



- 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 2016

## FIRE DISTRICT 10 TELEGRAPH



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### Note From Chief Scharff



Have you ever wondered what it takes to provide community fire and emergency services?

If you are receiving our newsletter, you are a homeowner paying property tax, which in part provides the fire and emergency services available to your household; or, a registered voter who has the privilege of voting on ballot measures to support your fire department.

Spokane County Fire District 10 covers approximately 80 square miles on the West Plains of Spokane County and responds to 'all' types of emergencies 24/7/365 except for law enforcement calls which are handled by the local Sheriff's Department. Fire District 10 operates out of 5 fire stations strategically placed throughout our service area. These fire stations have a combined total of eight different fire apparatus, which vary at each station; each station has a minimum of a 4x4 Brush/Wildland Engine with Emergency Medical (EMS) equipment and a much larger Engine that is EMS equipped to handle structure fires or other type of incidents.

Our specialty equipment includes Ladder Trucks, Water Tenders, Reserve Engines and a small fleet of Support Vehicles. With each piece of equipment costing between \$150K and \$500K you might wonder why so much equipment is required to operate effectively. Your property and homeowner insurance rates are based on the service and equipment provided by your fire agency. Having the appropriate fire equipment, facilities and training helps keep your insurance rates steady. As you can see from the chart on page 5, the cost associated in maintaining the facilities and equipment required to operate effectively and safely can be significant.

I hope that you find this information helpful and reassuring in the knowledge that you have a reliable, money-wise managed fire department.

# Don't Wait — Check the Date!


Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years




**Fire Prevention Week**  
**Oct. 9-15, 2016**

Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms.  
Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!


**1** Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.




**2** Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.



**3** Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.



**4** Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.





A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.



Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit [usfa.fema.gov](http://usfa.fema.gov) and [firepreventionweek.org](http://firepreventionweek.org).

U.S. Fire  
Administration



NFPA is the official  
sponsor of Fire Prevention  
Week since 1922

## What to check for when prepping your house for winter.

### General

- ◇ Home has working smoke alarms :
  - ◇ on every level.
  - ◇ in every bedroom.
  - ◇ located outside each separate sleeping area.
  - ◇ 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.

# Address Sign Grant!

## 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 by ordering a sign today!

Address signs are currently available to  
citizens of Fire District 10  
*at no charge for a limited time*  
through the Spokane Conservation District.



How the Grant Program works:

When homeowners contact us we can verify their address and make the signs. The Spokane Conservation District will pick up the sign, and has offered to deliver and install it at no charge. They will also provide for a Wildland Safety Survey for the home owner. There are limited grant funds for this program, so it's important that our homeowners take advantage of this opportunity as soon as possible!

**October is National Fire Prevention Month** and Spokane County Fire

District 10 will be visiting area schools with important educational messages to deliver to students. We currently visit and educate more than 230 area children twice a year to ensure prevention messages are given to them and informational material is taken home for parents to read. If you have a child in a local school and they come home with a Fire Prevention bag, please go through the material with them as there lessons and projects you can do together.

This summer provided our Prevention Program some unique opportunities to interact with the public through open houses, volunteer recruitment and other events within the West Plains area, like National Night Out. If your organization or neighborhood is planning an event and would like to know if SCFD10 can be a part of it, please contact us. Be sure and wave to our volunteer crews when you see them out working events in the future.



### WEST PLAINS RECRUIT ACADEMY

Spokane County Fire District 10, Airway Heights Fire District and Medical Lake Fire District teamed up in September for the second combined Volunteer Recruit Academy of 2016. Twenty-one new Recruits began this month and will continue until late December.

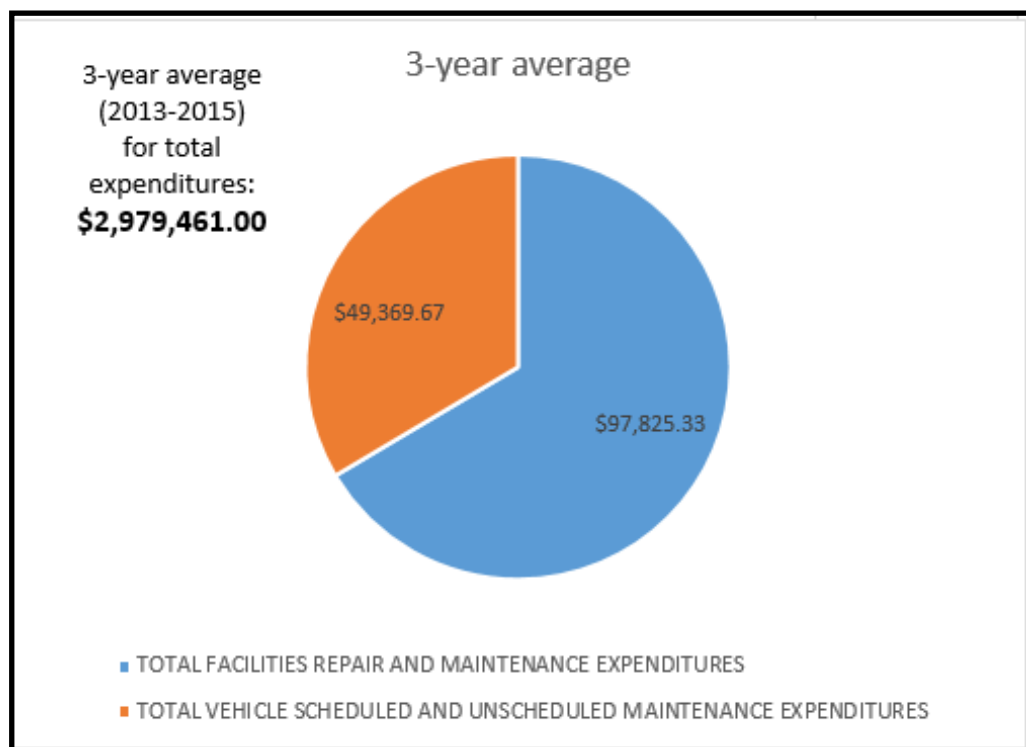
This extensive four-month training process requires over 200 hours of classroom and practical skills training ranging from Safety, Fire Behavior, Portable Fire Extinguishers, Personal Protective Equipment, Ladders, Fire Hose and Appliances, Water Supply, Ventilation, Forcible Entry, and Building Construction, just to name a few.

