



Rural Responder

Spokane County Fire District 4 Community Newsletter

Spring 2022

A Message from the Chief



New full-time staff

With winter winding down, I believe we are all ready for spring, sunny days, and a little warmer weather.

On behalf of all of us at Spokane County Fire District 4, I want to let you know how much we appreciate your support of our firefighters, and the opportunity to serve our community.

At Fire District 4, we take great pride in being a community-based organization. Our first responders are your friends, family members and neighbors – all committed to saving lives and property. With increasing demands on volunteer and part-time firefighters we have struggled to meet the necessary staffing at our fire stations. Thanks to your support and the restoration of the Fire levy in 2021, we have taken steps to enhance our staffing with nine full-time firefighter/EMT's.

As our community continues to grow, we are experiencing a significant decline in availability from our emergency transport agencies. We responded to more than 4000 emergency calls in 2021, 73 percent

of which are for EMS. We have been faced with the need to provide transport service when our transport agencies are unavailable. To address the gap in transport availability, we have:

- Partnered with South Pend Oreille Fire & Rescue for transportation.
- Purchased a used ambulance from Duvall Fire and Rescue.
- Hired three full-time firefighter/paramedics.

More EMS calls means additional costs for personnel, medical supplies, equipment, fuel, and maintenance. Your support helps us continue to provide quality EMS service in a timely, efficient, and effective manner. Please contact the District Office if you have questions about our EMS program. Fire Chief Bill Neckels can be reached at (509) 467-4500 or billn@scfd4.org.

315 E. Crawford St.
Po Box 1549
Deer Park, WA 99006
509-467-4500
www.scfd4.org



SpokaneCoFire4

Address Signs

Having first responders find your house quickly and with the least amount of confusion is essential in an emergency.

One way you can ensure that your home is well marked is to order an address sign through Fire District 4. Go to our website to find out more.



Medical Emergencies Accounted for 73% of Calls in 2021



Medic 40, Medic 42 & Engine 41 on a Call

Call volumes jumped 18 percent for Spokane County Fire District 4 in 2021. Of our 4084 calls, 73 percent were medical emergencies. We expect that number to increase as the local population ages and the growth in the northern part of Spokane County continues to increase at unprecedented rates.

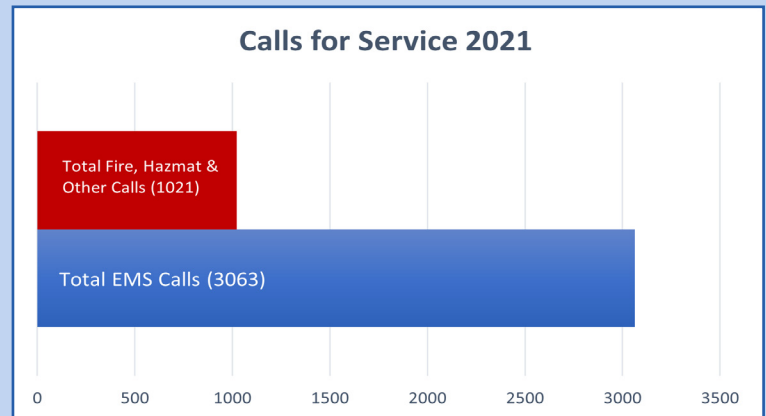
Since 1992, voters in the Fire District have approved funding every six years for an EMS levy at \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. It is through the EMS levy that the District is able to staff EMS personnel and acquire EMS equipment. The Fire District has been good stewards with these EMS funds by:

- Tightening our purse strings when necessary and seeking grant funds when available.
- In 2021, securing more than \$210,000 in grants.
- Adding three full-time Firefighter/Paramedics to better augment Advanced Life Support services (ALS) to the citizens of Fire District 4.

This is in addition to the volunteer Paramedic staffing currently being utilized since April of 2011. Thank you for supporting this organization and your commitment to our community.



