



Dear BBR Residents,

Black Butte Ranch Fire would like to take a moment to share with you what we are doing to protect our citizens and our employees from the spread of COVID-19 in this dynamic and ever-changing time. As a background, our staff of 6 "career firefighters", 7 "resident volunteers" and our Administrative Assistant are our most valued resource, which we are committed to limiting their exposure to this illness.

With the COVID-19 virus now in Oregon, Black Butte Ranch RFPD personnel have been preparing for the possibility that infected patients may call 911 and request ambulance transport to the hospital. The Fire District has recently provided enhanced training for its emergency responders on appropriate infection control measures including, personal protective equipment and safe work practices. We have also made some operational changes to protect our emergency responders. When firefighter/paramedics respond to 911 calls for patients with flu-like symptoms, they will take extra precautions, including wearing a protective mask and gown or similar protective clothing as well as eye protection. The extra precautions are to protect firefighter/paramedics and their families from contracting COVID-19 or other viruses such as the flu.

Since a single event/exposure can result in the mandatory quarantine of anyone exposed to a suspected COVID-19 patient for up to 14 days, we are committed to protecting our staff by implementing the following procedures.

1. Should you call 911 or the fire station, you will receive a few additional questions aimed at identifying your symptoms and the likelihood of previous exposure to COVID-19. These should not significantly impact our response time but will help assure that we respond appropriately.
2. Our lobby is now locked 24/7. Outside of business hours or when there is not someone at our front desk, patients and visitors should use our doorbell located to the right of the inner door. Should the crew be on another call and not in the station, there is also a phone that goes directly to our dispatch center. A temporal scan thermometer and facemasks are also available and should be utilized if instructed to do so.
3. To control exposure, we are limiting the number of firefighter/paramedics that come in contact with patients exhibiting non-life threatening COVID-19 symptoms. One can also expect that if a patient is judged to be stable and has a driver who could provide personal transportation, to receive a request to either transport the patient home and call

their physician, or to take the patient to an adequate medical facility. We will always render care and transport patients if the injury or illness is of a severe nature that requires EMS attention. Of course, if the patient has no other means of transport, we will gladly do so.

4. Finally, we will be suspending our station tours and other community interactions for the foreseeable future to protect our staff from the risk of community-acquired illness.

Losing even a few firefighter/paramedics, or volunteers, to a quarantine, would create a problem for the Fire District.

The Fire District encourages all community members to follow the CDC guidelines to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by following these simple steps:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing, going to the bathroom, and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Maintain social distance between yourself and others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.

On behalf of our entire staff, we appreciate all that you do for us and your understanding of the changes we are making in response to this outbreak. We simply want to be there for you in your time of need and keep our first responders and their families safe in doing so.

Dan Tucker
Fire Chief