



Rural Responder

Spokane County Fire District 4 Community Newsletter

Summer 2018

**Fire District 4
FIRE & RESCUE**
*Serving Deer Park, Riverside,
Chattaroy, Colbert and parts
of Mead.*

Chief's Message

Halfway through 2018 and the progress continues! As we near completion of the apparatus and facilities projects that were approved and supported by our citizens in 2014, a moment of reflection and contemplation are in order. In the last three years, the amazing staff and members of Fire District 4 have accomplished a significant list of projects, here are a few:

- Three new Fire Stations for a total of approximately 40,000 square feet of added capacity
- Two new Water Tenders
- Five refurbished and updated Squads (used for medical and wildland fire response)
- Three refurbished and updated Brush Engines (added capacity for wildland fire response)
- Four new structural firefighting Engines

In my 30 years of Fire Service experience, I do not know of another organization, of similar size, that has completed this much work in such a short amount of time. Congratulations and THANK YOU to the outstanding staff and members of Fire District 4. Take a minute to breathe and enjoy your accomplishments. To the citizens of Fire District 4, thank you for your continued support and foresight.

All this was accomplished while continuing to provide Fire District 4 residents with an increased amount of service through emergency response, interagency cooperation, public education and community involvement. Our recent investments have prepared Fire District 4 for the growth that continues in our area. Our new facilities were designed and built with an expectation of at least 30 years of service. Our new apparatus were designed with an expectation of at least a 20-year service. I invite you to stop by and take a look at the beautiful additions.

During the first half of 2018 we responded to an average of nine calls for service per day. This number continues to rise year after year. Rescue/EMS incidents account for 75 percent of our response. One of the reasons we track this information is to help the district make informed decisions about where and how to direct our resources (people and money). While we have been busy with capitol projects,



we have also been working hard to maintain our staffing model. Our staffing model, which has been in place since 2002, has proven to serve the citizens well and is cost effective. It is a blend of volunteer and part-time paid firefighters, with support from full-time career staff. As we expect demands for service to continue to increase, we are preparing to meet that need.

Please take a look at the information provided in this newsletter and think about what it means to you, how you interact with the District and how we can continue to provide the level and quality of service that you support.

- Chief Johnson

In This Edition:

Chief's Message

Evacuation Levels

Preparedness Plan

St. 41 Open House

Burning Restrictions

Station 41 Open House



Our New Station is Open!

Voters approved the bond for this station in 2014. The location will house a fully functioning fire station, our district office, and a large community center.

Please join us during Settler's Day – Saturday, July 28 from 8:30 to noon – for an engine push-in ceremony, ribbon cutting, and open house!

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



SpokaneCoFire4

Develop Your Preparedness Plan



Photo by Richard Parrish

Disaster often strikes with little or no warning. Whether it is a wildfire or weather event, Fire District 4 wants you to be prepared for an emergency. Being prepared means so much more than having some items ready to go if you are evacuated. It means having a plan for your family, pets and livestock too.

First, build a “go” kit. At the very minimum, this kit should include water, food, medicine and hygiene items. Other items include cell phones with chargers, flashlights, a first aid kit, important documents, maps, and a portable radio. A comprehensive list can be found at www.ready.gov/build-a-kit.

Don't forget supplies for your kids including

infant formula and diapers, extra clothes and activities to do (books, games, etc).

If you have pets, have pet food & medications and a pet carrier ready to go. Go to www.ready.gov/animals for more tips.

Just like fire escape plans in the home, a family should have an escape plan in the case of an evacuation. This includes knowing two ways out of your property (if one is blocked by a downed tree or fire) and having a meeting place if coming from different locations or if you get separated.

If children are at home while the adults are away, make sure they know how to evacuate and where to go. Your meeting place needs to be set in advance (a local school parking lot is an example). You may not be able to get a hold of your family during an emergency because of busy lines or power outages.

A family communication plan is vitally important. Consider a single, out-of-the-area point of contact in case lines are too busy locally, and use text messaging.

For livestock, plan an evacuation route, have a safe refuge for the animals, and be prepared to move them at any time by having a trailer at the ready.

Being prepared for a disaster now will offer you confidence in the face of an emergency. Having all of your tools in the tool box can help you stay safer while the first responders work to mitigate a natural disaster.



Can I burn outdoors?

Although the fire district does not regulate outdoor burning, we often field many “burning” questions.

To learn the rules of outdoor burning, go to https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_spokane_outdoor_broch.pdf?pwbd09

Alert Spokane

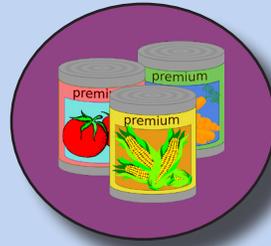


How will we get alerts, warnings and the latest? Monitor local media, social media and gsem.us. Alert Spokane, a mass notification system, can alert you of an emergency or disaster. Register multiple addresses, phone numbers and email addresses at AlertSpokane.org or download the CodeRED mobile app.

