



April 3, 2015

Yamhill County Fire Defense Board Supports HB 3455

The Yamhill County Fire Defense Board is comprised of 10 Fire and EMS Agencies serving Yamhill County. They include Amity, Carlton, Dayton, Dundee, Lafayette, McMinnville, Newberg, Sheridan West Valley and Yamhill Fire Districts/Departments. Our Emergency Providers protect 720 sq. miles from the Coast Range to the Willamette River.

We would like to encourage our State Representatives and State Senators to CO-Sponsor HB 3455 relating to the allocation of ATV grant funds derived from the sale of ATV permits for our Fire and EMS Districts. I want to urge the legislature to pass this legislation so our Fire and EMS Districts can receive the adequate funds to offer sufficient resources when accidents and fires occur. Concerns are greater due to the extreme nature of this recreational sport and the ever increasing size, weight, and carrying capacity of the OHV being produced and used. We encounter instances of severe injury and multiple patient situations. Due to the remote locations where these accidents occur, we need to be able to quickly and adequately traverse the difficult terrain to address the severity of the situation.

This HB would place Fire and EMS District representatives as voting members on the ATV Advisory Committee. Currently, we are inadequate in response time and resources for accidents and fires started in the wild terrain where ATV sport enthusiasts recreate. Having active representation on the board would help us acquire the funds necessary for protecting Oregon's ATV retreaters and forests. In addition, many rural fire districts have "mutual aid agreements" with areas that have Off-Highway funding for ATV recreation and routinely get called for assistance; they will also become eligible for grant proposals. We support HB 3455 because it's a common sense solution to keep Oregonians and our environment safe.

John Stock, Yamhill County Fire Defense Board Chief
Dundee, Or
503-554-8442