

# Sheridan – SW Polk – West Valley Fire Districts



March 13, 2020

Dear Communities of Sheridan, SW Polk and West Valley Fire Districts,

Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) cases in area, Sheridan, SW Polk and West Valley Fire Districts are taking proactive steps to reduce any unnecessary exposure to our communities, staff and volunteers. We are taking these additional measures to help reduce the risk of exposure and community spread of this virus. We will be limiting the public access to our stations and our staff. These stations include Ballston, Buell, Sheridan, Rickreall, Grand Ronde, and Willamina. First responders are one of the most likely populations to be exposed to COVID-19 and we want to reduce the risk to our communities as much as possible.

Effective immediately, we will implement the following:

1. New requests for the use of district meeting rooms by outside organizations or members of the public will not be accepted. Meetings currently scheduled will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. After any public use of meeting rooms, our personnel will clean tables and areas used by the public.
2. All fire station and apparatus tours are suspended.
3. All non-emergency appearances by first responders at community meetings and public events are suspended.
4. Ride-alongs and job shadows are suspended.

These restrictions will be in place until further notice. We want to assure our communities that we are working closely with Oregon Health Authority, Polk County Public Health, and Yamhill Public Health to ensure we are using the most up-to-date protocols and procedures to protect both our communities and our staff.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit <https://www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus>. We encourage you to only get your information from the CDC or the Oregon Health Authority to ensure you have the most accurate information.

Thank you for your understanding,

Fred Hertel  
Fire Chief