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NEWSLETTER

**SERVING THE WEST PLAINS
OF SPOKANE COUNTY**

THIRD QUARTER 2020

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



As we move into the summer months, we are anticipating a busier than normal fire season on the West Plains. The wet spring has allowed the flashy fuels to grow tall and resources will likely be limited due to the current economic situation. Our members are busy training and preparing for the increased demand for services. We recently partnered with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist in annual wildland refresher training for our local National Guard Members. If the National Guard is needed they will be able to expeditiously get on the fireline.

We have been responding to, and coming in contact with, COVID-19 patients. We continue to monitor our PPE needs while ensuring that the needs of the community are being met. We have been fortunate that our personnel have not shown any signs of exposure, nor gotten sick. Our members have been taking extra precautions in cleaning equipment to avoid cross-contamination and minimizing PPE waste. I want to reassure you that we are ready to respond when you need us.

If you have a community group that is meeting, and you would like to have us appear, please contact us. I would be happy to come and meet with you and answer any questions you have. Perhaps we can talk about ways to reduce the wildland fire risk in our communities. If you have developed a virtual meeting during this time, we can adapt to your group's needs.

We are looking to acquire donated cars to help us with auto-extrication training. If you have a car that you would like to donate to the department, please call us and we can walk you through the process. It's fairly simple, you sign over the title to the fire department and coordinate delivery to the training site.

This year your fire department is asking voters to renew its 10-year Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Levy. The measure will appear on the August 4th ballot. The district first ran this levy in 1994 and currently it accounts for 15% of our total budget. This levy, which cost taxpayers \$0.50 per thousand of assessed value, is the same amount taxpayers have been paying for the past ten years and costs about as much as a combo meal at your local fast food restaurant each month (\$10.42). Inside this newsletter, we have put together a Levy flyer answering some of our most frequently asked questions. Below on the right front cover is a QR code you can scan into your phone allowing you to access our website for any additional information.

It has been a pleasure to serve the West Plains as your Fire Chief. We will continue to learn, improve, and grow to meet the coming demands of our expanding community. The dedicated members of the fire department are devoted to your safety and wellbeing and we thank you for your support.

With sincere and warm regards,
Ken Johnson, Fire Chief

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 10

Saving Lives and Protecting the West Plains

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Special Levy Election—August 4, 2020



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS INSERT



Meet Firefighter Steve Copeland Station 10-3 Jacobs Rd



Spokane County Fire District 10 is proud to introduce Firefighter Steve Copeland, He is one of our dedicated traditional volunteer firefighters who responds from Station 10-3, located at Jacobs Rd. FF Copeland said he had been interested in volunteering for SCFD10 for a couple years. It was when he and his grandson attended an Open House at Station 10-4 at Brooks and Hwy 2 that he learned what it would take to become a volunteer firefighter with SCFD10. He joined in August of 2019 and continues to gain experience with each call he goes on and every training he participates in.

FF Copeland finished his structure and wildland training modules. He is now pursuing his National EMT certification with 6 other SCFD10 firefighters. This EMT class has remained flexible as the COVID-19 guidelines has challenged organizers to quickly adapt to extensive computer based and smaller group hands on skills training. All the SCFD10 EMT/Firefighters say it's an exciting class and that they use their skills frequently. Approximately 80% of all SCFD10 calls are medical calls.

FF Copeland is a USAF veteran and now works full time in the safety aspect of long haul trucking. He and his wife Sandy have been married since 2006 and have 6 children, and 6 grandchildren. Firefighting isn't his only passion. His muscle cars, driving his Corvette every chance he gets, riding his Harley and spending time at home grilling with the family top the list of favorite things to do.

Firefighter Copeland also said, "If I could say one thing to urge people to volunteer, it would be just to take that next step. You will never know if you can do it unless you try! You will have to get out of your comfort zone for sure but it will be worth it in the end."

Contact us at (509) 244-2425 or info@scfd10.org if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.



SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 10

STATION 10-1 929 S Garfield Rd Airway Heights WA 99001

COMMISSIONERS Scott Mericle, Chair Ken Pegg Gordon Hester

DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF Ken Johnson

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR Peggy Callahan

DEPUTY CHIEFS Orlando Sandoval Don Malone **DIVISION CHIEF** Debby Dodson

LIEUTENANTS Mike Risley Jared Murphy Rob Sayers

FIREFIGHTERS Taylor Scharff Evan Zeuschel Lane Bitz

70 Additional Volunteer Support Services Members and Firefighters

Sta 10-2 5408 W Lawton Rd Spokane WA 99224

Sta 10-3 6316 N Dover Rd Spokane WA 99224

Sta 10-4 1411 S Brooks Rd Medical Lake WA 99022

Sta 10-5 9921 W Trails Rd Spokane WA 99224

www.scfd10.org

(509) 244-2425

info@scfd10.org

WILDFIRE SEASON IS HERE

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WILDFIRES

WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION STEPS THAT CAN MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER DURING A WILDFIRE



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1. HOME IGNITION ZONES

Limiting the amount of flammable vegetation, choosing fire-resistant building materials and construction techniques, along with periodic exterior maintenance in the three home ignition zones - increases the chances your home will survive a wildfire when exposed to embers and/or a surface fire. The zones include the **Immediate Zone**: 0 to 5 feet around the house; **Intermediate Zone**: 5 to 30 feet; and the **Extended Zone**: 30 to 100 feet.

2. LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE

To reduce ember ignitions and fire spread, trim branches that overhang the home, porch and deck and prune branches of large trees up to (depending on their height) 6 to 10 feet from the ground. Remove plants containing resins, oils and waxes and ensure mulches in the **Immediate Zone** (0 to 5 feet around the house) are non-combustible options like crushed stone and gravel. Maintain vegetation annually.

FIRE RESISTIVE CONSTRUCTION

3. ROOFING AND VENTS

Class A fire-rated roofing products offer the best protection. Examples include: Composite shingles, metal, concrete and clay tiles. Inspect shingles or roof tiles and replace or repair those that are loose or missing to prevent ember penetration. Box-in eaves, but provide ventilation to prevent condensation and mildew. Roof and attic vents should be screened to prevent ember entry.

4. DECKS AND PORCHES

Never store flammable materials underneath decks or porches. Remove dead vegetation and debris from under decks/porches and between deck board joints.

5. SIDING AND WINDOWS

Embers can collect in small nooks and crannies and ignite combustible materials; radiant heat from flames can crack windows. Use fire-resistant siding such as brick, fiber-cement, plaster or stucco and dual-pane tempered glass windows.

6. EMERGENCY RESPONDER ACCESS

Ensure your home and neighborhood has legible and clearly marked street names and numbers. Driveways should be at least 12 feet wide with a vertical clearance of 15 feet, for emergency vehicle access.

BE PREPARED

Develop, discuss and practice an emergency action plan with everyone in your home. Include details for pets, large animals and livestock. Know two ways out of your neighborhood and have a pre-designated meeting place. Always evacuate if you feel it's unsafe to stay - don't wait to receive an emergency notification if you feel threatened from the fire.

Conduct an annual insurance policy check-up to adjust for local building costs, codes and new renovations. Create/update a home inventory to help settle claims faster.



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Store firewood away from the home
- Mow the lawn regularly
- Prune low-hanging tree branches
- Landscape with fire-resistant plants
- Create small fuel breaks with hardscaping features

TALK TO YOUR LOCAL FORESTRY AGENCY OR FIRE DEPARTMENT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SPECIFIC WILDFIRE RISK WHERE YOU LIVE.



FIREWISE USA™
RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS

VISIT FIREWISE.ORG FOR MORE DETAILS

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**SCFD#10 Staff will visit your home and do a free assessment offering suggestions.
Call (509) 244-2425 or go to www.scfd10.org**



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Airway Heights WA 99001

**Emergency
Medical
Services
(EMS)
Special Levy
Election
August 4, 2020**



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[SCFD_10](https://www.instagram.com/SCFD_10)



Donate a Car for Training

Spokane County Fire District 10 uses donated cars to practice auto extrication so all members of the department learn how to use the Jaws of Life and remove people from vehicles after auto accidents. Donating your car to a fire department may save a life by ensuring firefighters know how to handle serious auto accidents. When you donate a car, you are helping your community.

- Locate your car title. You will need to sign it over to the Fire District when you donate the car. The title must be in your name. If other people jointly own the car with you, they'll also need to sign the title.
- Clean all personal items out of your car.
- Schedule to drop the car off at the Fire District with the appropriate paperwork. We will give you the location of where to drop off the vehicle when you call to schedule the appointment. Please do not just drop a vehicle off at a local fire station.
- Sign over the title to the fire department and hand it to them.

If you wish to donate your car to SCFD10, contact the Training Division at (509) 244-2425.

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 10

Saving Lives and Protecting the West Plains

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Special Levy

Election—August 4, 2020



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is an EMS Levy? An Emergency Medical Services Levy (EMS Levy), is a voter approved funding option (RCW 84.52.069) that authorizes fire departments to impose additional property tax levies in an amount of up to fifty cents per thousand of assessed property value for emergency medical care services; this includes expenditures for personnel, training, facilities, equipment, and supplies.

How much will this Levy cost the taxpayers?

The amount taxed is based on the assessed value of your property. At a rate of \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the amount would be as follows:

Home Value	Yearly	Monthly
150,000	\$75.00 year	6.25
200,000	\$100.00 year	8.33
250,000	\$125.00 year	10.42

How much do EMS protection services currently cost? The current (2010) regular levy rate is \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value and will expire at the end of 2020. A vote for this levy will *maintain* the same rate and *not* increase your taxes.

