



## • 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 99022

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

1st Quarter 2018

## FIRE DISTRICT 10 TELEGRAPH

### Note From Chief Scharff

Greetings from the FIRE HOUSE to YOUR HOUSE!

I hope everyone is excited for spring weather and longer days as summer approaches!

In the last quarter of 2017, Spokane County Fire District 10 successfully completed an audit by Washington Survey and Rating Bureau (WSRB). Typically, these audits are completed every 5 years and is a lengthy process – the last update was in 2011.

So, WHO is WSRB and how does it affect you?

WSRB is a property underwriting and rating information source for the Washington insurance industry. At the core, they are a property insurance rating organization, the only one of its kind authorized to submit filings to the Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on behalf of subscribing insurers. WSRB provides reliable data and risk evaluation, used by most insurance subscribers in Washington State, to determine fire insurance premium rate structures.

WSRB evaluates over 700 fire departments statewide. The ratings are through a point system covering four main topics with subcategories, resulting in a score of 1-10 rating for each fire department. The 1-10 assigned ratings are then used by insurance companies to set fire insurance rates in respective areas.

- ♦ Water Supply - Evaluates fire department's ability to provide adequate water supply for the types & sizes of structures in our geographic area. This water supply is either accessed through public water systems where fire hydrants exist; or in rural areas, the determination is on how reliable and adequate the department's capabilities are to transport water via fire apparatus to any given area.
- ♦ Fire Department – Evaluates our distribution of fire stations - locations, number and types of apparatus housed in each station, along with the condition, age and capacities of each apparatus. Fire training and staffing, are also regarded in this rating.
- ♦ Emergency Communications - Evaluates our in-house communications network such as pagers, cell phones, two-way radios, as well as dispatch centers and overall communications systems throughout our service area.
- ♦ Fire Safety Control - Evaluates such items as code enforcement, public fire education, fire investigations, building code enforcement and pre-planning efforts.

Spokane County Fire District 10 was evaluated by WSRB under an updated schedule which is a more stringent evaluation than in prior years. I am happy to report that we have maintained our class 5/6 rating throughout Fire District 10. The District continues to show improvement towards obtaining a lower rating in the future.

I am always available to answer any questions about the Fire/Rescue/EMS services we provide. Thank You for the opportunity to serve,

Nick Scharff  
Fire Chief





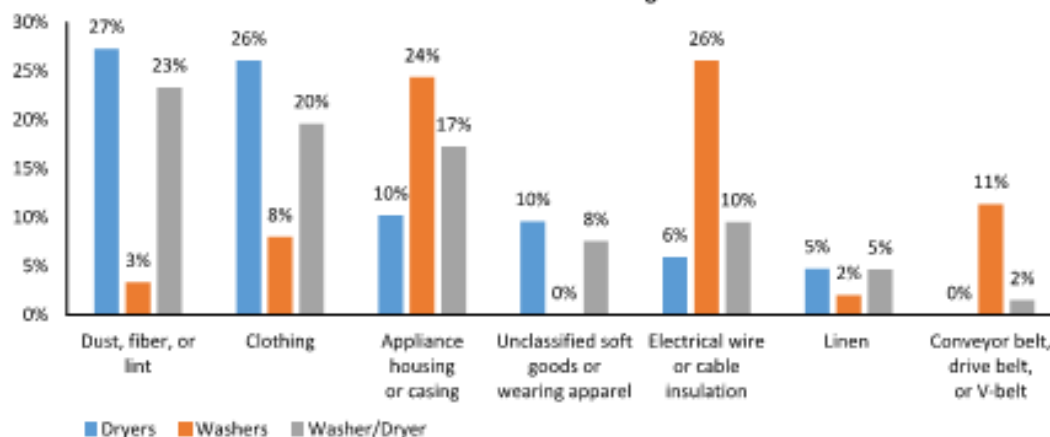
## FACT SHEET » RESEARCH

### Home Fires Involving Clothes Dryers and Washing Machines

In 2010–2014, U.S. municipal fire departments responded to an estimated 15,970 home fires involving clothes dryers or washing machines each year.\* These fires resulted in annual losses estimated at:

- ▶ 13 civilian deaths
- ▶ 440 civilian injuries
- ▶ and \$238 million in direct property damage

Home Fires Involving Washers and Dryers, by Factor Contributing to Ignition  
2010–2014 Annual Averages



Source: NFIRS 5.0 and NFPA fire experience survey.