Throughout the course of the training these men and women spend extensive hours preparing for the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Firefighter Certification for Firefighter I, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Hazardous Materials Operations. These certifications are the same certifications held by career firefighters.

The culmination of the recruits' hard work and dedication will be celebrated with a West Plains Recruit Academy 2016-2 *graduation ceremony* at Medical Lake High school on *Thursday, December 22 at 6pm.*

Once the recruits receive their badges, we welcome them into the ranks of firefighters!

*Additional information regarding "Note from Chief Scharff" on page 1...*





# CHIMNEY FIRE PREVENTION

Most chimney fires are preventable. Regular inspection and cleaning of chimney flues will help prevent fires in chimneys.

## Top tips for a safe chimney

- \* Keep chimneys and flues clean and well maintained
- \* Make sure embers are properly put out before you go to bed
- \* Always use a fire guard to protect against flying sparks from hot embers

## Clean your chimney regularly

The latest statistics show there are approximately 7,000 chimney fires a year in England, but most of these are preventable.

To keep yourself and your family safe from fire you should take care to have your chimney swept regularly, depending upon what fuel you burn, before the colder winter months set in and you start using your fire and chimneys again.

If the worst should happen, a smoke alarm can allow you the extra time you need to escape in a house fire - be sure to test yours regularly.

## How often should you clean your chimney?

Regular maintenance of your chimney will depend on the fuel you burn:

***Oil*** - Once a year

***Gas*** - Once a year

***Wood*** - Up to four times a year

***Smokeless coals*** - At least once a year

## Most common causes of chimney fires

The most common causes of chimney fires are:

- ⇒ Improper appliance sizing
- ⇒ Burning unseasoned wet wood
- ⇒ Infrequent sweeping and cleaning
- ⇒ Overnight burning or smoldering wood for long periods in wood stoves



# CHIMNEY FIRE PREVENTION (continued)

## Tips to reduce the risk of chimney fire

The following steps are recommended to help reduce the risk of chimney fire:

- \* Chimneys must be swept on a regular basis - as much as three times in the burning season (winter) but at least once per season regardless of fuel type.
- \* All wood burned must have a moisture content of no more than 17 percent.
- \* It is important to purchase the correct size appliance for your room; an appliance which is too large will never be used hot enough to volatize all the fuel within the wood and unburned fuel will pass up the chimney as smoke and condense within the flue as extremely flammable creosote.
- \* To minimize creosote production in a wood stove these steps can be followed:
  - \* Once the fuel load has been ignited and flue has been heated to its operating temperature, the stove's air supply should be adjusted to limit the amount of air, avoiding over-firing and excessive heat loss up the chimney. The stove's air supply should, however, be open enough to maintain moderate flaming combustion in the fire box. (The flames should fill the entire window or fire box without being sucked up the chimney).
  - \* To determine if this is maintained, visually check the fire through any glass panels; also check the density of smoke as it exits the flue at the top.
  - \* An internal probe-type thermometer located within the flue can be used to ascertain if flue temperatures are of a sufficient temperature or if they are excessive; magnetic flue temperature thermometers can also be utilized for this purpose.
  - \* It is important when using a multi-fuel stove that you control burning in the appliance by the air inlets provided for this purpose; do not use dampers which could obstruct the safe passage of exhaust from being able to exit the appliance.

## Remember...

**a blocked flue can kill  
and the exclusion of air will put out a fire.**



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We're on the web  
[www.scfd10.org](http://www.scfd10.org)



## Volunteer Spotlight



**ANDREW "IKE"  
ISAACSON**

Where were you born and raised?

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Long Island, NY

What part of fire service is your favorite and why?

All of it because it requires skill, education & common sense.

What do you do for recreation?

Walk, jog, bike and fly.

What's your favorite junk food to eat?

Ice cream—ask my dentist!

What's your favorite movie/book?

Ice Station Zebra

What would a perfect day look like for you?

Blue sky, light winds and smooth air.

What is your favorite beverage?

Coffee

What is your favorite band/musician?

Moody Blues