

LEBANON FIRE DISTRICT

NEWS



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www.lebanonfire.org



Construction Update: Station 31 & Headquarters

By: Chief Joseph Rodondi

Project Overview

As Lebanon's Fire Chief, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support of our fire district. It is with great pride that I share an update on the Station 31/Headquarters replacement project, approved by voters in 2019.

During my interactions with the community, two questions frequently arise: 'Why is the construction taking so long?' and 'Are we staying within the allocated budget?'

Fire district personnel were enthusiastic about commencing the project soon after the bond approval in November 2019. We undertook the process of hiring our architect and initiated the station design. However, in early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic threw us a curveball, resulting in a volatile construction market, inflated material costs, and extended lead times. Recognizing that the construction costs were neither reasonable nor in alignment with our commitment to the community, the staff made the decision to suspend the project for the next several months until market volatility started to subside.

Throughout this period, our team persistently worked behind the scenes. We hired a contractor and collaborated closely with the architect, brainstorming strategies to realign the project with our target budget. By opting to postpone the project and focusing on construction savings, albeit with an extended timeline, we successfully adhered to the budget parameters outlined in the bond.

Fire Response

Throughout the construction phase, as the existing station underwent demolition, temporary living facilities were installed for our crews. This ensured the uninterrupted provision of Fire and EMS response capabilities to the area. To bolster our capabilities, extra personnel and reserve apparatus were strategically redistributed to station 34 and sub-stations during the project. Simultaneously, our administrative staff transitioned to temporary offices situated at the MBVA building on Main Street.

Promises Kept

When the district sought voters' approval for the bond in 2019, we made two commitments. Firstly, we pledged to eliminate the existing \$800,000 debt on the remaining Station 34 bond—a promise fulfilled in early 2020. This accomplishment was pivotal in upholding our second commitment, which was to limit the new bond cost to 34 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. We are delighted to announce that we have not only met but also surpassed both promises, delivering a bond cost below the anticipated expense at 33 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.



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Update

If you drive by Oak Street today, you'll witness a vibrant construction site, abuzz with various trades working diligently to meet the project deadlines. Phase one of the project, involving the main station/headquarters, is scheduled for completion in late January. Following this milestone, crews and administrative staff will initiate the move-in process, marking the commencement of phase two. This next stage encompasses the removal of temporary facilities, grading, paving, and the installation of training grounds. The entire project is projected to conclude by April.

On behalf of all our Lebanon Fire personnel, we take pride in being at your service and eagerly anticipate sharing the dedication ceremony for the station in late spring.

For more information and construction videos, visit: <https://www.lebanonfire.org/lfd/page/construction-projects-station-31-construction>.



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LEBANON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Be Fire Smart as You Deck the Halls this Season



50% of Christmas tree fires stem from either electrical issues or a heat source placed too closely to the tree.

Carefully decorating your home can help make your holidays safer. When setting up a tree, place it away from fireplaces, radiators, portable heaters, heater vents, electronics, and electrical equipment.

When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label 'Fire-Retardant.' While the label doesn't guarantee the tree won't catch fire, it signifies enhanced resistance, ensuring quick extinguishing.

When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness—vibrant green, firmly attached, and bendable needles. Christmas trees become highly flammable as they dry out, so make sure you consistently maintain a well-filled water stand. A tree absorbs as much as a gallon of water in the first 24 hours and about a quart of water each day thereafter.

For more holiday safety tips, visit <https://www.nfpa.org>.

Change Your Smoke Alarms for a Safer Tomorrow



Properly placed and functional smoke alarms boost your chance of escaping a house fire by 54%.

Ensuring your safety involves having properly installed and well-maintained smoke alarms, a critical measure in reducing fire-related deaths and injuries.

It is essential to strategically place functional alarms on every floor, in hallways, living areas, inside bedrooms, and outside sleeping areas. Enhance smoke detector effectiveness by regularly testing alarms, replacing units older than 10 years, and promptly changing batteries upon the detection of a chirping sound. Following these tips may save your life.

For assistance with smoke alarms, contact our Fire & Life Safety Division at (541) 451-1901.

Cooking with Care: Kitchen Fire Safety



Kitchen fires account for over 40% of all residential fires in the United States.

Cooking stands as the leading cause of reported home fires and the second leading cause of home fire deaths. Thanksgiving emerges as the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve.

Here's what you should know about home cooking safety:

- Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- If you're simmering, baking, or roasting, check regularly, stay in the kitchen, and use a timer.
- Keep flammable items like oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains away from the stovetop.
- Stay alert! Avoid using the stove or stovetop if you're sleepy or have consumed alcohol.

