



News Release

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(The city of Newberg and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue are entering into a two-year agreement beginning July 1, that strengthens emergency response in the city of Newberg and surrounding area.)

For many months, Newberg and TVF&R have been integrating operations as part of a two-year contract that officially starts July 1 where TVF&R will be the fire and emergency medical service provider for citizens in Newberg and the surrounding area. A swearing-in ceremony was held this past Tuesday where TVF&R's Fire Chief Mike Duyck officially recognized Newberg firefighters as new members of TVF&R (see photos on pages two-five).

Newberg's Fire Chief Les Hallman has been an integral part of the discovery process leading up to the contract. Hallman states, "We are very encouraged about the benefits of a partnership and feel it will improve our ability to provide fast and effective emergency response while maintaining our strong tradition of community service." As of July 1, Chief Hallman's new role with TVF&R will be the assistant chief overseeing the District's emergency medical services, training and volunteer program.

The TVF&R of today is rooted in partnerships like these. TVF&R took shape between 1972 and 2004, as a number of small fire departments consolidated to share limited resources and save money. It's because of these consolidation and annexation efforts that TVF&R has one of the lowest tax rates in the region. TVF&R maintains a small-town heart with the benefits of a large cooperative. **Fire Chief Mike Duyck states, "We are very pleased that the dedicated firefighters, staff and volunteers of Newberg are joining our team, and we're eager to serve the Newberg community together. Emergencies don't know political or geographical boundaries. People experiencing a crisis just want to know that when they call 911, they can rely on first responders to provide high-quality care. This partnership will strengthen the system for our region."**

What prompted Newberg to approach TVF&R for contracted service?

Newberg faces current and future funding limitations, which have made it difficult to provide adequate fire department staffing, maintain equipment and comply with nationally recommended standards, particularly with increases in demands for service.

For the past several months, the city of Newberg and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue completed a discovery process to see whether a partnership would prove a good fit for both organizations. On March 7, the Newberg City Council decided to take the next step of approving a functional consolidation contract.

What will a contract provide?

More Staffing – Despite a 42 percent increase in service demands during the past decade in Newberg and the surrounding area, there have not been any firefighters or staff added to the fire department since 2006. The contract will provide additional firefighters to improve coverage and response.

Improved Apparatus – The city will receive an updated ladder truck, and TVF&R will replace two ambulances. TVF&R will also provide vehicle maintenance.

Ongoing Training – Newberg firefighters will continue to receive critical skills training in advanced life support (EMS), structural fire suppression, wildland firefighting and public education.

Community Service – TVF&R and Newberg's Fire/EMS staff will work together to preserve the fire department's sense of history and community engagement.

How does this contract affect Newberg Rural Fire Protection District?

TVF&R will extend service to Newberg Rural Fire Protection District during the functional consolidation contract through an existing contract with the city of Newberg.

How does a contract with Newberg impact Dundee?

TVF&R will honor all mutual-aid agreements with agencies bordering Newberg, including Dundee.

What's next?

The contract is not a long-term solution. An intergovernmental council will be created comprised of Newberg city councilors, the Newberg city manager, TVF&R's citizen-elected board members and Chief Duyck. They'll monitor the progress of the contract and voters will have the chance to decide whether to make the partnership permanent.

How does TVF&R achieve cost savings?

TVF&R achieves cost savings through economies of scale such as buying trucks and equipment in bulk, reducing administrative overhead, as well as leveraging a system of response to strategically locate stations, resources and personnel.

How much will the contract cost?

Newberg will pay \$8.5 million for the two-year contract, which is approximately the same amount the city would budget for their stand-alone fire department.

Will TVF&R still host and participate in community events?

Yes, TVF&R will continue to participate in Newberg community events such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt, the Pancake Breakfast, the Old Fashioned Festival, the Toy & Joy Golf Tournament, school visits and many more.

Will the name on Newberg apparatus change?

Existing Newberg apparatus will not be rebranded, but TVF&R will provide additional apparatus that will respond in Newberg and reflect TVF&R's logo. *(Separate from contract discussions, TVF&R has been loaning Newberg a reserve apparatus since October 2015 while the Newberg engine is repaired.)*

What will happen to Newberg's Ambulance Service Agreement during the contract?

TVF&R will fulfill the terms of the ambulance service agreement during the contract.

Will TVF&R continue the FireMed Ambulance Membership program?

During the contract, TVF&R will honor existing FireMed Ambulance memberships.



Newberg firefighters being sworn in on June 28, 2016





Fire Chiefs Les Hallman and Mike Duyck at the swearing in ceremony



TVF&R Deputy Fire Marshal Amber Cross teaches a junior firefighter about fire safety at the Newberg Pancake Breakfast on May 1, 2016



Examples of fire apparatus serving Newberg



Newberg Lieutenant Peterson, Newberg Firefighter Sorenson and TV&R Captain Smith compare medical kits



Firefighters from Newberg and TV&R train together in May to practice rescue techniques to help car crash victims