Items to Include in Your "Go" Kit



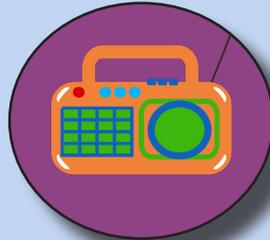
One gallon of water per person, per day for at least two days, for drinking and sanitation



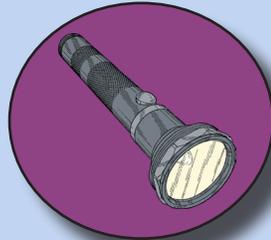
At least a two-day supply of non-perishable food



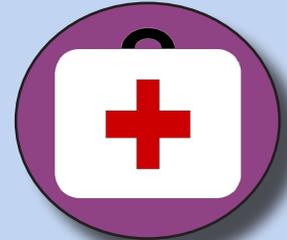
Prescription Medicine



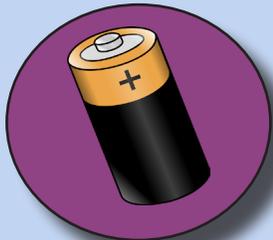
Radio



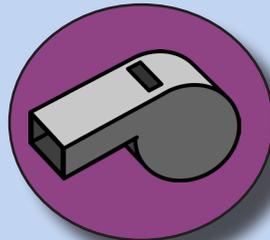
Flashlight



First Aid Kit



Extra Batteries



Whistle



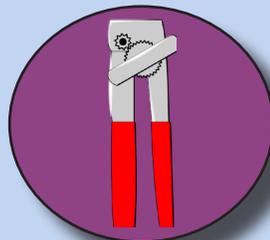
Dust Mask



Moist Towelettes



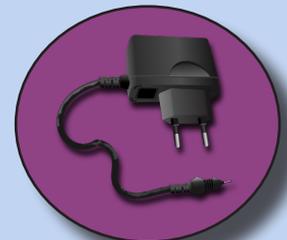
Tools



Can Opener



Local Maps



Cell Phone With Charger

Evacuation Guidelines

Any Level of Evacuation Can Happen at Anytime!

Stay Informed: Know where and how to get information during an emergency or disaster. Options include Greater Spokane Emergency Management (gsem.us) NOAA weather radio, AM/FM radio, TV or social media @gegemergencymgt and @spokanecofire4



Shelter In Place

- GO indoors with your children and pets.
- CLOSE windows and doors.
- MONITOR TV, local radio, and social media for further instructions.

Level 1

READY

Conditions are severe. Prepare to leave your current location.

Level 2

SET

Be prepared to leave at a moment's notice. Dangerous conditions threaten your residence or business. Hazards severely limit emergency services protection. Public safety personnel will make every attempt to contact you if conditions worsen. If you or anyone at your location has special needs, pets or livestock you should leave at this time.

Level 3

GO

Leave immediately. This may be your only notice. Current conditions present an immediate threat to your life and safety, and emergency services may not be able to assist you. You will not be allowed to return until conditions are safe.



Fire District 4 FIRE & RESCUE

Serving North Spokane County

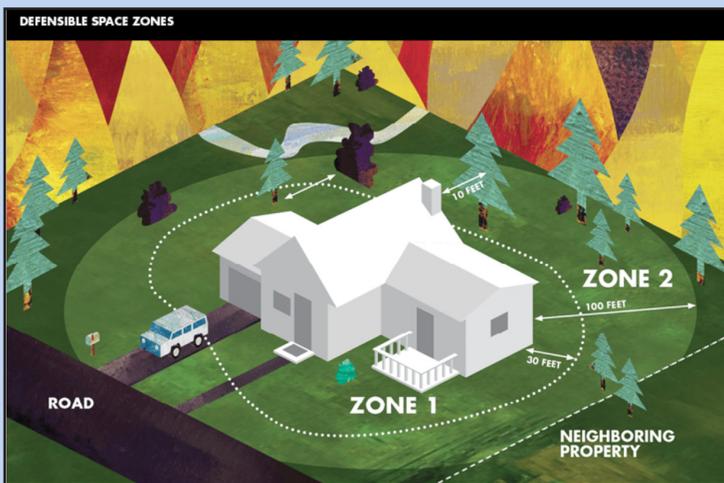
Standard
US POSTAGE

PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit #4

315 E. Crawford St.
Po Box 1549
Deer Park, WA 99006
509-467-4500
www.scd4.org



Defensible Space



Being ready for a wildfire includes creating a defensible space area around your home. If you have at least 30' of green space between your home and a tree stand or significant foliage, your odds of having your home survive a wildfire increase greatly! Go to SCFD4.org and click on "Defensible Space" for more information.

Our Partnerships at Work



Each year, the Eastern Washington Interagency Fire Training Academy is held at Deer Park High School the third week of June. More than 350 firefighters from federal, state, county and tribal agencies are trained to fight wildfires during this academy. It is interagency cooperation at its best!