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Coos Bay Fire Department and Northwest Natural Host “Get Ready Coos Bay” Event.

Disasters can strike quickly and without warning. They can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services such as water, gas, electricity or telephones were cut off? Emergency response personnel will be on scene shortly after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away. Families can cope with a disaster by preparing in advance and working as a team.



If a natural disaster hits our area, the Coos Bay Fire Department and Northwest Natural want you and your family to be prepared. Join us on Saturday, September 12th for a natural disaster preparedness event that will help you “Get Ready”.

During the Get Ready Coos Bay event we will be providing a free lunch. The first 100 families that attend will also receive a free Red Cross emergency kit. All area residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

It’s all taking place on **Saturday, September 12th from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M.** at the Coos Bay Fire Department, which is located at 450 Elrod Ave. in downtown Coos Bay.



The Coos Bay Fire Department would like to remind everyone to keep enough supplies in your home to meet your needs for at least three days. Assemble a Disaster Supply Kit with items you may need in the event of an evacuation. Store your supplies in sturdy, easy to carry containers such as backpacks or duffel bags. If you need any additional information about this event, please contact Battalion Chief Dan Crutchfield at (541) 269-1191.

THE SALMON ARE BACK! - For those heading to the water to catch a few, here are some things to keep in mind.



For those heading out to the Empire boat ramp, be aware that the Coos Bay North Bend Water Board has a water main replacement project underway. There will be traffic detours in the vicinity requiring drivers to be attentive and may create slight delays. Access down to the boat ramp is open.



Anglers along the boardwalk, in the vicinity of the City Docks, are asked to be mindful of the moored boats in order to avoid hitting the boats with their tackle. Anglers are also reminded not to trespass on moored boats in order to retrieve snagged tackle.



For those using the Eastside boat ramp, the new fish cleaning station is in place but is not fully operational. The station can be used to process your fish. We ask that the carcass and entrails be disposed of into the nearby dumpsters.

Boaters are also reminded about “slow-no wake zones”. Maximum 5 mph within 200’ of the boat ramps or moored boats (e.g. the City Docks).



WASTEWATER RATES – In last week’s Friday Update I reported that the City Council would be holding a public hearing regarding a possible rate adjustment for users classified as “high strength” (restaurants, delis, laundry mats, nursing homes, and grocery stores with food services). At the request of the Council the public hearing has been postponed while staff gathers additional information for the Council’s consideration.

COMMITTEE OPENING - The City of Coos Bay is seeking a volunteer to fill an opening on the Urban Renewal Advisory Committee. Applications and information is available from the City Manager’s Office during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, by calling 541-269-8912, on the City’s website at www.coos.bay.org, or by sending an email to Jackie at jmickelson@coosbay.org. Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, September 22nd. Applicants will be contacted for interviews and appointments will be made by the City Council at the October 6th regular council meeting.



Coos Bay City Hall
500 Central Avenue
Coos Bay, OR 97420
www.coosbay.org

Police Department
(541) 269-8911

Fire Department
(541) 269-1191

Library
(541) 269-1101

Community Development Department
(541) 269-8918
or
(541) 269-8924

Public Works Department
(541) 269-8918

Finance Department
(541) 269-8915

City Manager's Office
(541) 269-8912

Four Students Join the Fire Department

The Fire Department has added four young faces to their roster. For more than 50 years, the department has had a student program that allows a select few college students to live in the fire station as they learn the skills of the trade. The students work alongside the career staff and are a valuable resource to the department. This partnership enhances the department's capability while giving these recruits hands-on experience and mentorship that ultimately helps them as they pursue a career in the fire service or other professional occupation.



In order to be eligible for the student program, applicants must be enrolled (full-time) in the Fire Science or Paramedic program at Southwestern Oregon Community College. It is a two year program, but may be extended for students in a dual-degree path. The department received 10 applications for four open positions in the student program. The applicants were interviewed and completed a rigorous testing process before the four students and alternates were selected. The new students (two male, two female) join two returning students for a total of six student firefighters. Over the next 3 weeks, the students will be participating in an intense training academy designed to get them "up to speed" before the start of their regular school schedule. Some students come from local schools, but the program has had students from all over Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northern California.

While participation in the student program doesn't guarantee a career in the fire service, a very high percentage of the department's former students have found work in emergency services as a Firefighter, Police Officer or Paramedic. Of the 16 career staff employed by the City of Coos Bay, six had first proven themselves as students with the department.