#### In 2010–2014:

- ▶ The leading items first ignited in clothes dryer fires were dust, fiber, or lint (27%) and clothing (26%). In washing machine fires, the leading items first ignited were electrical wire or cable insulation (26%) and appliance housing or casing (24%).
- ▶ Most of these home fires involved clothes dryers (92%).
- ▶ The leading cause (31%) of home clothes dryer and washer fires was failure to clean.

\*Homes are dwellings, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, townhouses, rowhouses, and condominiums.

Source: NFPA Research: [www.nfpa.org/research](http://www.nfpa.org/research)  
Contact information: 617-984-7451 or [research@nfpa.org](mailto:research@nfpa.org)



**NATIONAL FIRE  
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# Clothes Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- » Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- » Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- » Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- » Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- » Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- » Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- » Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- » Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- » Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

## AND DON'T FORGET...

Dryers should be properly **grounded**.

Check the **outdoor vent** flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.

Keep the area around your dryer **clear** of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

Clothes that have come in contact with **flammable substances**, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

## FACT

- ❗ The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Spokane County Fire District 10

[www.scfd10.org](http://www.scfd10.org)

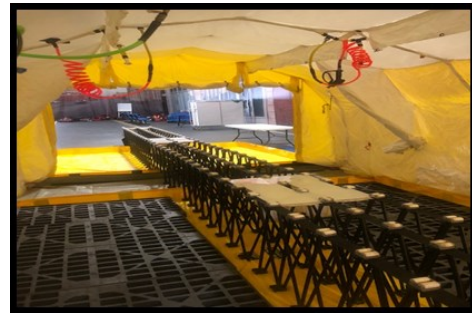
### **Recruit Academy 2018-1**

Recruit Academy 2018-1 just completed their mid-term tests and are well into their fire training. The recruits have completed their initial confidence burn, which is the first time in the training tower with live fire, and are working hard in their studies and physical fitness. District 10 has 14 recruits in Academy 2018-1 and all of us here at the department are excited to watch them grow in their fire service careers.

What is the West Plains Recruit Academy? To start with, the Academy is a collaboration of 4 fire departments from the West Plains: Spokane County Fire District 10, Airway Heights Fire Rescue, Medical Lake Fire Rescue and the Cheney Fire Department. The Academy has a Director, Lead Instructor, Logistics and Drill Master to lead recruit training. Additionally, instructors are solicited throughout the area to teach specific topics and deliver the many hours of classroom and hands-on practical training that every recruit receives. It is a daunting task delivering so much information on such a large scale, but the payoff is in the finished product of well trained personnel that keep the West Plains safe on a daily basis.

### **Preparedness Training**

Fire District 10 recently sent 2 officers to Anniston, Alabama for Hazardous Materials based EMS training. Deputy Chief Orlando Sandoval and Lieutenant Michael Risley attended the training and will use the skills they learned to assist in the planning of a county-wide hazardous materials drill that will prepare responders from around the Spokane area to deal with large-scale hazardous materials emergencies. The training took place at the Center for Domestic Preparedness which offers a multitude of courses that are sponsored by FEMA to local, state, and federal emergency responders. The drill will be executed this spring and will take place at multiple locations across the county. This will allow departments from a multitude of agencies to participate in their local area.



*Photo Courtesy of Lt. Mike Risley*

\* \* \* \* \*

***SCFD10's Annual Awards Banquet was celebrated in December.***

***Please join us in congratulating our Award Winners!***

### **2017 Award Recipients**

- ◆ **ROOKIE OF THE YEAR . . . . . EMILY WALSTON**
- ◆ **FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR . . . . . SHYANN MORTON**
- ◆ **RESIDENT FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR . . . . . JAMIE KAVANAUGH**
- ◆ **MAINTENANCE AWARD . . . . . LT ELLEN FENDER**
- ◆ **SAFETY AWARD . . . . . DAVID SMITH**
- ◆ **EMS PROVIDER OF THE YEAR . . . . . RICK KELLY**
- ◆ **MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD . . . . . IKE ISAACSON**
- ◆ **FIRE OFFICER OF THE YEAR . . . . . LT KJELL ANDERSON**
- ◆ **CHIEF'S AWARD . . . . . DOCTOR DAN HAGERTY**



