



### INSIDE NEWS:

District Map	2
Volunteers	2
Open House	2
Commissioner's Corner	3
The Latest Grant	3
Know the Facts	4
Fireworks Laws	4

## KNOW THE FACTS:

by Prevention Lt. Joe Gumminger

### Fireworks Law

Did you know it is unlawful for any person to purchase, ignite, discharge, use or explode any consumer fireworks within the unincorporated area of Spokane County? Any person in violation of consumer fireworks in Spokane County is subject to a fine up to \$1,000 depending on the type of fireworks.

### Wild Fire Prevention

A lot of people assume that when a wildfire starts, it will be quickly controlled and extinguished. This is an accurate assumption 97% of the time. Firefighters have the ability, equipment, and technology to effectively suppress most wildfires. However 3% of the time wildfires burn so intensely that there is little firefighters can do.

On the West Plains, wind plays a big role in any fire. Wind sweeps a fire across an area in a short amount of time. This is why it's important to prepare your home before a wildfire happens by taking these few extra steps:

- Maintain a 30' defensible space between your home and flammable vegetation.
- Carefully space the trees you plant and keep mature trees pruned 6 to 10 feet from the ground.
- Remove any 'ladder fuels' - vegetation that serves as a link between grass and treetops.
- Store all combustible materials, such as wood, away from your home.
- Clean your roof and rain gutters of all material that might catch fire.
- Plan escape routes from your home.
- Make sure that your address sign is clearly visible from the street and the fire department has safe access to your home.

To schedule an on-site evaluation of your home contact Lt. Joe Gumminger at 509-244-2425. For further prevention and education information please reference our district web site at [www.scf10.org](http://www.scf10.org).



### BE A VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are the backbone of District 10. Receive firefighting and EMS training.

Help protect some 30,000 people during the workday and 10,000 residents at night. For details, call, stop by or visit our website at [www.scf10.org](http://www.scf10.org)

### FIRE DISTRICT 10 HEADQUARTERS & TRAINING CENTER

929 S. Garfield Road  
Airway Heights, WA 99001

(509) 244-2425

[www.scf10.org](http://www.scf10.org)

*Visitors are welcome!*

## A Message From The Chief

by Chief Nick Scharff

I started my career with Fire District #10 in 1976 as a volunteer firefighter. I joined to help my community. It has been a year since I took over as your fire chief and it continues to be my pleasure to serve the community where I grew up. In the last 30 years, the District has seen many changes. The community has benefited



from improved equipment and facilities, as well as technological advances. Increased growth in the District has increased the volume of calls and the types of calls to which we respond. However, one thing remains constant – the value of volunteer firefighters.

With only a small paid staff, Fire District 10 relies heavily on its team of well-trained volunteer firefighters to meet the needs of the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Fire District #10 encompasses just under 100 square miles on the West Plains. The majority of the emergency services the District provides include emergency medical responses, motor vehicle accidents, structure and wildland fire protection and hazardous material responses. In addition to the emergency responses, the District also provides CPR training, fire prevention education/training, building inspections and code enforcements, to name a few. We are continually looking for dedicated individuals to become district volunteers. I encourage you to consider joining our team and help serve the community where you live.

I invite you to learn more about your fire district at the District open house in your area. Refreshments will be served and we will have staff available to address your questions and provide you with information on becoming a member of our team as a volunteer firefighter. Please note the article inside for times, dates and locations (map included) of our upcoming Open House nearest you. We look forward to seeing you there.

