cares about incident prevention and actively participates in various prevention efforts, including training local residents, applying for and helping administer fuel mitigation grants and projects and advising residents of various policies, restrictions and regulations that help prevent fires from occurring. This area is also targeted for increased funding to reduce risk to the community from wildfires, which is supporting an increase in fuel mitigation and other risk reducing projects.

Sincerely,

Colton McCarthy
Fire Chief

Wilderness Ranch Fire Protection District