

THE DISPATCH



Spokane County Fire District 4



| Feature Story

Welcoming 13 New Volunteer Firefighters

Thirteen dedicated recruits have officially graduated from Rattlesnake Ridge Academy, earning their badges after successfully completing the intensive 12-week Volunteer Recruit Academy. Through hands-on training, live fire exercises, technical rescue scenarios, emergency medical response, and physical conditioning, each recruit gained the skills and confidence needed to serve alongside career firefighters.

Volunteer firefighters play an essential role in Spokane County Fire District 4's ability to respond quickly and effectively throughout our communities. They strengthen emergency response capabilities, support career personnel during major incidents, and help ensure residents receive timely, professional service when emergencies occur.

Graduating from the academy represents months of hard work, determination, and a commitment to serving others. We are proud to welcome these 13 new volunteer firefighters to the District and thank them for choosing to serve the communities of Spokane County Fire District 4. Their dedication helps ensure we remain prepared to answer the call whenever our community needs us most.

| Team Spotlight

Firefighter of the Year

Congratulations to Training Captain Vincent Speziale, our Firefighter of the Year!

His exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication, and outstanding mentorship across the training division keep our district strong. Vince is truly an indispensable part of our organization. Whether he's planning, scheduling, or leading trainings, he's always hard at work. And when he's not, he's enhancing our district's technology to ensure we're getting the most out of it. Thank you, Vince!



| Fire Prevention

Creating Defensible Space: Your Home's Best Defense Against Wildfire



Preparing your property before wildfire season can significantly improve your home's chances of surviving a wildfire. Experts recommend focusing on three Home Ignition Zones around your home: the Immediate Zone (0-5 feet), Intermediate Zone (5-30 feet) and Extended Zone (30-100 feet).

Removing hazardous fuels such as dead vegetation, brush, and dense landscaping helps keep fire on the ground rather than climbing into trees, where it can burn hotter and spread more rapidly. Defensible space also reduces the risk of wind-driven embers igniting vegetation near your home and provides firefighters with a safer opportunity to defend your property when wildfire threatens.

The most important area is the first five feet around your home. Remove leaves, pine needles, and other combustible materials from this zone, and keep roofs, gutters, decks, and porches free of debris. Beyond that, maintain healthy landscaping by mowing grass, pruning overhanging branches, and creating space between trees and shrubs to reduce the potential for fire spread.

To learn more about defensible space and wildfire preparedness, visit nfpa.org.

Firefighter Tip

Can emergency responders find your home quickly?

Clearly visible address signs help emergency responders locate your property when every second counts.

Make sure your address is visible from the road. Need assistance?

[Click here to submit an address sign request.](#)

Stay in Touch



SCFD4.org



info@scfd4.org



509-467-4500



315 Crawford St
Deer Park, WA 99006

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| Prevention & Education

Building a Safer Community

Keeping our community safe starts long before an emergency call comes in. During the second quarter, Spokane County Fire District 4's Fire Prevention Division remained busy helping reduce fire risk through plan reviews, building inspections, public education, and wildfire fuel mitigation efforts.

The division also continued connecting with residents through school visits and community events, sharing practical fire and life safety information with children, families, and adults. These outreach efforts help build awareness, encourage safe habits, and prepare our community for emergencies before they happen.

This quarter also marked the launch of Spokane County Fire District 4's Youth Firesetting Prevention and Intervention (YFPI) Program. The program provides education, intervention, and resources for families while helping reduce youth firesetting behaviors before they become repeat incidents. By working with children and their caregivers early, the program aims to prevent injuries, protect property, and promote safer communities.

Whether conducting inspections, educating residents, or helping homeowners reduce wildfire risk, the Fire Prevention Division plays an important role in protecting lives and property every day. Through prevention, education, and proactive risk reduction, District 4 is committed to building a safer, more resilient community.

EMS Update

Investing in Patient Care

The SCFD4 EMS Division continues to grow as we invest in our personnel and expand the level of care we provide to our community. This fall, SCFD4 will once again sponsor one of our full-time members to attend the Providence Paramedic Program. This marks the fourth employee the District has sponsored through paramedic school. Investing in our own personnel strengthens our Advanced Life Support (ALS) program from within while increasing the availability of paramedics to serve our community.

