



• 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

4th Quarter 2017

FIRE DISTRICT 10 TELEGRAPH

Note From Chief Scharff



Greetings from the FIRE HOUSE to YOUR HOUSE!

Our 2017 year-in-review shows that response rate numbers are pretty normal for Fire District 10. We are on track to hit approximately 950 calls by end of 2017; our past three-year average is just over 900 calls.

The chart to the right provides a general breakdown of the type of emergencies

we see annually. It is easy to see that Rescue & Emergency Medical calls are the most predominate—68.18%; the remainder is divided into five other categories. It is important to note that “fire” calls generally take the most personnel and longest time commitment for our resources to safely mitigate; this includes extinguishment, salvage, overhaul and return to service.

Every one of our response personnel dedicate many hours each year to maintain existing skills and learn additional skills so they are proficient in their job and able to provide the best service possible to the community for any type of emergency. District 10 is staffed with a combination of 6 Career Firefighters and about 75 Volunteer Firefighters and support members to provide 24/7/365 coverage.

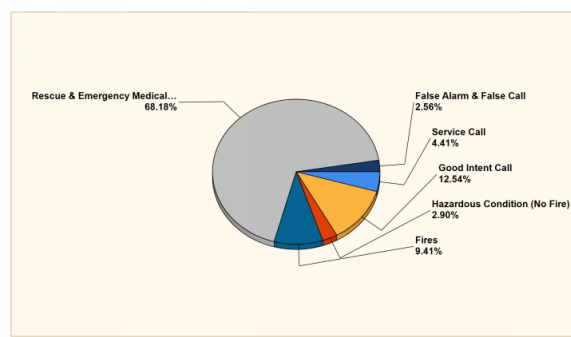
Our committed Volunteer Firefighters make up the backbone that allows District 10 to respond to the various types of emergency calls that we face. Many of our volunteers have other commitments in their lives besides serving the community as a Volunteer Firefighter, including having a family, having regular day job and having educational commitments. Whether they are a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT or a Career Firefighter/EMT, they are all committed to the same excellence in training in order to be prepared and ready for the next call.

I ask you to join me in thanking all our Firefighter First Responders for their dedicated commitment to providing you the best possible Fire/Rescue/EMS service in our community.

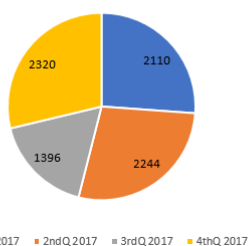
As always, I am available to answer any questions about the Fire/Rescue/EMS services we provide. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I wish you and your family a safe and healthy new year in 2018!

Nick Scharff,
Fire Chief

Breakdown by Major Incident Types for Date Range
Zone(s): All Zones | Start Date: 01/01/2017 | End Date: 12/13/2017



2017 Training Hours
8070 Total Hours
Avg 115.29 Hours Per Person



Cooking Fire Safety

With an average of 455 daily fires, cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries according to NFPA's Home Fires Involving Cooking Equipment Report & NFIRS data.

Did you know...



U.S. fire departments respond to an average of **166,100** home fires per year involving cooking equipment.

Thanksgiving is the leading day for home fires involving cooking equipment, with 4 times the average number!



2/3 of American households cook at least one hot meal per day.



Contributing Factors

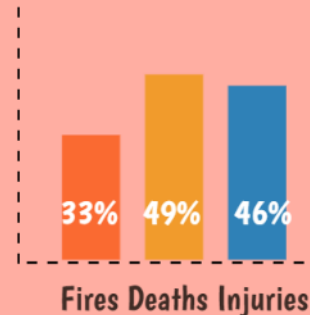
Ranges or cook-tops account for almost **3 of every 5** reported home fires involving cooking equipment.



Ovens account for 13%.

Unattended cooking

is a contributing factor in 33% of home fires related to cooking equipment, 49% of the associated deaths and 46% of the associated injuries.



Something that could catch fire was **too close** to the equipment in 10% of cooking fires and 23% of deaths.

Trends among those injured or killed



55% of civilians injured in home fires involving cooking equipment were hurt while attempting to fight the fire themselves.

Adults aged **65 or over** faced a higher risk of cooking fire death than other age groups.



Children under 5 were more likely to be hurt by touching hot cooking equipment or scalded by hot liquids than by actual fire.



