# FIRE DISTRICT 10 TELEGRAPH





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

# NOTE FROM THE CHIEF

According to the calendar the official arrival of summer occurred June 21<sup>st</sup>. Mother Nature has once again shown that we have no control over when fire season starts. The outdoor fuel types such as light grass and medium/heavy timber has dried out significantly, 4-6 weeks earlier than normal this year. These conditions will make for a very long dry summer ahead with explosive fire conditions.

When in the outdoors, whether you are mowing your dry field grass trying to lessen the fire hazard at home or camping in the woods, please use extra precautions. It only takes a single spark from a lawn mower blade hitting a rock or a hot exhaust pipe to ignite a fire when conditions are right. There is always potential for fire to grow very rapidly and get out of control especially when accompanied by the wind events and dry conditions we are currently experiencing.

In the event there is a significant fire or other type of emergency in your area there are a few things to know. As your Fire Department serving your area we are all trained to recognize when it is no longer safe for untrained public to remain in the area of an uncontrolled emergency such as wildfire or hazardous material spill.

Spokane County has an Emergency Alert System (EAS) which will notify homeowners or business on their cell, home or business phone number in the event there is evacuation notice for your affected area. This is a fast way to get a notification out quickly to a large number of affected citizens with a simple phone call. Law enforcement and/or fire agencies are the ones authorized to send the evacuation message you would receive. To subscribe to EAS go to <u>www.alertspokane.org</u>.

You may also be notified about an evacuation in person at your residence, or by news media covering the incident.

There are three levels of evacuation notices based on projected severity of incident and specific location.

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Administrative Offices: 929 S Garfield Road Airway

Spokane County Fire Dist. 10

#### Level I – Advisement Issued

- RESIDENTS ARE WARNED THAT CURRENT OR PROJECTED THREATS FROM HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CURRENT INCIDENT ARE SEVERE.
- This is the time for preparation, and precautionary movement of persons with special needs, mobile property, and pets and livestock.
- Level I evacuation advisements may or may not be accompanied by checkpoints, roadblocks or road closures.

#### Level II – Evacuation Warning

THIS NOTICE STATES THAT RESIDENTS MUST BE PREPARED TO LEAVE AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE.

Dangerous conditions exist that may threaten your residence or business.

- Conditions indicate a good probability that hazards associated with the incident will severely limit our ability to provide emergency service protection.
- Fire and/or law enforcement personnel are working in this area to provide specific information about when to leave and the route(s) to be taken. If conditions worsen, we will make every attempt to contact you.
- If you are absent from your home for more than a short period of time, please leave a note with your name and contact telephone in a visible location.
- Level II evacuation advisements may or may not be accomplished by checkpoints, roadblocks or road closures.
- Citizens are advised that advisements and evacuation levels may change at a moment's notice.
- Level II evacuation advisements may be the only notice provided.

#### Level III - Immediate Evacuation Advised

### RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED TO EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY.

- Current conditions present specific and immediate threat(s) to the life and safety of persons within this area.
- Conditions indicate that the hazards associated with the incident will severely limit our ability to provide emergency service protection.
- Fire and law enforcement personnel are working in this area to provide specific information on the route(s) to be taken. If a temporary shelter has been set up residents will be notified of the location.

I want to wish everyone a safe summer ahead and ask you to keep our firefighters safe.

Follow our activities on Facebook.

## Chief Scharff

# **Volunteer Information**

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Spokane County Fire District 10, along with the cities of Airway Heights, Cheney, Medical Lake fire departments hold a joint recruit academy for volunteer fire firefighters. Recruits spend two evenings a week and all day Saturday training. At the completion of the academy recruits go to the North Bend Training Academy to put what they learned into real life scenarios.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER-ING AT SCFD10 CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE (WWW.SCFD10.ORG) OR CALL DC LADD AT 244-2425.

# Congratulations our 2015-1 recruit class:

### Airway Heights Fire Dept:

- \* Joshua Bernsdorf
- \* Grant Gerhart
- \* Carl B McCauley
- \* Guinevere Running Wolf
- \* Daniel Thompson

#### Medical Lake Fire Dept:

- \* Matt Ladd
- \* Jacob Kerwin

### **Cheney Fire Dept:**

- \* Jacob Christianson
- \* Earl Torrez

#### Spokane County Fire District 10:

- \* Justin Myers
- \* Andrew Montoya
- \* Jacob Mehaffey
- \* Jamie Kavanaugh
- David Schaefer



# **Tips On Protecting Your Property**

#### Protect your property by creating and maintaining defensible space now.:

Creating defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs, or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it protects your home from catching fire – either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space is also important for the protection of the firefighters defending your home.

**Defensible Space Zones:** Two zones make up the required 100 feet of defensible space.



## Zone 1

Zone 1 extends 30 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Relocate wood piles into Zone 2.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.

Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.

### Zone 2

- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Create horizontal spacing between shrubs and trees. (See diagram)
- Create vertical spacing between grass, shrubs and trees. (See diagram)

Remove fallen leaves, needles, twigs, bark, cones, and small branches. However, they may be permitted to a depth of 3 inches.

# Tips On Protecting Your Property (cont.)

#### Plant and Tree Spacing:

The spacing between grass, shrubs, and trees is crucial to reduce the spread of wildfires. The spacing needed is determined by the type and size of brush and trees, as well as the slope of the land. For example, a property on a steep slope with larger vegetation requires greater spacing between trees and shrubs than a level property that has small, sparse vegetation.

## Vertical Spacing:

Remove all tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground.

Allow extra vertical space between shrubs and trees. Lack of vertical space can allow a fire to move from the ground to the brush to the tree tops like a ladder.

To determine the proper vertical spacing between shrubs and the lowest branches of trees, use the formula below.



*Example:* A five foot shrub is growing near a tree. 3x5 = 15 feet of clearance needed between the top of the shrub and the lowest tree branch.

# CALL (509) 244-2425 FOR A *FREE* INSPECTION!

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. Performing professionally and politely. Spokane County Fire District 10 929 S Garfield Road Airway Heights WA 99001

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



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# VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER SPOTLIGHT RON WOOD

Where were you born and raised?

Okanogan, WA

When did you begin volunteering for District 10?

After 25 years with district 5 I began to volunteer with district 10 in 2012.

What is your favorite part of the fire service and why?

The camaraderie and being able to help the firefighters help the community.

What is the first thing you would buy if you won the lottery?

A new house

Who is your favorite band/musician?

Ricky Nelson

What is your favorite meal?

Crab



We're on the web www.scfd10.org