



# FLORENCE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

**VOLUNTEERS SERVING WITH PRIDE**

**SUMMER  
2023**

**NEW WATER  
SYSTEM**

**NEW WATER  
TENDER**

**FREE  
WILDFIRE  
HOME  
ASSESSMENT**

**4th OF JULY**

**FALL  
BURNING  
TIPS**



A new water system is located on Hidden Valley North, providing fire units with a reliable water source year round.

Photo: John L Ames, FRFD

## **NEW WATER SYSTEM**

The two most important resources for firefighting are trained and well equipped firefighters and an adequate water supply. The Florence Rural Fire District (FRFD) is fortunate to have recent increases in both of these resources.

First, in the past several years the FRFD was awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant to recruit, equip, and train new firefighters and EMTs.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1:

We were very successful in recruiting over twenty new members, increasing our roster to 46 members, and we invested over \$75,000.00 of the FEMA grant funding for new personal protective gear, equipment and training.

Second, the FRFD has also been actively increasing our available water supply. With the gracious cooperation of [Jon and Danielle Norcross](#), the FRFD has developed a new 30,000 gallon water system on Hidden Valley Road North.

### **Thank you Jon & Danielle.**

This location helps to provide a dedicated water source on the East side of Florence, and will complement the existing 30,000 gallon water system at FRFD Station One. These two water systems will substantially improve the efficiency of the FRFD water shuttle operations, and the new system will contribute to a better ISO fire rating for the Florence Rural Fire District.

*By: Charles K Brewer, FRFD*

A special shout out to Florence Fire Lieutenant **Gordon McCullough** (who was the project manager) for his dedication and commitment to make this project possible.

### **Thank You Gordon!!!**



**Project Manager Gordon McCullough (in green vest and yellow helmet) directs placement of one of the water tanks for the water fill site.**

**Photo: John L Ames, FRFD**





Prototype photo of new water tender

## IN THE WORKS

The Florence Rural Fire District is in the process of replacing a water tender which is over 27 years old with a new modern water tender with updated safety components and features compliant with state and federal standards.

The new water tender is being manufactured by Rosenbauer Fire Apparatus and will be on a Freightliner single axle chassis. It will carry 2000 gallons and have a 1000 gpm pump. There will also be a built in hose reel and a monitor on the front bumper allowing the driver to spray water on a fire from the cab. It will also carry a 2100 gallon portable water tank to allow the tender to off-load it's water at a fire and then go for more water while fire units on scene draft out of the porta tank.

The water tender is currently in production and Rosenbauer anticipates an end of the year delivery. This new unit will provide many years of service for the district.



WATER TENDER WITH A PORTA TANK.

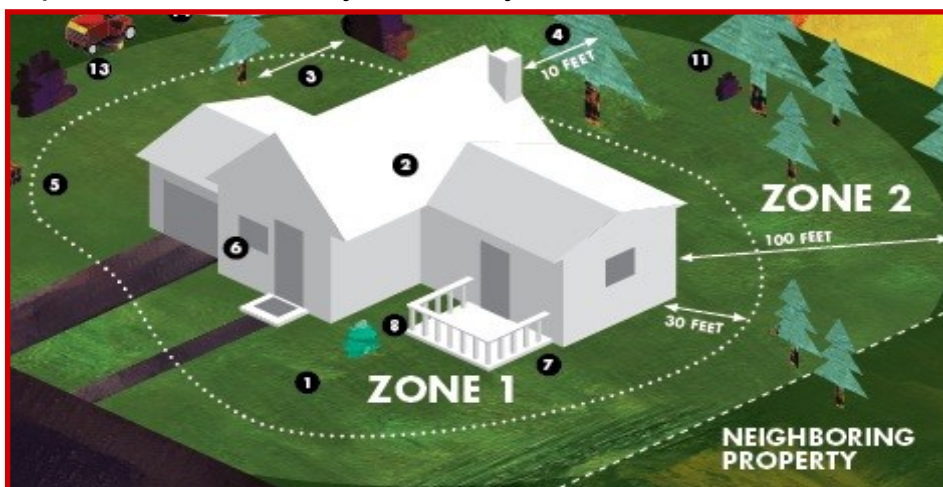


# FREE WILDFIRE HOME ASSESSMENTS

Each year in the United States, wildland fires consume hundreds of homes in the Wildland-Urban Interface. Studies show that as many as 80% of the homes lost to wildland fire could have been saved if their owners had only followed a few simple firesafe practices. Have you ever wondered if your home and property is prepared for a wildfire? If so, the Florence Rural Fire District offers a **Wildfire Home Assessment**. Members of the District will come to your home and do a **FREE** wildfire assessment. This report will point out possible hazards to your home and property and will make suggestions on how to mitigate these hazards. Then you can work at your time and schedule to make any necessary change you need to protect your home and family from wildfire. For more information and to schedule an assessment, go to:

<https://sites.google.com/view/fireintheroot/home>.

Make sure your family knows what to do in case of a home or wildland fire. There is no better time than now to prepare and educate your family.







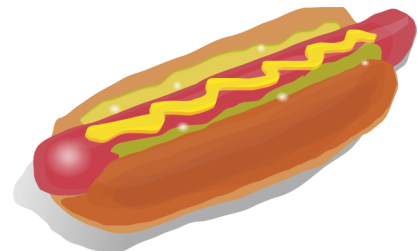
# JULY 4TH

One of the greatest highlights of every summer is the magic of the Florence 4th of July Fireworks show. Bright colors in the sky, barbeques, all things red, white and blue with family and friends all come together to make for the perfect Independence Day celebration.

The Florence Rural Fire District and Florence Firefighters Association has enjoyed sponsoring and putting on the annual show for many years. To help pay for the fireworks, our local businesses and community members raise funds through donations and the firefighter's boot drive. The fire department also sponsored several raffles and give aways during the evening.


At this years event, the **Florence Community Church** was very gracious to help sponsor a BBQ with complimentary hot dogs and hamburgers for the community. Over 900 hamburgers and 200 hotdogs were served. Also, Dave with **BTCHN KTCHN BBQ 406** food truck from St. Ignatius came down and served some great foods, which all sold out during the evening. The **Florence Civic Club** helped set up a way to make donations electronically and the **Missoula Pepsi** distributor donated soft drinks and water. Lastly, the Members of the Florence Rural Fire District want to thank the **Florence community** for your continued support and contributing to a successful celebration of America. **[See You Next Year!](#)**

By: Kathy Case, FRFD





FLORENCE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT  
P.O. Box 340  
FLORENCE, MT. 59833  
(406) 273-2357

## **VOLUNTEERS SERVING WITH PRIDE**



# **BURN RESPONSIBLY**

- Call before you burn to activate your burn permit, each day you burn.
- Clear a 10-foot radius around your pile free of dead leaf litter and grass. Please keep your burn small.
- If it's too hot to touch, then it's too hot leave. Make sure your debris burn is dead out before leaving.
- Always have water and fire tools on site for quick suppression.



**EMERGENCY CALL 911**