

# Mayor's Newsletter



## this issue

Backyard Fires 1

Our Valley | Our Vision 1

Fire Academy  
Graduates 2

Cover Your Loads 2

Be in the Know 2

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## Backyard Fires

Summer is winding down, and school will be back in session before we know it. I hope you are taking advantage of every last minute to get out and have fun, including making s'mores, grilling burgers or just visiting around a backyard fire.

Our backyards are where we go to relax and unwind, host parties and connect with our friends and families. With the threat of COVID-19 still looming around the world, backyards also offer a safer way to gather, reducing the risk of transmission. Backyard fires can make all occasions even better, but safety should always be your top priority.

Your backyard fire must be contained in an outdoor fireplace, barbeque pit, grill or other appropriate device. The size of your flames should be no larger than 3-feet wide by 2-feet high. Natural gas, propane,

charcoal or clean, dry wood are all acceptable fuels for cooking and burning. As a courtesy to your neighbors, make sure you always use dry wood and limit burning when windy. You never know who has allergies or health issues that will be worsened by the smoke.

Please do not light your backyard fire within 25-feet of a structure or combustible material. Take the time to clean up or move any combustible items within 25-feet that a spark could reach or that could help a fire spread. Also, make sure to read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for any commercially made portable outdoor fireplaces. Most should not be operated within 15-feet of a structure or combustible material.

Other important safety tips

- Have a way to extinguish the fire readily available.

- Make sure you constantly watch your backyard fire until it is put out.
- Don't use flammable fluids (gasoline, lighter fluid, etc.) to light or relight fires.
- Don't wear flammable clothing or any loose-fitting clothing around the fire.
- Keep children and pets at least 3-feet away from the fire.

For fires not in your own backyard, please make sure to check fire conditions at your destination and comply with all regulations and bans. Fire safety is everyone's responsibility.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer, and be safe. I appreciate you and what you do to make Pocatello the incredible city it is. As always, I am proud to be your Mayor!

## Our Valley | Our Vision

The City recently launched the Our Valley | Our Vision planning process to create a new Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Plan 2040 is a 20-year vision for Pocatello and its people. The Plan will reflect the voice of residents and will be the guiding document for shaping Pocatello's future. The vision and corresponding action-steps provide a common language to connect the community's identified values to various City plans, policies and programs. The Plan is a broad outline for how the City will effectively realize its vision, and it is critical that the community provide insight and

direction so the City can move in the right direction.

The Plan will take 2 years to complete and will include a wide variety of community outreach opportunities and collaboration between City leaders and community members. These outreach opportunities include staff receiving input at various community events and neighborhood meetings, through survey and other engagement activities. The Planning and Development Services Department is very excited to get out in the community and hear from the people of Pocatello. We want to be sure as many voices as possible are heard.

Pocatello is as vibrant and evolving city that will continue progressing in the right direction as it incorporates the goals and ideals of the finished plan. The plan designed for our city will help make us even stronger and more resilient.

You are invited to visit [pocatello.us/ourvalleyourvision](https://pocatello.us/ourvalleyourvision) or call 208.234.6514 to learn more and engage in this process.



**Be in the  
Know**

Be in the know in your community!

Sign up for "Notify Me" at [pocatello.us/List.aspx](http://pocatello.us/List.aspx)

Pick what you want us to notify you about. Choose from items such as City Council agendas, road construction/traffic reports, calendars, bids, advisory board volunteer opportunities, events and more! Tell us whether you prefer email or text messages, and we'll send information right to you!

Register today at [pocatello.us/List.aspx](http://pocatello.us/List.aspx)

There is a lot of information available on our website too. Check us out at [pocatello.us](http://pocatello.us)

**Fire Academy Graduates**

The Pocatello Fire Department (PFD) graduated 7 recruits from its Fire Academy last month. This is one of the largest Fire Academy classes in the department's history. Help me congratulate Joshua Christensen, Brian Christiansen, Jory Griffin, Alex Port, Zachary Reno, Jacob Snapp and William Tarantino who were sworn in as Probationary Firefighters July 9.

During the 8-week academy, PFD covered many topics that will help our recruits serve our community. These topics included basic firefighting skills, vehicle extraction, civilian and

firefighter rescue and EMS training. Recruits also learned hazardous materials response, as well as decontamination of the public and their technical team members. PFD was also lucky enough to schedule the Fire Services of Training Idaho Class B fire trailer that allowed the recruits to better understand fire hose management and proper extinguishment techniques. As the academy came to an end, they spent the last few weeks putting out fires in full turnout gear. With July's temperatures in the high 90s, this task proved to be tiring and dehydrating. All of this work

prepares our recruits to acquire their International Fire Service Training Association certification, making our Fire Department and community even safer.

If you'd like to join William, Jacob, Zachary, Alex, Jory, Brian and Joshua as members of the Pocatello Fire Department, go to [pocatello.us/206/Careers](http://pocatello.us/206/Careers) and sign up for the civil service exam notification. You may also call Human Resources at 208.234.6170 for more information.

**Cover Your Loads**

Did you know that when it rains any dirt or debris on our streets goes straight into the Portneuf River? This happens all over our city. Help us turn the Portneuf from brown to blue by covering your vehicle loads if you are hauling dirt, gravel or leaves.

Grass clippings might be green when you first cut them, but they quickly breakdown into nutrients that turn the Portneuf River green with algae growth. The algae uses up the oxygen that fish need to live. Dirt and debris from uncovered loads will fill in cobbles where trout would spawn.

What does it mean to have a covered load? All vehicle loads driven on city streets and alleys **must be covered** so no dirt, gravel, grass clippings, mulch or other debris can escape from the vehicle. The easiest way to cover your load is with a tarp and some bungee cords. It only takes a couple of minutes to cover the back of your truck or trailer with a tarp. This small action makes a big difference to the cleanliness of our streets and the Portneuf River.

The City and many of our watershed partners are working to create access points to the river. We want you to be able to tube, kayak, fish and

swim in the Portneuf. Idaho has a long history of supporting public recreation in rivers, and we are excited about the possibilities for our river in Pocatello!

For more information, call the Science & Environment at 208.234.6225 or visit [pocatello.us/411/Science-Environment](http://pocatello.us/411/Science-Environment).

If there is a topic you'd like me to address in future newsletters or if you want to comment or ask a question, please use this sheet and send your comment to me. If you wish to call or e-mail, my number and address are listed on the front page. While I cannot respond to all comments individually, I do pass them on to the appropriate departments. v24,n8

My question/comment is \_\_\_\_\_  
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