



Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District

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NOVEMBER 2025

CHIEF'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reporting Period: OCTOBER 2025 **Date Presented:** NOV 5TH, 2025 **Prepared by:** Chief Baker

General Overview

October was an active and productive month for the Umatilla Rural Fire Protection District. Several key administrative and operational advancements were achieved, including the successful transition to **Vector Scheduling** and **Vector Check It**, which modernize our scheduling, apparatus checks, and facility inspection processes.

Community engagement remained strong with Fire Prevention Week activities, trunk-or-treat events, and early planning for our annual Christmas Food Basket Program. On the operational side, we surpassed our **2024 total incident volume**, reflecting the continued growth and demands placed on our department.

Interagency collaboration continued with multiple meetings involving the **City of Umatilla, Port of Umatilla, OSFM, County Chiefs, and PCA**, addressing topics ranging from hazardous materials to future wildfire mitigation and regional fire authority discussions.

While significant progress has been made in compliance, safety, and operations, it has become increasingly evident that the addition of a **Training and Safety Officer** position is essential to maintain compliance with OSHA, DPSST, and NFPA standards as our district continues to grow.

Administrative Updates

During the month of October, Umatilla Fire successfully transitioned to **Vector Scheduling**, a more user-friendly and efficient scheduling platform that integrates seamlessly with our accounting software. This change enhances scheduling accuracy, payroll tracking, and overall administrative efficiency.

We have also implemented **Vector Check It**, moving to **paperless apparatus and facility inspections**. This platform ensures compliance with **NFPA standards** and **OSHA safety requirements**, while creating a centralized record of daily checks, safety inspections, and maintenance tracking. Additional apparatus checks have been added to ensure full compliance with NFPA standards.

Community Outreach

Umatilla Fire participated in **Fire Prevention Week** at McNary Heights Elementary School, spending two mornings with approximately **300 students** teaching fire safety and prevention.

The district also participated in two **Trunk-or-Treat** events, one at the McClanahan Summit Community and another at the City-sponsored downtown event. Both were well attended and served as great opportunities for community engagement.

Planning has also begun for our **Annual Christmas Public Service Food Basket Program**. Special thanks to **Jeannie, Banner Bank**, and the **Umatilla School District** for leading and supporting this important community initiative.

Interagency & Partner Meetings

- **City of Umatilla / Urban Renewal District:**
Met with city representatives to discuss the Urban Renewal District. The Fire District provided a **“Wants and Needs” list** and developed a **fact sheet** outlining the potential impact of the district on emergency services.
- **OSFM Community Wildfire Risk Reduction:**
Attended a meeting with the **Oregon State Fire Marshal’s Office** regarding the **Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program**, which will offer future grant and mitigation opportunities throughout the state.
- **County Chiefs Placeholder / Regional Fire Authority:**
Attended a countywide chiefs meeting discussing a potential **Regional Fire Authority**. While the concept has merit for larger jurisdictions, it may pose challenges in **Umatilla County**, where many departments are small and volunteer-based. I recommended that a **consultant specializing in Regional Fire Authorities and Joint Powers Agreements** conduct a comprehensive study to ensure that all departments’ needs are documented and fairly represented. I will not support such an initiative without this level of analysis.
- **Radio Data District:**
Participated in discussions regarding **system upgrades** and **NFPA-compliant radios** to enhance interoperability and reliability across agencies.
- **Port of Umatilla / Hazardous Materials:**
Met with the Port of Umatilla regarding a proposed plan to store large quantities of **Sulfuric Acid**. After reviewing the fire code requirements, the Port determined it would not proceed with the project due to regulatory compliance challenges.
- **PCA – Chip/Sawdust Storage:**
Worked with **PCA** regarding chip and sawdust storage at Roxbury and Beach Access

Road. A **mitigation plan** has been developed, and removal and compliance work is underway following multiple rekindle incidents over the past two years.

Operations & Response

As of October 31, **Umatilla Fire has responded to 930 emergency incidents year-to-date**, surpassing last year's total of 897 incidents. This increase continues to reflect the community's growth and rising service demand.

The **Chief's vehicle upfit** has been completed, with final installation of the **pickup pack** scheduled for **November 11**.

Training & Safety

Training compliance has been a major focus over the past two months. Balancing **OSHA**, **DPSST**, and **NFPA** training requirements without a dedicated **Training and Safety Officer** has proven challenging. After six months as Fire Chief, I have determined that establishing this position must be a **priority for the district moving forward** to ensure consistent compliance, firefighter safety, and professional development.

Incident Statistics October 2025

Category	Total Incidents
Fire	27
Rescue & EMS	70
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	12
Service Call	5
Good Intent	18
False Alarm & False Call	1
Total Call Volume (October)	133

(Share of total: Fire 20.3%, Rescue & EMS 52.6%, Hazardous Condition 9.0%, Service Call 3.8%, Good Intent 13.5%, False Alarm 0.8%.)