Learn how to reduce the risk of a cooking fire in your home by visiting www.nfpa.org/cooking

TRAINING DIVISION:

The first fire engine company began service January 27, 1678 with its captain (foreman) Thomas Atkins. In 1736 Benjamin Franklin established the Union Fire Company in Philadelphia. The United States did not have government-run fire departments until the time of the American Civil War. (Source: Wikipedia)

Since the inception of organized fire companies, manufacturers have attempted to produce the latest and greatest tools and gear. From tin helmets, and brass bugles used to shout orders at arriving companies drawn by horses, to fire engines with fully integrated electronics and push-button everything; however, one aspect has remained unchanged, steadfast and clear and that is the need to train!

The Spokane County Fire District 10 Training Division values the rich traditions that the fire service has built its foundation on. Tradition offers an opportunity for perspective; to see what worked, what didn't, and avenues on which to proceed for the future. We work very hard to ensure that our training regimen is in line with local, state and national standards. These standards are put into place as a roadmap for success. Not only does the agency that adopts those standards benefit, but the population served by that agency benefits through the services it receives.

From 1678 to 2017, the tradition of high quality training remains a driving force. Our ability to remain flexible and ever ready is just as meaningful today as it was then. With increases in technology being introduced to the business of life safety and fire suppression, as well as all of the changes in building materials and construction methods; our need to train isn't a mere luxury, but one for the well-being of the people that receive our services and the responders who deliver it.

With Christmas just around the corner, I know I speak for every firefighter when I say; I am thankful to be a part of one of the most honorable of all traditions - and that is to be a firefighter!

If you or someone you know has what it takes to be a firefighter, please contact the District Administrative office at 509-244-2425.

CDC Says "Take 3" Actions to Fight the Flu

Flu is a serious contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death.

CDC urges you to take the following actions to protect yourself and others from influenza (the flu):



Take time to get a flu vaccine.

- ✓ CDC recommends a yearly flu vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses.
- ✓ While there are many different flu viruses, a flu vaccine protects against the viruses that research suggests will be most common. (See [Vaccine Virus Selection](#) for this season's vaccine composition.)
- ✓ Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations.
- ✓ Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every year before flu activity begins in their community. CDC recommends getting vaccinated by the end of October, if possible. Learn more about [vaccine timing](#).

- ✓ Vaccination of [high risk persons](#) is especially important to decrease their risk of severe flu illness.
- ✓ [People at high risk of serious flu complications](#) include young children, [pregnant women](#), people with certain chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease and [people 65 years and older](#).
- ✓ Vaccination also is important for [health care workers](#), and other people who live with or care for high risk people to keep from spreading flu to them.
- ✓ [Children younger than 6 months](#) are at high risk of serious flu illness, but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for infants should be vaccinated instead.



Take everyday preventive actions to stop the spread of germs.

- ✓ Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- ✓ While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- ✓ If you are sick with flu symptoms, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)
- ✓ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

- ✓ See Everyday Preventive Actions (www.cdc.gov/flu) and Nonpharmaceutical Interventions (NPIs) for more information about actions – apart from getting vaccinated and taking medicine – that people and communities can take to help slow the spread of illnesses like influenza (flu).



Take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them.

- ✓ If you get the flu, antiviral drugs can be used to treat your illness.
- ✓ Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics. They are prescription medicines (pills, liquid or an inhaled powder) and are not available over-the-counter.
- ✓ Antiviral drugs can make illness milder and shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent serious flu complications. For people with high risk factors, treatment with an antiviral drug can mean the difference between having a milder illness versus a very serious illness that could result in a hospital stay.
- ✓ Studies show that flu antiviral drugs work best for treatment when they are started within 2 days of getting sick, but starting them later can still be helpful, especially if the sick person has a high risk factor or is very sick from the flu. Follow your doctor's instructions for taking this drug.
- ✓ Flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people also may have vomiting and diarrhea. People may be infected with the flu, and have respiratory symptoms without a fever.

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

What motivated you to work with Fire District 10?

Nine years ago a wildland fire almost consumed all our property. While watching the firefighters protect our property, a friend and I asked what we could do to help. Firefighters responded with "join District 10 as a Volunteer".

Why is volunteering at District 10 a meaningful use of your time?

It's been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. With the ongoing training I receive, I know I can take that experience and help those in need.

What's the biggest personal benefit you receive as a volunteer with District 10? *It's hard to put into words, but when my pager goes off, as I respond to the call, I know I am making a difference in someone's life.*

What's the most memorable accomplishment of your volunteer experience? *When my peers elected me 'Firefighter of the Year' at our Annual Awards Banquet.*

What's your favorite part of the fire service? *Being involved with a large family that has the same interest and values I have.*

What's one thing that would surprise someone to learn about you? *I sat down and watched "Days of Our Lives" with my wife.*

What's your favorite restaurant? *Longhorn BBQ...baby back ribs!*



Captain Rob Sayers