



• 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

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

Fall Quarter 2015

FIRE DISTRICT 10 TELEGRAPH



Note From Chief Scharff

As summer 2015 winds down into fall season I would like to share a bit of the summer wildland fire activity your Fire District experienced. Because of the drought early this year, fire season started much earlier than anticipated. We had outdoor environmental conditions arriving in June that we usually don't see until mid-August, followed by continued record setting hot, dry and windy conditions for the next three plus months.

The remarkable year with unprecedented fuel conditions severely affected the fire behavior that was experienced, and not usually seen in Spokane County. With the drought conditions starting very early on, not only were the fine outdoor fuels (grass & small woody products) affected but larger fuels, such as large trees, were stressed and susceptible to entire fire consumption. This created hotter and more difficult fires to contain and extinguish.

Many fires this summer were multiple alarms fires and in several cases homes were threatened. This precipitated the need to put property owners and occupants on evacuation notice to be prepared to leave, or in some case leave, the affected area immediately due to the danger. It became very evident that the prior relationships built between all Spokane County fire agencies and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources paid big dividends this season. On many occasions we depended on interagency assistance to combat the onslaught of large fires that we encountered. Additionally, District 10 resources were utilized county and state wide on large scale incidents. All the while we maintained resources in the district to provide service to our community.

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SERVING THE WEST PLAINS

Spokane County Fire Dist. 10
Administrative Offices: 929 S Garfield Road Airway Heights

Fire Prevention Week



Public education has just wrapped up our annual Fire Prevention Week Campaign, with a program called "Hear the beep where you sleep". This program is geared towards our younger audience and the message is being delivered to local area schools. Our presentation will be seen by over 200 area elementary school children from Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade. Each class group receives a slightly different message that emphasizes our "hear the beep" message while still focusing on an age appropriate subtopic such as focusing on a family escape planning and how to stay low in smoke.

During National Fire Prevention Week, October 4 - 10, 2015 attention was focused on promoting fire safety and prevention, however we should practice fire safety all year long. Many potential fire hazards go undetected because people simply do not take steps to fireproof their home.

Many bedroom fires are caused by misuse or poor maintenance of electrical devices, careless use of candles, smoking in bed, and children playing with matches and lighters.

Most potential hazards can be addressed with a little common sense. For example, be sure to keep flammable items like bedding, clothes and curtains at least three feet away from portable heaters or lit candles, and never smoke in bed. Also, items like appliances or electric blankets should not be operated if they have frayed power cords, and electrical outlets should never be overloaded.

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Chief's Note:

A few statistics about the Wildland season so far:

District 10 Statistics:

Experienced 14% of all wildland fire calls county wide, up from 8% 2014

Burned 400+ acres; in the prior 5 years a total of 100 acres were burned.

Even though burned acreage was significantly increased, NO homes were lost to fire in District 10

District 10 assisted the State of Washington in their firefighting efforts by providing resources on eighteen (18) different fires with nearly 3800 reimbursable equipment hours.

Many fire causes were human related either intentional or unintentional.

Statewide Statistics from Northwest Coordination Center:

Since June over 1,005,400 acres have burned.

There were 1541 wildland fires with over 1000 human caused.

The Northstar fire was the largest fire, consuming over 218,000 acres.

At the peak of fire suppression, more than 11,450 firefighters were actively engaged in northwest wildfires.

With above all being said this has been a very busy fire season. Fire District 10 wants to thank the citizens of District 10 for all the support and patience which allowed us provide for fire fighter safety foremost and return our all firefighters home safely to their families.

HELP US FIND YOU!

In an emergency, minutes lost looking for an address can be the difference between life and death, a home saved or a home lost. Help reduce those minutes lost by ordering a sign today!

INTERESTED?

- Fill out the form (on our web site) and email to info@scfd10.org
- Visit our main station and submit one!
- \$20.00 Cash or Check (made out to Spokane County Fire District 10)



What to check for when prepping your house for winter.

General

- ◇ Home has working smoke alarms on every level.
- ◇ Home has working smoke alarms in every bedroom.
- ◇ Working smoke alarms located outside each separate sleeping area.
- ◇ Working smoke alarms located at least 10 feet from a stationary or fixed cooking appliance.
- ◇ Family has a home fire escape plan.
- ◇ Family practices the home fire escape plan at least twice a year
- ◇ House number is visible from the street.
- ◇ Windows used for escape open easily — not blocked by furniture, security bars or nailed/painted shut.
- ◇ Home has working carbon monoxide alarm outside each separate sleeping area.
- ◇ Home has working carbon monoxide alarm on every level.
- ◇ Fireplace has proper screen and hearth.
- ◇ Things that can burn are at least 3 feet from space heaters and fireplaces
- ◇ Workshop areas are clean of things that can burn.
- ◇ Hot water heater is set at no higher than 120° Fahrenheit.
- ◇ Things that can burn are at least 3 feet from the furnace.
- ◇ Furnace is inspected and cleaned annually
- ◇ Chimney is inspected annually and cleaned as needed.
- ◇ Clothes dryer lint filter and vent pipe are clean.

Garage

- ◇ There is a solid door between garage and residence.
- ◇ Gas powered equipment is stored in an outside shed or garage, separate from the home
- ◇ Gasoline is stored in an approved safety container in an outside shed or garage, separate from the home.

Outside the Home

- ◇ Outside electrical receptacles are GFCI and they are in good working condition.
- ◇ There is no rubbish, trash, brush or tree trimmings accumulation on the property.
- ◇ Barbeque grills are only used outdoors.
- ◇ Keep a bag of ice melt salt rock with a cup by your front door and throw some on your porch to avoid slipping!

Stair Safety

- ◇ Trips and falls on stairs are a leading cause of home injuries.
- ◇ Stairs have handrails.
- ◇ Stair can be illuminated for night time use.
- ◇ Stair tread depth and riser height are uniform.

A Note from Chief Ladd:

District 10 recently purchased three additional Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's). AED's are utilized to treat certain types of cardiac arrest, specifically Atrial Fibrillation which is essentially a quivering of the heart with no organized heart rhythm. District 10 has, for years, maintained a minimum of one of these units at each fire station on the first apparatus to respond on medical calls, generally our brush engines and light duty rescue. With this recent purchase, there are now a minimum of two in each station. The second one is on every front line structural fire engine at each station. Additionally, there is one spare unit that can be put into service anywhere in the District when another unit is out of service for maintenance or data collection.

Another reason for this addition was to ensure that an AED was on every structure fire incident in a timely manner. Heart attacks are the number one cause of duty related fire fighter fatalities. One of these units is also on our incident support unit specifically to protect firefighters. This is a demonstration of the District's commitment to provide both excellent service to our citizens, and provide for the safety and health of our (YOUR!) firefighters.



Spokane County Fire District 10
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Standard
US Postage
PAID
Spokane WA
Permit #4

Where were you born and raised?

Onawa, Iowa

When did you begin volunteering for District 10?

After volunteering with Medical Lake Fire for 9 years ,
I started volunteering district 10 December 2013

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

The people, both community and brothers and sisters I
get to work with, because every interaction is new!

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

After making sure my family is taken care of, I would
buy myself a 68' Camaro

What is your favorite genre of music?

Rock

What is your favorite meal?

Steak and potatoes

Volunteer Spotlight



Ellen Fender