



- 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

Winter Quarter 2017

## FIRE DISTRICT 10 TELEGRAPH

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### Note From Chief Scharff

2016 was fairly normal for emergency response calls in District 10, however it was above average for wildland fires. Fortunately, the October rains provided a welcome respite to the wildland fire season.

District 10 is currently installing backup generators at all our Fire Stations to increase readiness for possible power outages, like those we experienced in November of 2015. This backup system will allow responders to maintain radio & various battery-operated life-saving/safety equipment to serve the needs of our community when called upon. Additionally, it would enable our fire stations to be a public resource for emergency situations; where facilities have heat, water, and power, and could potentially charge electronic devices when outages are widespread and continue for an extended period of time.

Reliable communication systems are critical to first responders in providing public safety - not only in District 10, but in every region across the country. Regional interagency communications are crucial in times of crisis. Spokane County has progressively, over the past 10 years, worked to build the backbone of a communications infrastructure for Fire, Police, Sheriff, State Patrol, and other agencies to effectively work together on the same radio frequencies when necessary for major incidents. The current county-wide system has proven to be an enormous benefit to all responders and to the public in providing critical communications during such times as Windstorm 2015, large scale wildfires in 2014-2016, hazardous materials spills and various other public safety incidents requiring interagency communications. This increased capacity requires technology and maintenance costs.

In 2006, Spokane County voters approved a small portion of sales tax to be dedicated for upgrading the communications system over a 10-year period. That ballot measure will expire in just a few short months, at the end of 2017. Voters of Spokane County will see a similar ballot measure in the coming months that will be necessary for maintaining and improving capacity of the communications system which has been built over the years.

In previous newsletters I have attempted to provide you with detailed information regarding how our communications system was designed with public safety and first responders in mind. When the time comes to vote, I encourage you to learn all you can regarding this ballot measure; and how improvements over the years have benefited you and your first responders; realizing what it would be like to not have current capabilities.

I am always available to answer any questions regarding Fire/Rescue/EMS services we provide.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Nick Scharff, Fire Chief



## Winter Fire Safety

### Heating Your Home Safely



Did you know?

**Home fires occur more in the winter months than any other time of the year.**

**Follow these heating tips to help prevent winter fires and to stay safe this winter season:**

- ✓ Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.
- ✓ Never use an oven to heat your home.
- ✓ Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- ✓ Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.

## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO)

**IS A GAS THAT YOU CANNOT SEE, TASTE OR SMELL**

### **Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning:**

**The initial symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are similar to the [flu](#) but without [fever](#).**

**They include: Headache, Dizziness, Fatigue, Irregular breathing, Confusion.**

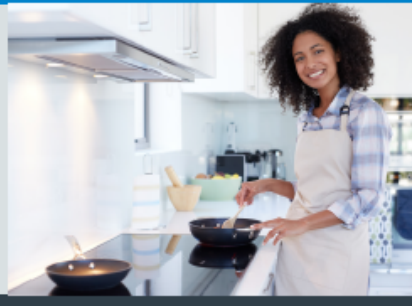
If you have any of these symptoms -- and if you feel better when you go outside your home but the symptoms reappear once you're back inside -- you may have carbon monoxide poisoning. If carbon monoxide poisoning is known or suspected:

- ⇒ Get out of the building or car where the carbon monoxide is present.
- ⇒ Keep still. (This will conserve oxygen in the [blood](#), which is already at a low level because carbon monoxide has partially replaced it.)
- ⇒ It is important that you get treated right away. At the hospital, you will probably get oxygen therapy through a mask.

Most people will be sent home after treatment in the ER. However, more severe cases may need hospitalization or treatment in a hyperbaric oxygen chamber.

## Cook Safely!

# Prevent Kitchen Fires



Did you know?

**Cooking is the main cause of home fires and fire injuries. You can prevent cooking fires. Take these steps to keep your family safe!**

✔ **Stand by your pan:**

If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.

✔ **Watch what you are cooking:**

Fires start when the heat is too high. If you see any smoke or the grease starts to boil, turn the burner off.

✔ **Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove:**

Then no one can bump them or pull them over.

✔ **Keep a pan lid or baking sheet nearby:**

Use it to cover the pan if it catches on fire. This will put out the fire.

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### **AAA recommends the following winter driving tips:**

- ◆ Avoid driving while you're fatigued. Getting the proper amount of rest before taking on winter weather tasks reduces driving risks.
- ◆ Never run a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage.
- ◆ Make certain your tires are properly inflated.
- ◆ Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- ◆ If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather.
- ◆ Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand).
- ◆ Always look and steer where you want to go.
- ◆ Use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.





## RECRUIT ACADEMY

19 recruits and 6 crew leaders graduated from the West Plains Recruit Academy.

The 19 Recruits received technical and manipulative instruction necessary to operate at a Fire Department and perform as an effective team member of a fire company, ensuring a seamless partnership.

The 280-hour Fire Academy is a fast-paced, intense and highly disciplined program based on the standards of the International Firefighters Association, the Spokane County, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Firefighter I and Hazardous Materials courses.

The 40-hour Crew Leader Academy helps prepare experienced firefighters for more responsibility.

The firefighters also participated in a physical fitness program to develop the necessary, required skills for the Airway Heights Fire Department, Medical Lake Fire Department and Spokane County Fire District 10.

Congratulations to the graduates of the West Plains Recruit Academy.



## RECRUIT TRAINING

Academy and the West Plains Crew Leader Academy on December 22, 2016.

Firefighter I level. Training was designed to develop the Recruit's ability to function under stress between the neighboring fire and emergency service agencies.

Standard Operating Guidelines, focusing on specific needs for Airway Heights, Medical Lake, and other jurisdictions curriculum.

Responsibilities including managerial roles and preparing for the Firefighter II level examination.

Physical fitness, site strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance. Graduates will move into positions with District 10.

Thank you for a job well done!



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[www.scfd10.org](http://www.scfd10.org)



***Where were you born and raised?*** Born & raised in Southeast Idaho in Idaho Falls.

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

My favorite part of the fire service is the way that we are one big family.

***What do you do for recreation?*** I love being outdoors—hiking, fishing, snowboarding, camping and playing softball in spring & summer.

***What is your favorite restaurant?*** Thai Bamboo—Love the peanut sauce!

***What's your favorite movie/book?*** My favorite all time movie is the Boondock Saints

***Favorite junk food?*** Hurricane from Zips

***What would a prefect day look like for you?***

Relaxing & having absolutely nothing planned and can just go with the flow of the day.

***What is your favorite beverage?*** Water

***What is your favorite band/musician?*** Drop Kick Murphy's; being Irish there's no other choice.

## Member Spotlight: Rick Kelly



***Do you sing along with music while driving? If so, do you stop singing at red lights or keep singing?*** Sing along with music in the car? Who doesn't! And yes, I continue while at the stop sign or light!