District information:

District 10 provides fire suppression and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to 7050 people on 85 square miles in the West Plains. The district has a state highway that runs through it and has approximately 25,000 vehicles a day.

Our combination department (career and volunteer) responds to more than 1200 emergency calls per year; 77 percent of these calls are for EMS.

We maintain a balanced budgeted and have passed all financial and accountability audits performed by the state.

Will this funding be used for additional emergency medical services?

No, the passage of this EMS levy will provide the funding that *is necessary to continue the level of service we currently provide.*

How can the funds from the EMS Levy be used?

The revenue from the EMS Levy would provide funding to:

- Maintain the current level of Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and First Responders (FR's).
- Provide training for both EMT's and FR's.
- Maintain and operate emergency medical equipment and vehicles.
- Purchase essential medical supplies and equipment.
- Support expenses such as fuel, tires, insurance, apparatus, licensing, etc.

What will the result be should this EMS levy fail?

The fire district will still respond to emergency medical calls; however, the level of service that we will be able to provide will be less than our current level of service due to a lack of funding. This lack of funding will result in layoffs which could include both fire personnel and administrative staff, and therefore, could result in decreased response capabilities and slower response times. It will also affect training programs, replacing or upgrading medical equipment and maintenance programs. Other *fire* programs will be adversely affected as regular levied tax revenues will be forced to continue funding both fire control and emergency medical service costs.

If you are not registered to vote follow the link below to register.

<https://olvr.votewa.gov/>

Deadline to register for August 4th election is July 27th

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

Frequently Asked Questions

How many emergency medical calls does the fire district respond to? In 2009, 67% of our calls were emergency medical service responses. In 2019, 77.1% of our responses were emergency medical service responses, which follows the national trend of emergency medical services (EMS) being the majority of our responses.

Why does the fire department respond to medical calls when we have an ambulance company in our area? When there is a life-threatening medical emergency, *every second counts*. The fire department responds to these medical emergencies because in many cases, we are able to get to the emergency scene an average of ten to twenty minutes before the ambulance. We provide initial life sustaining medical care until the ambulance arrives. In no way is the fire department in competition with the ambulance service; we work with them and support each other's services.

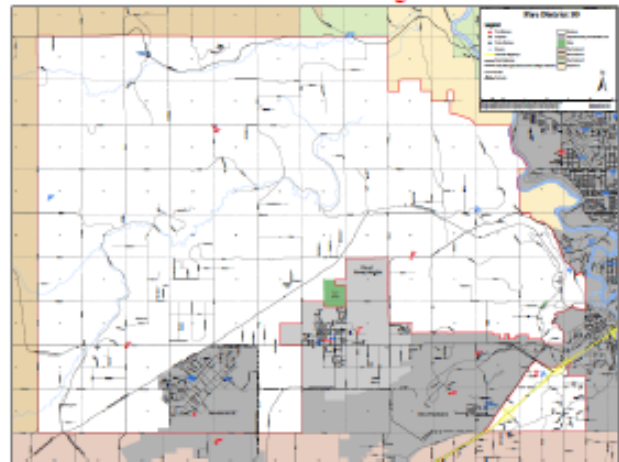
Why does the fire department respond to medical calls in a large Fire Engine and not a smaller more economic medical aid vehicle? We respond to initial calls for service, whether life threatening *medical or fire* calls, with a fire engine. With our minimum staffing level of two firefighters at the station 24 hours per day, we are not able to respond to medical emergencies in a smaller vehicle and still be response ready for a *fire* emergency. As we look at how we best maintain coverage of the Fire District, the use of the fire engine provides for response to *all types* of emergencies.

Is there a special tax exemption for senior citizens? There may be a tax exemption for qualifying senior citizens. For more information, please call the Spokane County Assessor's Office at 509-477-3698.

Your Fire Department

Spokane County Fire District 10 has provided emergency services to our community for over 70 years, currently to a population of approximately 7050 within 85 square miles. We serve the West Plains area of Spokane County.

MAP: Area in White is FD 10 coverage area



Website: SCFD10.ORG

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Spokane-County-Fire-District-10>

Twitter: [@scfd_10](https://twitter.com/scfd_10)

Instagram: [scfd_10](https://www.instagram.com/scfd_10)

CONTACT INFORMATION

The above are what we have found to be the most frequently asked questions. If your questions were not answered in this handout or if you have any comments, please feel free to contact us.

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Airway Heights WA 99001
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Fax: 509 244-2421

Board of Fire Commissioners:
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Ken Pegg, Commissioner 509-280-2865
Gordon Hester, Commissioner 509-879-8805