



• Spokane County Fire District 10

Station 10-1 ~ 929 S Garfield Road, Airway Heights WA 99001

Station 10-2 ~ 5408 W Lawton Road, Spokane WA 99224

Station 10-3 ~ 6316 N Dover Road, Spokane WA 99224

Station 10-4 ~ 1411 S Brooks Road, Medical Lake WA

Station 10-5 ~ 9921 W Trails Road, Spokane WA 99224

Spring Quarter 2017

FIRE DISTRICT 10 TELEGRAPH

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Spokane County Fire Dist. 10
Administrative Offices: 929 S Garfield Road Airway Heights

Note From Chief Scharff

Spring Greetings from SCFD10 Fire House to Your House.

Springtime is a favorite season for most of us after the long, cold winter; and I for one, really look forward to seeing the sun and warmer weather.

I'd like to follow up on a portion of the article I published in our Winter Quarter Newsletter. As a reminder, Spokane County voters approved a 10-year 1/10% sales and use tax in 2008 to build a reliable communications system. That work has been completed, however the system requires updates and maintenance to ensure reliability for the system that all emergency responders are now using county-wide. Spokane County voters will see PROPOSITION 1 on their APRIL 25th voter ballot where you will have the opportunity to approve or reject Proposition 1.

Proposition 1 is the renewal of 1/10 of 1% sales and use tax collected (*one penny for a \$10 retail purchase*). It is a county-wide proposition that enables critical funding of maintenance and upgrades for our current robust emergency communications system that ALL first responders rely on every day for every service call county-wide. Reliability of current system and future system upgrades are imperative for maintaining GOOD communications - from the time you call 911 or Crime Check; to how calls are then processed; to dispatching of responders and ensuring responders have all available information when they arrive at an emergency scene.

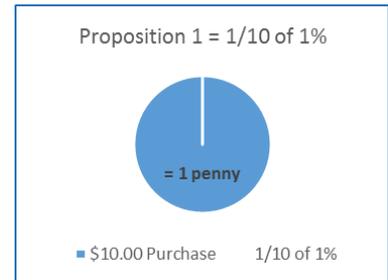
I am confident you can all relate to the inefficiencies of outdated electronic devices - purchased even a few years back; they are most likely 'borderline' for today's use and at some point repair parts can no longer be obtained and/or locating them becomes cost-prohibitive (like trying to use a phone that is 10 years old).

This **Proposition 1 tax is not a new tax**, nor is it collected by your local Fire District. Additionally, we do not have the budget dollars currently available to support our portion of the responsibility should the measure be rejected. Therefore the entire county-wide emergency communications system would be compromised.

**** PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE ON APRIL 25th ****

If you have any questions about this Proposition or suggestions how we can serve you better, please email at nscharff@scfd10.org or call me @ 509 244-2425
Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Fire Chief.

Nick Scharff



SERVING THE WEST PLAINS

IF APPROVED, PROPOSITION 1 WILL:



OPERATE

Operate Emergency Communications System and Crime Check. Crime Check serves as an additional way to reach public safety 24/7 and provides an overflow system to 911.



MAINTAIN

Maintain and replace public safety communication devices that have reached the end of their useful life and fund software upgrades for the system.



IMPROVE

Improve the 911 system, which will soon allow callers to send photos and/or video with their 911 calls. ALERT Spokane, our region's citizen emergency notification system, will also be upgraded.



INTEGRATE

Integrate Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) between Police, Sheriff, Fire and EMS for faster response times.

If not funded, the existing 1/10th of 1% sales tax will expire September 30, 2018. Our systems will be strained. Connectivity, reliability, and coverage between law, fire, and EMS will be greatly diminished. Crime Check services will also be threatened.

To learn more about Proposition 1, please visit www.prop1spokane.org

SAFETY TIPS for outside hazards—machinery, insects, heat, and more

1. Wear safety goggles, sturdy shoes, and long pants when using lawn mowers and other machinery.
2. Protect your hearing when operating machinery. If you have to raise your voice to talk to someone who is an arm's length away, the noise can be potentially harmful to your hearing.
3. Make sure equipment is working properly.
4. Wear gloves to protect from skin irritations, cuts, and contaminants.
5. Use insect repellent containing DEET.
6. Follow instructions and warning labels on chemical and lawn and garden equipment. (As a reminder, if workers will be using consumer chemical products in amounts and/or frequencies that exceed typical consumer use, employers must obtain a safety data sheet (SDS) for the product, ensure that it is properly labeled, and train workers in its hazards and safe work practices.)
7. Reduce the risk of sunburn and skin cancer by wearing long sleeves, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunshades. Use sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher.
8. Keep an eye on the thermometer and take precautions in the heat.
9. When working in hot weather, remind workers to drink plenty of liquids, but not those that contain alcohol or large amounts of sugar, as they can cause you to lose body fluid.
10. Pay attention to signs of heat-related illness, including high body temperature, headache, dizziness, rapid pulse, nausea, confusion, or unconsciousness.