# Volunteers are in Demand

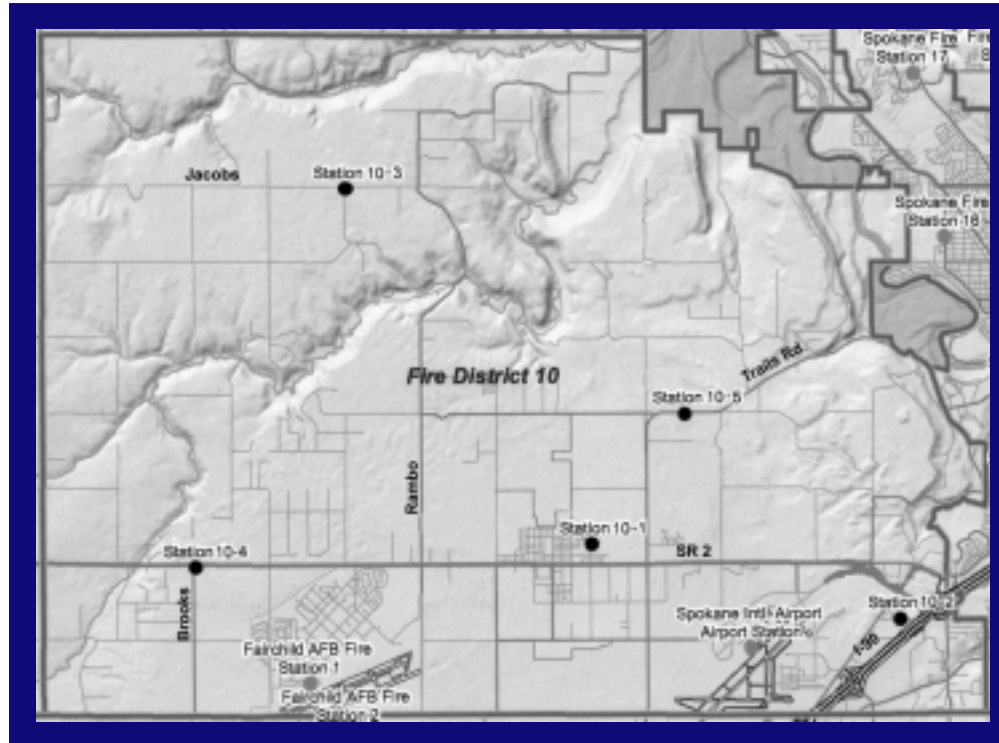
by Deputy Chief Rod Heimbigner

If your neighbor's house caught on fire, would you want to do more than just watch? Of course you would. And we'd like to offer a suggestion: become a volunteer firefighter. It's a great way to do something for your community and yourself. Now is the time to investigate volunteering for Fire District 10. We need your help. If it weren't for volunteers, three fourths of the United States would not have adequate fire protection, including Fire District 10. Our volunteers provide \$3.2 million worth of service to the community we serve. That is more than **three times** our annual budget!

The foundation of Fire District 10 is the traditional volunteer firefighter. They are neighbors helping neighbors. Volunteers however, join for a variety of reasons. Some just want to help those in need, and others see it as a way to enhance and gain a wider experience for their regular jobs. The goal of the District is to provide an enriching and challenging opportunity for all members.

The ideal volunteer is a team player with a desire to help others, dedicated to the District and willing to take on the challenge of providing essential fire and EMS related services at a moments notice.

So, drop by Station 1 at 929 South Garfield Road and visit with us today. Join the team that protects the dreams in your community.



Located on the West Plains, Fire District 10 is just under 100 square miles. District 10 surrounds Fairchild AFB, the city of Airway Heights and Spokane International Airport. Boundaries are Coulee Hite Rd. to the north, Espanola Rd. to the west, Thorpe Rd. to the south and the Spokane city limits to the east. District 10 citizens are protected by five stations.

## Open House

Mark your calendar! Fire District 10 invites you and your family to attend an open house at your nearest Fire District 10 Station in the community that you live/work. See the equipment that is housed at your nearest station and find out what other resources the District operates as well. We will have fire prevention materials, address sign information, and some handouts for the younger generation available. Refreshments will be served and we will have staff available to address your questions and provide information regarding District services and needs.

SEE MAP FOR THE STATION NEAREST YOU

<b>Station 10-2</b>	<b>June 21<sup>st</sup> 5-8pm</b>	5408 W Lawton Rd.
<b>Station 10-5</b>	<b>June 21<sup>st</sup> 5-8 pm</b>	9921 W Trails Rd.
<b>Station 10-3</b>	<b>June 22<sup>nd</sup> 5-8 pm</b>	6316 N Dover Rd.
<b>Station 10-4</b>	<b>June 22<sup>nd</sup> 5-8 pm</b>	1411 S Brooks Rd.
<b>Station 10-1</b>	<b>At a later date</b>	929 S Garfield Rd.

## Commissioner's Corner

by Commissioner Paul McBride

Excitement is "building" in the West Plains as new growth abounds. Although it is most evident along the business corridor of Highway 2, new homes are seen under construction throughout the area. Typically new construction tax dollars do not get allocated to the fire district until one or two years after a building permit is issued. However, our responsibility to provide protection begins immediately. Even though this time lag in revenue collection exists, growth provides welcome dollars. Without growth, state law limits all fire districts to a one percent overall annual increase, which does not keep pace with inflation and restricts fire district revenues.

This year cities in Spokane County are preparing five year updates for growth estimates and expected future land requirements to be incorporated into

Spokane County master planning. Your fire district is carefully monitoring this process. As you can see, the excitement of new growth is tempered by the knowledge that also hastens the desirability of city annexation upon adjacent properties. We are working diligently to mitigate the financial impacts when annexation occurs. This is an important issue. We need to maintain current levels of service in the remaining area of the District when significant revenue generating areas of the district are lost through annexation.

Your fire district commissioners commend Chief Nick Scharff, his staff and all district personnel for improving operations and controlling costs, as they continue to provide the highest level of service possible to the citizens of Fire District 10.

## Fire District 10 Received Grant

by Deputy Chief Rod Heimbigner

Spokane County Fire District 10 received \$65,000 from the 2005 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The 2005 funds, representing \$650 million to this nationwide grant, are based on a competitive nature. Competition was fierce for these funds as there were over 20,000 grant applications received by Homeland Security.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program assists local fire departments in purchasing firefighting equipment, funding firefighter health and safety programs, enhancing emergency medical services programs and conducting fire education and prevention programs throughout the United States.

The Fire District used the funds to replace all of its radios. In all, 55 portable (handheld) and 19 mobile radios, along with programming software and other related items were purchased. The District was in dire need of replacing radios for several reasons. Many were old and unable to hold more than 16 frequencies (the bare minimum is 20); additionally all of them worked differently as there were four different brands and several models among them. None were compliant with the new P-25 standards that have evolved from the September 11, 2001 attacks. This will go a long way toward firefighter safety and allow us to be more efficient during emergencies.

Since the inception of this Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program in 2001 Fire District 10 has received three grants from the program totaling just under \$178,000. For 2006 the District put in for \$233,000 for replacement of its air-packs. The awards for 2006 will be announced through February 2007.