Full-time Firefighter/EMTs



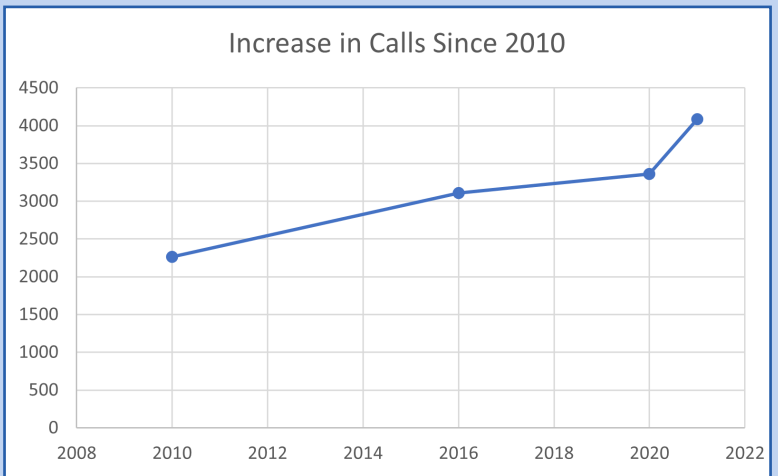
Our New Full-time Paramedics

Fire District 4 recently hired three full-time firefighter/paramedics. Please help us welcome (from left to right) Brian Bowcutt, Ryan Schlining, and Mike Teegarden. Together they have more than 23 years of paramedic experience. Collectively they work to elevate the ALS service that District 4 provides to its citizens while also working with our EMTs to advance training and knowledge. When asked why they chose to become paramedics, they all collectively agreed that you take someone from the worst day of their life and provide them the best service you can before getting them to the hospital. It is important to them to work with their crews and make sure everyone goes home safe, works well together, and provides the best service for District 4 citizens. District 4 hired three full-time paramedics with the goal to have a medic on every 24-hour shift. We are excited to welcome our new full-time paramedics and watch the paramedic program grow.



Update from the Board of Commissioners

The majority of the District's funding comes from the Fire and EMS levy. An area of concern continues to be the District's EMS program where the demand for service is outpacing revenue the EMS program brings in. As illustrated in the graph, the District's total call volume has increased approximately 80 percent since 2010, increasing from 2,262 to 4,084 calls. EMS calls make up at least 73 percent of those incidents each year. We have suggested asking voters to restore the EMS levy to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The current EMS Levy will expire at the end of 2022. In addition to its EMS program, spending priorities for 2022 continue to be personnel, equipment and supplies that are needed to provide emergency services on a daily basis. The District also is focused on firefighter training and safety, fire prevention, as well as maintaining its facilities, vehicles and equipment to extend their usable lives.



EMS Success

A thank you from a Fire District 4 citizen:

Fire District 4 responded to a call for help in the late hours on a May evening. Our father was having difficulty breathing due to his fight with terminal cancer. As soon as District 4 personnel arrived, there was relief that someone was there to help. The responders were not only caring toward our father, but also to our mother. They explained everything that was happening with compassion and answered our questions. Later that week, one of the responders got in touch with us to ask about our father. He had passed away a day after Fire District 4 responded. We will be forever grateful that when we needed help the most, a team of compassionate responders showed up to support and comfort us. Thank you, Fire District 4.

Fire District 4 Growth



From 2013 to 2020, there have been approximately 1200 new single-family dwellings built within Fire District 4 boundaries. This number excludes the City of Deer Park. According to Washington Population 2022 @worldpopulationreview.com Deer Park has experienced an increase in population by 30 percent since 2010 (2010-2022). With the increased number of homes comes an increase in call volume. Since 2010, Fire District 4's call volume has increased by 80 percent. With a higher volume of calls comes the need for additional staffing, apparatus, and supplies. Fire District 4 continues to plan for the future and adapt as our community grows so rapidly. The picture to the left is just one of Deer Park's many new subdivision being built in 2022.



Fire District 4

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315 E. Crawford St.
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509-467-4500
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Fire vs Ems Levy

Fire Levy

- Day to Day Operations of the District
- Facility Maintenance
- Apparatus Maintenance
- Fire and Support Personnel Cost
- Fire Training
- Extrication Equipment
- SCBA
- Hose
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Uniforms
- And all Other Fire Related Equipment

EMS Levy

- EMS Personnel Cost (EMT's and Paramedics)
- Medic 42
- EMS Apparatus
- EMS Training
- Defibrillators
- Emergency Medications
- Oxygen
- Basic First Aid Supplies
- Backboards
- C-Collars
- Pediatric Supplies
- Intubation Kits
- And all Other EMS Related Equipment

District 4 Involved in the Community

- Food Drive for the North County Food Bank
- Santa Patrol
- Pumpkin Lane
- Assisted with Establishing Deer Creek Firewise Community
- High School Student Administrative Internship
- Address Sign Program