And remember—if you hire a contractor for landscaping or other outdoor maintenance, it's important to inquire about the company's safety record and make sure they train and require employees to follow safe work practices. They may not be on your payroll, but if a contract worker is injured at your facility, OSHA can cite and fine not only the contractor, but the host employer as well. Another important reminder is when hiring a contractor check to make sure they have the proper insurance to cover their employees and work.

✓ **Spokane County Fire District 10's Prevention Department reached out to over 75 kids at Snowden and Windsor elementary schools. ✓ We also staffed a Fire Prevention booth during the Big Horn show at the Fairgrounds, involving well over 200 kids — it was a big success!**

FIRE SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY, AND NOT JUST DURING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK. THINK FIRE SAFETY DURING SPRING CLEAN-UP AND ALL YEAR LONG!

Spring Clean-Up Tips: With Spring's arrival, people are focusing on long anticipated projects like annual cleaning, home repairs, and yard work. Homeowners and tenants alike are ready for better weather and looking forward to cleaning up their homes and property, including items that have accumulated over the winter. Spring clean-up is an excellent opportunity to reduce and remove fire and safety hazards so that the entire family can enjoy the nice days ahead. The following are some helpful ***Spring Clean-Up and safety tips:***

- ✓ ***Reduce the amount of clutter inside and outside your home.*** While clutter does not start fires, it can become fuel for a fire. One small spark can lead to a tragedy. Make sure access to, and egress from your home isn't blocked by clutter or debris.
 - Clean your garage of stored newspapers or other rubbish that can fuel a fire.
 - Household and pool chemicals, paints and poisons should be clearly marked and stored out of children's reach. Dispose of any that are leaking or expired.
 - Make sure gasoline and cleaning fluids are also marked and stored in a cool dry place away from the house and away from children and pets. Use only approved containers for gasoline storage.
 - Common household chemicals can fuel a fire and can also be hazardous to your health. Maintain only the amounts you need and be sure to use, store and dispose of household hazardous materials in a safe manner as outlined on the product.
 - If you store gasoline, keep it outside your home in a shed or detached garage. Keep only small quantities in tightly sealed containers. Use gasoline only as a motor fuel - never as a cleaning agent. Never store gasoline indoors.
 - Don't use gasoline to start a charcoal grill, and don't add charcoal lighter fluid once the fire has started.
 - Remove and discard all fire hazards, including stacks of old clothing and rags, newspapers and magazines.
 - Properly dispose of oily or greasy rags. If these items must be stored, they should be kept in labeled, sealed, metal containers.
 - Pay attention to spaces around your hot water tanks, furnaces, fire places, space heaters, and dryers, as well as areas under cellar stairs. Keep these areas clean.
 - Your medicine cabinet is not meant to be a storage area for all of the medicines that your family has ever been prescribed. Spring cleaning is a good time to get rid of them and any expired over-the-counter medicines that you may have.
 - Maintain your yard. Trim bushes, plants and trees. Removing vegetation clears fuel for any potential fire and improves the appearance of your property. Keep gutters and roofs clear of leaves and other buildup.
 - Check the kids' play area for sharp objects, poisonous plants, and tripping hazards.
 - Clean up work areas by putting sharp tools and other work items out of children's reach.
 - Check your barbeque grill and propane supply lines for leaks and cracks, and be sure to store any propane tanks at least 10 feet away from your house and garage. Never store propane indoors. Do not use a gas grill or propane grill on a porch or deck. Locate grills a safe distance (at least 10 feet) from buildings or wooden decks.
 - If you smoke, smoke outdoors, and make sure smoking materials are extinguished. Keep matches and lighters out of sight and out of reach of children.
 - Test all your smoke alarms monthly to ensure they are working. Change the batteries at least once every year. Most smoke alarms also need "spring cleaning" maintenance - Check your manual. To help prevent nuisance alarms, gently vacuum your smoke alarm every six months or as needed.
 - Remember to change batteries in flashlights and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors.
 - Replace all smoke alarms and CO detectors every 10 years or as recommended by the manufacturer.
 - Keep an eye out for unsafe conditions in your neighborhood, and please assist your neighbors, especially our senior citizens

National Volunteer Week is April 23-29 and we are grateful for all of our Volunteers.

This month we are highlighting our dedicated female volunteer fire firefighters. The district has seven females who support each other in this typically male-dominated profession.

Kelsey Wardsworth is 26 years old and works full time for AMR. Kelsey has been a volunteer firefighter for over four years and with District 10 for around two years. Kelsey fell in love with fire-fighting. "I love working outside versus being in a building," she said. Whether it is a brush fire or a medical call, she loves encountering something new every day. Kelsey admits that there are challenges for women firefighters working in a male-dominated profession.



The job can be more physically demanding as a woman because it requires a lot of physical strength and men, by nature, have more upper body strength. "Women must pass all the same physical tests as men," she said. She is confident that she is up to the job. Kelsey devotes her life to work and firefighting. She volunteers around 150 hours a month while working full time. She also recognizes that the professional positions are highly competitive with a limited number of openings making them tough to come by. One day, possibly, she will land one.