We are also expanding our IV Technician program by developing an in-house certification course. This will provide interested members with the opportunity to become IV Technician certified while advancing their patient care skills. Our goal is to create a strong training pathway that supports professional growth and enhances the level of EMS care we provide. By investing in advanced training and developing our own paramedics and IV Technicians, we're improving our ability to deliver timely, high-quality emergency medical care when our community needs it most.

As our EMS Division continues to evolve and transport volumes increase, we remain committed to investing in training, education, and the people who make our service possible. These efforts help ensure SCFD4 is prepared to deliver the highest level of patient care to the communities we serve.

In the Community

Hearts in Good Hands: Equipping Our Youth with Life-Saving CPR Training

This year, our Public Education Division visited local high schools to equip the next generation with vital, life-saving skills.

Through interactive, hands-on sessions, students mastered high-quality CPR techniques and learned how to confidently operate Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

By bringing this critical training directly into our classrooms, we are empowering area youth to transform from passive bystanders into active lifesavers. In a sudden emergency, every single second counts. Thanks to the incredible focus and dedication of these students, our neighborhoods are safer, more resilient, and better prepared to step up and protect lives when it matters most.

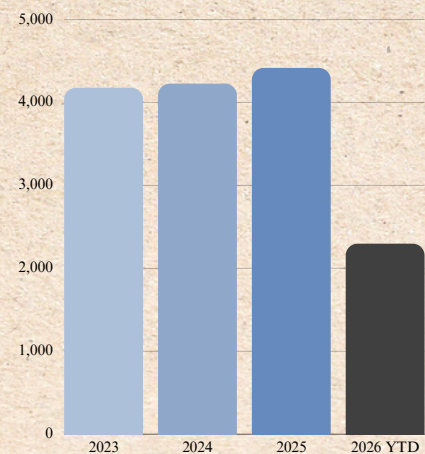


Cardiac emergencies can happen anywhere, and immediate CPR can make the difference between life and death. By teaching these skills to local students, we're empowering the next generation to respond with confidence when someone needs help most.

Meeting the Growing Demand

Each year, Spokane County Fire District 4 responds to more calls for service as the needs of our community continue to grow. Since 2023, annual call volume has increased by nearly 6%, with firefighters responding to 4,416 calls in 2025, the highest total in District history.

The chart below highlights the steady growth in calls for service over the past several years and our 2026 year-to-date activity.



2026 represents year-to-date calls through June.

| From the Chief

A Message To Our Community

It is my privilege to share with you some of the important milestones and accomplishments your fire district has achieved in 2026. These successes reflect our continued commitment to serving you with professionalism, dedication, and compassion.

This year, we made a significant investment in strengthening our emergency response capabilities by hiring **13 career firefighters**, including **5 certified paramedics**. This enhancement has allowed us to increase the number of career personnel on duty each day, ensuring that we are better prepared and more responsive when emergencies arise. Having additional trained professionals available means faster response times, improved patient care, and a higher level of service for our community.

The demand for our services continues to grow. Year-to-date in 2026, we have responded to **over 200 more calls for service** than we did during the same period in 2025. This increase underscores both the growth of our community and the trust you place in us during times of need.

We are also proud to report significant progress in our Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transport capabilities. In 2025, through June we completed **41 EMS transports**; in 2026 during that same time frame, that number has **increased to 152 transports**. This shift in service delivery allows us to provide more direct patient care and ensure timely medical transportation for those who need it most.

Beyond emergency response, we remain deeply committed to community engagement and outreach. Our members have actively participated in a variety of local events and traditions, including:

- Elk Days
- Settlers Day
- Cherry Pickers Trot
- Fall Festival
- Santa Patrol
- Student of the Year Ride Along
- Freshman and Community CPR
- Community food drives and other service initiatives

These events are meaningful opportunities for us to connect with you outside of emergencies, build relationships, and strengthen the bond between our department and the community we are honored to serve.

None of these achievements would be possible without the dedication, professionalism, and selflessness of our firefighters, career and volunteer, administration, logistics and support staff. Whether responding to emergencies at all hours, participating in community events, or training continuously to maintain the highest standards, our members exemplify what it means to serve. I want to personally express my deepest appreciation for their hard work, commitment, and unwavering resolve to protect and care for our community.

As we move forward, we remain focused on continual improvement, readiness, and service excellence. Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in your fire district. It is truly an honor to serve you.

Mike Nokes, Fire Chief
Spokane County Fire District 4
