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NEWSLETTER

**SERVING THE WEST PLAINS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY**

SECOND QUARTER 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



As I conclude my first year as Chief of Spokane County Fire District 10, I continue to be impressed and humbled by the level of dedication our men and women provide to those who live, work, and recreate in the West Plains. The following pages contain information about the upcoming EMS levy, what you can do to help your neighbor, ways for you to help us find your home, and reducing your risk of living in the wildland interface.

As we all work to keep up with the changing landscape of the pandemic's impact on our communities, we know you and your family have probably been impacted in some way. I am overwhelmed by the strength and character of our community. Like many organizations on the front-lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are encouraged by the outpouring of support we have received to include messages of gratitude, acts of generosity, and words of encouragement are powerful affirmations for our first responders.

We recognize staying at home has been disruptive and we are grateful for the many members of our community who have taken this order to heart. Everyone, at every age, plays an important role in stopping the spread of this infection. While the restrictions are lifted, please continue to observe physical distancing. Support community organizations like our local food banks, who are still in vital need of resources. I ask that you consider looking after your neighbors take this time to get to know your neighbors and even consider establishing a virtual neighborhood group. As an organization, we are hopeful that sometime during the near future, we will look at this difficult time in the "rearview mirror." When we do, it will be with immense pride in how we individually responded.

Do something kind for a neighbor and consider purchasing address signs up and down your street, then consider mounting it for them. Mount it several feet off the ground to avoid blocking the numbers with a winter blanket of snow. Mount it so you can see it in both directions. If your UPS or FedEx driver has problems finding you then call us to help assess the best way to address your home. Complex driveways with multiple homes may require additional address signs. Having your neighbor's address visible also helps your address be located often saving valuable time.

Creating Fire Wise Communities is something that I would like to help you do. If you would like to know about how you can help create a firewise community please review the link <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/firewise> and contact us on how you can help. Studies show that as many as 80 percent of homes lost to wildland fire may have been saved if brush around the homes were cleared and defensible space created around structures. There is no better time than now to prepare and educate your family, friends, and neighbors.

It has been a pleasure to serve the West Plains as Fire Chief this year, and we will continue to learn, improve, and grow to meet the coming demands of our expanding community. The dedicated members of the fire department are devoted to your safety and wellbeing and we thank you for your support.

With sincere and warm regards,

Ken Johnson, Fire Chief

Emergency Medical Services Levy

Voters in Spokane County Fire District 10 will be receiving a mail-in ballot in July asking to renew the existing EMS levy that accounts for 11% of our funding. This funding is critical to maintain the current level of basic life support services as it funds positions, equipment and supplies. As a growing rural community, our residents rely upon the fire district's timely, professional response to all hazard calls but especially medical emergencies. In 2019, SCFD10 responded to over 850 medical calls (77% of our call volume) including motor vehicle accidents, difficulty breathing, chest pains, falls, allergic reactions, general illness, overdoses, assaults, pregnancies, and traumas. Your support and lives depend on this funding mechanism.

EMS Levy Facts

- The current EMS Levy was approved for 10 years by SCFD10 voters in 2010 and will expire on 12/31/2020. We are requesting that the current levy be extended another 10 years to maintain our level of service.
- It is not a new tax. It is a continuation of the current levy.
- This EMS Levy proposal will maintain the current levy rate at \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The same rate homeowners have paid for the past ten years.
- SCFD10 has a record of sound financial management and responsible public funds stewardship as evidenced by receiving no findings from the Washington State Auditor's office for the past several decades.



SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #10

929 S Garfield Rd Airway Heights WA 99001

COMMISSIONERS Scott Mericle, Chair Ken Pegg Gordon Hester

DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF Ken Johnson

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR Peggy Callahan

DEPUTY CHIEFS Orlando Sandoval Don Malone **DIVISION CHIEF** Debby Dodson

LIEUTENANTS Mike Risley Jared Murphy Rob Sayers

FIREFIGHTERS Taylor Scharff Evan Zeutschel Lane Bitz

70 Additional Support Services Members and Firefighters

Sta 10-1 929 S Garfield Airway Heights WA 99001 **Sta 10-2** 5408 W Lawton Rd Spokane WA 99224

Sta 10-3 6316 N Dover Rd Spokane WA 99224

Sta 10-4 1411 S Brooks Rd Medical Lake WA 99022 **Sta 10-5** 9921 W Trails Rd Spokane WA 99224

(509) 244-2425

info@scfd10.org

Get Involved!

Maybe It's Time To Add A New Suit To Your Wardrobe



NEIGHBORHOOD FIREFIGHTERS ARE NEEDED

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.SCFD10.ORG



PREPARATION IS KEY

Spokane County Fire District 10—Serving the West Plains, is considered a wildland urban interface which is characterized by businesses and homes intermingled with undeveloped wildland vegetation including timber. This places lives and property in hazard zones during wildland fire events which our immediate area is prone to experience.

SCFD10 and other emergency agencies are well prepared and experienced in managing and suppressing wildland fires. We maximize available resources including staffing and equipment to help protect you and your property in this high-hazard fire environment. There are cooperating agreements that allow resources to be shared and are a tremendous benefit for our residents and our fire district. However, a lot of people assume that when a wildfire starts, it will be quickly controlled and extinguished. While most of the time this is correct, there are times and circumstances when conditions such as high temperatures, low humidity, multiple fire starts, fuel loads, topography and even just a moderate wind combine to make wildland fires burn so intensely and quickly, there is little firefighters can do initially. During a major wildland fire event, it is also possible there aren't enough resources to protect every single home. What you do now through advance planning and action, or choose not to do, to protect your family and property can significantly affect the outcome of a potentially tragic or catastrophic event. Taking personal responsibility and action before the event happens will help minimize the impact.

Zone 1 30 feet of Lean, Clean and Green

Remove all dead plants, grass, wood piles, pine needles and weeds from gutters, under and on decks and around buildings

Zone 2 30-100 feet Reduced Fuel

Reduce ladder fuels by trimming trees and removing bushes from under trees

SCFD10 Staff are available to visit your property and offer suggestions to help firewise your home.





WE CAN'T HELP YOU IF WE CAN'T FIND YOU

**Order your reflective address sign today,
it may help save your life or someone you love!**

- Address signs make a great, potentially lifesaving gift for your neighbors.
- Properly addressed homes with reflective signage in rural areas give SCFD10 the best opportunity for a fast, professional response that minimizes confusion.
- Reflective numbering on both sides of 30" x 6" aluminum with pre-drilled holes for easy installation.
- Highly recommended to place more than one if you have multiple drive-ways branching out.

Address Sign Order Form

CHOOSE ONE AND WRITE NUMBERS IN SHADED BOX

OPTION #1: Horizontal

OPTION #2: Vertical

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Complete this form and email it to us at info@scfd10.org or

Stop in or mail this form to

SCFD #10

929 S Garfield Rd

Airway Heights WA 99001

COST

\$20





PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #4
Spokane, WA.

929 S Garfield Rd
Airway Heights WA 99001



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY

Spokane County Fire District 10 Commissioners, staff and members would like to express their appreciation for the support our community has shown for our agency during these challenging times. Individuals have donated 100's of masks to help protect our first responders, their families and yours, and ultimately, the community.



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