Sarah Specht is 33, soon to be 34, and might be the oldest of her peers. She has been volunteering as a firefighter for three years. Her full time career is as a social worker with CPS. She has thought about being a career firefighter and goes back and forth with it. Her draw towards firefighting comes from overcoming the challenges and the feelings of accomplishment she gets from the hard work. "The challenge is continuous," she said. All of the women, including Sarah, stress that they undergo the same testing and training as the men. Sometimes it can be challenging for the women. It can be disconcerting to be the only female out of 50 men. "All of them have views about working with women. Some will treat you differently, and some don't. You have to pick and choose your battles," she said,

She also observes that, "Women can be more adaptable and have an advantage with conflict resolution." She appreciates that the chief is supportive of the females and had a female career captain with 25 years experience talk with them. "It was inspiring," she said. The women also rely on each other for support and talk about how to handle various situations.

Sarah is a crew leader and finds it challenging sometimes to be leading men who can sometimes undermine her authority. Admittedly, she moved into the position of crew leader quicker than she expected. She is confident in her abilities but would have liked to have spent more time in one particular position to gain additional experience. She too is confident that she can get the job done. She volunteers approximately 65-70 hours a month. Sometimes it is hard if she is working a shift and there are no calls because it can feel like wasted time. "When a call comes in, it feels like there is a purpose why I am here," she said.



Sarah Williams has been a volunteer at District 10 for sixteen years. She is a fulltime mom and works fulltime. Sarah starting volunteering with her husband and her dad, making it a family affair. Sarah loves the camaraderie in the fire service and although she has lots of irons in the fire, she enjoys giving back to the community.



[Amanda McCoury](#) is 26 years old and has been volunteering for six years. Her father is a volunteer fire captain with the district so she grew up with the idea of serving and giving back to the community in such a meaningful way. At the department, she feels that everyone is treated equally. Everyone completes the same physical tests and gets the same training. “Be strong,” she tells herself.

Amanda appreciates the encouragement and opportunities to continue training and acquire further certifications. “You can go as far as you have time and desire to,” she said. Originally, Amanda wanted to pursue a career in firefighting, but she cannot do that because of her vision. She has worked as an emergency medical technician with Deer Park Ambulance.

Amanda is considered a traditional volunteer, which means that she lives in the district and she can respond to calls from home so she is not required to pull shifts. She gets all the calls and can decide when to respond depending on how close she is to the location.



[Jamie Kavanaugh](#) is 23 years old and is a fulltime student at Eastern Washington University studying Addiction Studies. Jamie has been a volunteer firefighter for two years. She is a resident at the station and pulls six shifts. Jamie hopes to make this a career, whether it be in Spokane or somewhere else.

Jamie is motivated by the challenge of this profession. “You never know what kind of call you are going to get on shift, that’s why you should always be on your toes”. Being on six shifts has allowed her to experience a lot of different types of calls, whether it be fires, car accidents, or medical calls.

Jamie says that she sees it as somewhat of an advantage being a female in the fire service because females have a different instinct than the men. “We may not be as physically strong, but our intuition and nurturing qualities could benefit us in a lot of situations”. She says that the big thing is just gaining respect by treating others how she wants to be treated.



[Shyann Morton](#) is 21 years old and has been volunteering since 2014, and became a resident at in 2015. Her dad was a volunteer when she was young, which got her excited to become a volunteer as soon as she was old enough. She is a full time student at Eastern Washington University going for her degree in education and hopes to be a middle school teacher one day, and plans on volunteering for as long as she is able to.



[Tiffany Pope](#) is the newest member of the female firefighter cadre. Tiffany joined District 10 in 2016. She works at AMR and is a fulltime mom to a five-year old son. Tiffany enjoys learning the ropes of volunteering for a fire district and looks forward to learning more in the years to come.

Thanks to all of our female firefighters for blazing the trail for every young girl who may want to pursue firefighting as a volunteer or as a career path.

Spokane County Fire District 10
929 S Garfield Road
Airway Heights, WA 99001

Phone: 509-244-2425
Fax: 509-244-2421
Email: info@scfd10.org

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**Spokane County Fire
District 10**



WELCOME ABOARD TRAINING LIEUTENANT JARED MURPHY

I started my fire service career with Spokane County Fire District 9 in 1996 as a volunteer firefighter. Since then I have worked for Spokane County Fire District 4, Washington State DNR, the U.S. Forest Service in Northern California, South Pend Oreille Fire Rescue, and most recently the Kalispel Tribal Fire Department in the capacity of training Captain.

I was born and raised in North Spokane County. My Wife Darla of 12 years, my Son Wyatt (10) and I currently reside in Colbert in a home that my grandparents built near the old buckeye sawmill. We have 2 daughters that are grown and out of the house; Tyanne (23), works in the dental field in Spokane, and Courtney (20), is enlisted in the U.S. Navy and is assigned to the USS Decatur as a gunners mate.

We enjoy spending quality family time at the lake, camping, riding bikes on the centennial trail or just being at home working on the never ending list of projects that need attention.

I feel very honored, and excited to serve as the new Training Lieutenant here at Spokane County Fire District 10, and look forward to growing with the Department and its members into the future.

