

FALLS CITY NEWSLETTER

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City Hall Hours are Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 4 pm
Closed on Fridays

Emerald ash borer in Oregon – What should cities do now?

Many of you have probably heard the news that emerald ash borer (EAB) has been found in Forest Grove. Some of you may be thinking, ‘Why are people making such a big deal about this little insect?’

EAB kills ash trees. Oregon also has a native species of ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) that plays an important ecological role along streams and riverbanks.

Losing our ash trees will result in economic hardship for many cities, and an ecological disaster for the fish and wildlife that depend on them. EAB has swept through the Midwest and East Coast causing billions of dollars of damage. No state has been able to eradicate this pest or stop it from gradually spreading.

The Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) have been preparing for this insect for several years and have a plan in place. However, their efforts to limit EAB’s spread depend on an informed populace (you!).

- Don’t Move Firewood.
- Identify the locations of your city’s ash trees. ODF has free tree inventory software available to cities to help with this.
- Evaluate your ash trees. While you are looking, check for tiny “D-shaped” holes about 1/8 inch wide, any evidence of woodpecker-dug holes, and tiny flying metallic green beetles about 1/2 inch long and 1/8 inch wide. If you find an ash showing symptoms of an EAB infestation, take several clear photos of what you see, especially if you see a green beetle. Better still is to capture the beetle in a cup or jar.

If you see exit holes, try to hold something next to them in the photo that helps determine the scale of their size, like a pen tip, or ear bud. Note the address and location details of the tree. Below this article is the link for reporting these findings and uploading the photos to the Oregon Invasive Species hotline. Please do not remove ash trees “pre-emptively.” Until we all know the spread of this insect, we are still reaping the many benefits of this tree along our streets and streambanks. As medium-large stature trees, ashes create broad canopy and cast great shade. Premature removal of these trees may not only result in depleting your city’s canopy, but also in your city’s eligibility to participate in future grant programs designed to help cities deal with this pest. If you have questions, please contact us at urbanforestry@odf.oregon.gov.





Please Vote “YES”

ON TUESDAY NOV. THE 8TH

2023 Proposed Falls City Fire Levy

What is it?

A (proposed) \$1.00 Fire Department levy to be placed on the November 2022 ballot. This is not a new amount, but a renewed fire levy, continuing our previous fire levy that expires in 2023. We have kept the original amount of \$1.00, the same amount as our last levy, to ease the tax burden on our citizens. This Fire Department levy will fund your Falls City Fire Department that serves the city with all medical, fire, and motor vehicle accidents including all roadways that enter Falls City.

What will your tax levy go towards?

Operating and replacement costs. We lost \$28,000.00+ per year revenue with the cancellation of the SW Rural Fire contract. This levy will help increase our budget to replace the outdated fire truck with a new, smaller, compact Brush Truck, similar to the one we purchased with the last fire levy 4 years ago.

Why is this so important?

This bond will allow us to retire the oldest truck, that if kept, would require us to do extensive repairs and upgrades to keep the truck running, safe to operate, and certified to state standards. Many parts are no longer available. The costs would far outweigh the value of the truck. In its place we would purchase a new Brush Truck that is smaller and more compact, with 4-doors that can carry up to 5 personnel; 4-wheel drive for snow and icy road conditions and can maneuver into steep, tight driveways and roadways. Unlike our bigger, older trucks, any fire dept personnel with a driver's license can drive it without special training. It will be our primary “Quick Response” truck to medical calls, public assist calls, Duty assignments, grass and wild land fires and provide support on structure fires. It should provide good service to the community for 20 years. Part of this levy may also help with the replacement of fire fighter turnouts-which are now required by law to be replaced every 10 years. We will need to start replacing them next year.

What your tax rate would look like:

\$1.00 per each \$1,000 that your home is valued. Example: \$100.00 per year on a home valued at \$100,000.
(This is the same amount you now pay on our current fire bond levy that expires soon)

Falls City Fire Department members are 100% Volunteers. Many of us have been volunteering for 20, 30, 40 and over 50 years. We sincerely thank you for your support in passing our last fire bond levy 5 years ago, and hope that you can once again give us your support by voting “Yes” to continue the same levy for another 5 years. We ask that you please encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to help support your First Responders. We love our community and thank you for your respect and support!

Sincerely, The Falls City Volunteer Fire Department

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