



Rural Responder

Spokane County Fire District 4 Community Newsletter

Summer 2019

Chief's Message



Like most organizations, Spokane County Fire District 4 is constantly transitioning. That transition may be the result of new technology, or it may be the result of timing.

We are constantly acquiring new technology to stay up with the demands of our industry and to maximize our service to you. Recently we have replaced a critical piece of firefighter personal protective equipment. We have purchased new self-contained breathing apparatus (also known as "air packs") which incorporate updated technology and added air capacity. This new equipment will increase our ability to provide service while increasing the safety of our firefighters. We have also replaced another key piece of equipment. Thermal imaging cameras are used to find victims in dark, smoke filled buildings and detect heat to locate hidden fire. The new Thermal Imaging Cameras are smaller and lighter, have increased functionality and new features to enhance capabilities.

Timing is always an important consideration when advancing the organization. With our next insurance rating evaluation this fall, the timing was right to add an elevated master stream

(Ladder Truck) to our fleet. With the construction growth in the District, the need for this equipment is now. We were able to purchase a used Ladder Truck for significantly less cost than purchasing new and will use those savings to fund other needs.

As the demand for service from the community continues to grow, the demands on staffing continue to grow. This May, the timing was right to make some promotions and hire some additional personnel (see page 3). The staffing model we have used for the past 20 years has served us well and saved the taxpayers millions of dollars.

As the stresses on our system continue to grow, we closely monitor the need for staffing changes. When the timing is right, we will be positioned to make the needed transitions to maintain and improve our service to you.

Tower 41



Fire District 4 has a new tool for fighting fire as north Spokane County grows. Meet Tower 41, which will reside at fire station 41 in Deer Park.

We acquired this 1995 Simon Duplex 102' aerial platform from the City of Yakima. We will be working on outfitting this apparatus and getting the necessary training to operate it before it goes into service.

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

Attend our
Commissioner
meetings every
second and fourth
Monday of the month
at the District Office,
315 E Crawford St.

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



SpokaneCoFire4

Recruit School

Ever wonder what it takes to become a firefighter? At Fire District 4, the first step is fondly known as “recruit school”, although it goes by other names – “academy” or “the best 6 weeks ever”.

Recruit school is where a probationary firefighter first gets to experience the teamwork and cohesion of like-minded individuals working toward a common goal: helping people. This desire to help people must



up after the fire that need to be taught before setting a recruit loose on this dangerous undertaking. Recruit school introduces these skills in the classroom

and on the drill ground; the recruit works as a probationary firefighter for up to a year and a half in the stations to hone the skills.

It’s not all work. During recruit school, there are plenty of smiles and laughs as a new firefighter finds the camaraderie that the fire service is famous for. The class culminates in a graduation and swearing in.



Welcome new probationary firefighters to the D4 family!

be backed by safety and the knowledge of the basics of fighting a fire. In the 6 weeks during Recruit School, that is what is learned – the basics of firefighting.

What is a hose made of? What is personal protective gear and how does it protect a firefighter? How do I properly set a ladder for rescue? What is the proper way to roll up or reload fire hose? How does one “take” a hydrant? What is the best way to break into a locked door to access a fire?

“Put water on the fire” grossly simplifies what firefighters do. There are specific techniques and skills needed to stop a fire, rescue a victim, and even clean



Be Prepared for Wildfire

Wildfires are a fact of life in our corner of the world. You can take some steps to lessen the impact on you, your family, and your home by taking steps now to prepare.

- Maintain a clean yard and property. Have a 30 ft. green space around your home, and a non-flammable area at least 5 feet from buildings.
- Know two ways out of your property – in case one way is obstructed.
- Have a “go kit” ready in case of emergency evacuation.
- Maintain a family communication plan for use during emergencies. Designate an out-of-the-area relative or friend to help relay messages.
- Keep abreast of changing emergency situations by tuning into local media.
- Register multiple contact phone numbers at the public warning system, AlertSpokane: <https://www.spokanecounty.org/3007/Alert-Spokane>
- Check our website at SCFD4.org for more information.

Fire District 4 New Hires



As Fire District 4 grows, our staff is changing and increasing to better serve the community. On May 1, two open career positions were filled, and one new position was created. Russ Hamilton (center) was hired to fill a Division Chief position that opened up when Assistant Chief Howard Johnson was promoted. Brett Grella (left) stepped in to fill the Captain position that Gary McBride left when he retired. Brad Martin (right) was hired as a career Captain, a new position, to meet the needs of the growth of the fire district. Please join Chief Randy Johnson and the entire D4 staff in welcoming these men to their new positions!



Half Moon Grange

When the bell at the Half Moon Grange needed to be removed, our new Tower 41 came to the rescue! Not only did we safely retrieve the bell, but one of our longtime members was able to ring it for the last time with his sister. Gary McBride and Carol Hall rang the same bell that called their father, Howard McBride, to school in the grange back in the 1950's.

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 <http://www.scfd4.org/address-signs.html> for information.





Fire District 4 FIRE & RESCUE

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District 4 Involved in the Community



Fire District 4 members don't just volunteer to respond to emergencies. We are involved in our communities in many different ways!

Last fall, our members worked on the Greenbluff

Grange during KXLY's Extreme Team Makeover with Mark Peterson. We had another chance this month when Mark's crew chose the Deer Park Sports Complex for a Diamonds and Dreams makeover.

Everyone knows that firefighters are great cooks, and breakfast is a specialty! Each May, the Mother's Day Breakfast is a favorite at our Mt. Spokane Station 48. Up in Elk, the Station 43 members



serve up at least 350 breakfasts at the Elk Days celebration in June. In July, we cook up burgers at the Cherry Pickers' Trot on Greenbluff.

Watch for our apparatus and firefighters at the Settlers' Day Parade and the following get-together at Mix Park in July in Deer Park. In October, we will hand out candy at Pumpkin Lane.

The fire district promotes wildland preparedness on the first Saturday in May. This year, we worked the morning away with the Reflection Lake Community Elk.

They filled up four dumpsters with clean green yard waste and other garbage!