## Spring Has Sprung – Fire Prevention Safety Tips for the Warmer Months

### Grills:

Fire is unavoidable when it comes to preparing the perfect kabob or rack of ribs on the grill, which means you've got some inherent risks right from the get-go. In fact, the NFPA reports that an average of 8,900 home fires are caused by grilling each year. Here are some *fire safety tips for the grill*:

- ◆ While the meat is marinating, be sure to check each potentially problematic point of the grill including the propane tank, the hose, and all connecting points.
- ◆ Charcoal should be soaked with charcoal starter fluid only, so don't let the pyro-happy Boy Scout in your family go anywhere near the grill with a container of lighter fluid, no matter how cool he swears it will be!
- ◆ Make sure the grill is clean—failing to clean the grill before and after use is a contributing factor in nearly 20% of all grill structure fires.
- ◆ Make sure the grill is set up in an open, outdoor area with nothing flammable (plants, paper products, etc.) nearby.

### Outdoor Fire Pits:

The necessary safety precautions for an outdoor fire pit (s'mores, anybody?) are much the same as for a grill, plus a few others:

- ◆ Never leave young children unattended near a fire in the pit.
- ◆ Fill a bucket with water and set it next to the pit *before* you even begin building the fire.
- ◆ Avoid throwing leaves, pine cones, pine needles and paper into the fire. They catch fire quickly and can result in dangerous floating embers.
- ◆ Unless there's an emergency, avoid dumping the entire bucket of water on the fire to put it out. Instead, spread the pieces of fuel as far apart as possible and gently sprinkle water over them until there are no more glowing embers. This prevents the scatter of embers and a thick cloud of smoke.
- ◆ Toast your marshmallows over the embers rather than the flames. This not only gives them that perfect golden crust, but prevents them from catching on fire.

### Chimneys:

As cozy as it was in January and February, come April and May chances are you'll be less inclined to build a fire in the living room fireplace. As easy as it is to just scoop out the ashes, close it up, and forget about it until November, go ahead and have the chimney inspected as part of your spring cleaning effort. The NFPA recommends having a chimney inspected and thoroughly cleaned at least once a year anyway, and getting it out of the way this time of year often means ridding it of buildup that would only cause more damage if it hung around until the fall. Plus, chimney technicians will be more likely to have flexible schedules in the springtime.

### Smoke Alarms:

You knew this one was coming, right? The batteries should be changed once a year anyway, so just go ahead and roll it into your spring cleaning ritual. As the spring and summer days progress, don't forget to test the smoke alarms (there should be at least one on every floor of the house) each month.

### Dryers:

If you're lucky enough to have the space for a clothesline, consider drying your clothes and linens outside during these lovely warm months—is there anything better than the smell of freshly-laundered sheets after they've been dried by a soft spring breeze? If that's not an option, keep in mind that the leading cause of clothes dryer-related fires is a failure to keep them clean. Scooping out the lint basket takes all of about 12 seconds, so be sure to clear it out every time you throw a load in. The NFPA also recommends cleaning out the vent pipe at least once a year, so might as well add that to the spring cleaning list, too.

***We hope that you found  
these tips helpful.***

***Happy Spring!***

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**DC Jack Krill**

### **Please join us in welcoming our Deputy Chief of Safety & Logistics - Jack Krill**

Jack Krill has been in the fire service since 1991 and served as a full-time chief fire officer in combination fire departments in Alaska, Idaho, and Oregon. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology and Master of Science in Fire and Emergency Management from Oklahoma State University. For over ten years, Jack has provided consultation services in the areas of safety, risk control, recruitment/retention, planning, grants, and leadership. This includes working with many agencies in Washington. His operational experience includes effectively serving as a fire officer, health and safety officer, incident commander, haz-mat coordinator, task force leader, instructor, and EMT. Jack took on this new role as Deputy Chief February 6, 2018.

His wife Jessica and their 2-year-old daughter, Evalette, are excited to be moving to District 10 and they are expecting their 2nd child in March. Jessica has worked as a wildland firefighter all over the west for the Forest Service and Park Service. They enjoy the outdoors, spending time with family and friends, and traveling. Jack and Jessica look forward to making District 10 the place where they can raise their children and become part of the community and fire district family.