Note from Chief Scharff

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and healthy, and ready for warmer months ahead.

Fire District 10 is always striving to provide our citizens the best possible and most cost effective FIRE and EMS service. In light of this, Spokane County Fire District 10 has looked for ways to work with our neighboring departments to improve services to our citizens through cooperative efforts.

The fire departments from the cities of Cheney, Airway Heights, and Medical Lake along with Fire District 10 are all beneficiaries of these cooperative efforts. The benefits include consistent recruit training among agencies, training cost sharing and agency instructor sharing to name a few. It is now known as West Plains Recruit Academy. Most recently the City of Airway Heights FD and Medical Lake FD and Fire District 10 have taken another step toward looking for areas where these three agencies can consolidate. All three jurisdictions now provide ongoing training using a common quarterly schedule on the same topics and curriculum. This provides all members more opportunity to train together and familiarize on each agency’s equipment on a consistent basis.

This has shown to improve how well the three agencies work together on incidents, and greatly improves the efficiency of training delivery. Currently, all three utilize automatic-aid agreements to jointly use firefighters and apparatus on larger incidents.

In an effort to identify other possible cooperative opportunities to build upon, and to look for additional efficiencies between departments, the three agencies have contracted with Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) to perform a feasibility study. ESCI will look in depth at each department, and then look at ways where efficiencies can increase between the three agencies. There are many factors that have to be considered that will affect the outcome of study and any subsequent recommendations.

The elected bodies of each agency (the City Councils of Medical Lake and Airway Heights, and the Board of Fire Commissioners for District 10) will receive a report for review and depending on recommendations, future meetings may need to take place in order to get public input.

More information will be available as the study concludes. If you have questions please feel free to contact us at 509-244-2425.
Spokane County Fire District 10 recently held their Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. This year's banquet was held at Northern Quest Casino on February 1st. Some highlights of the banquet included:

- Resident Firefighter of the Year—Cameron Bergin
- Rookie Firefighter of the Year—Johnny Waller
- Safety Award—Station 10-2
  Represented by Captain Ron Cato and Lt. Marty Shier

Congratulations to all the award recipients.
2013 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet

- **Firefighter of the Year**—David Newman
- **Maintenance Award**—David Newman
- **EMS Award**—Shaun Mashtare, Rick Kelly, David Newman, Sean McColgin, Nick Uribe, Ben Feldland and Chief Scharff
- **Chief’s Award**—Ron Wood and Lynn Schnell

Other awards included: Ten Year Longevity awards for Katie Jansen and Todd Slater and Five Year Longevity awards for Gordon Hester and Rob Sayers.

Thanks to all our hardworking volunteers for the many hours they put in to protect and serve the citizens of the West Plains. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer contact DC Ladd at 509-244-2425.
PREVENTION UPDATE:

Our Prevention Department has been busy this Spring, having completed over 66 inspections since Jan 1st. All occupancies have been compliant and our district is safer for their efforts in staying up to code.

Construction continues in the Grove/Thorpe area of our district with the WEMCO project taking shape as well as the Odem project getting their walls up.

The next step in performing our inspections will be to update our pre-plans and get information entered into our web based fire program for electronic filing.

Spring is right around the corner and soon awareness programs will turn to fire safety for kids and Wild Land. District 10 offers a FREE Wild Land Fire Safety Survey. This service identifies risks on the property and offers suggestions to mitigate them. As soon as spring arrives and we see the grass again, this program will be ready to accept new appointments for the survey. We encourage our citizens to contact us directly to set their safety survey up!

Our Mission:

Fire District 10 is dedicated to serving the West Plains by:
Protecting life, property and the environment.
Presenting education and prevention.
Providing fire, medical and emergency services safely.