

SERVING THE WEST PLAINS OF SPOKANE COUNTY



SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 10

First Quarter 2025

NEW LIEUTENANT

Taylor Scharff was born and raised in the West Plains area, where he proudly serves as a firefighter with SCFD10. He graduated from Cheney High School in 2014 and initially pursued an interest in law enforcement. However, after completing high school, he attended the West Plains Recruit Academy as part of the Class of 2014-2. Two years later, he was hired as a full-time firefighter and EMT.

Taylor resides in the West Plains with his wife and daughter. In his free time, he enjoys fishing, boating, shooting, and spending quality time with his family.

NEW FIREFIGHTER

Justin Laragione joins us as a seasoned 23-year veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard. With a wealth of experience and a strong commitment to service, he brings valuable skills to our team.

Originally from Southern California, Justin and his wife, Kriste, have been married for 15 years and have three children: Finn (13), Banyan (11), and Hunter (7). After relocating to the greater Spokane area, he embraced the community and its values.

Justin joined SCFD10 in 2020 and has been a dedicated volunteer since graduating from the West Plains Recruit Academy. In February, he transitioned from a volunteer to a career firefighter, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to public service. He is excited to continue serving District 10 and looks forward to contributing to the team in this new capacity.



Fire Fleet

Members of the maintenance team recently traveled to the Rosenbauer plant in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to complete the final inspection of our newest apparatus, a Freightliner Timberwolf. The inspection process included a pump test, a test drive, and verification of all custom features ordered.

The Timberwolf is a fire truck built on a Freightliner cab and chassis, with a custom box manufactured by Rosenbauer. It is designed for both urban and wildland firefighting. Equipped with a 750-gallon water tank, the Timberwolf will also carry a variety of firefighting equipment, including extrication tools.

This new apparatus will be stationed at 10-2, serving the east side of District 10 during its first year in service.



Administrative Director

After 12 years of dedicated service overseeing Spokane County Fire District 10's finances, Peggy Callahan has retired. Her expertise and leadership were instrumental in streamlining District policies and procedures, shaping them from the ground up.

Through her knowledge, skill, and unwavering commitment, Peggy helped create a more efficient and structured organization while always keeping the public's trust at the forefront.

She will be greatly missed—but occasionally consulted for her invaluable insight!

Thank you Peggy your years of service and wishing you the very best in retirement.

West Plains Recruit Academy 2025-1 (WPRA)

Our Spring Volunteer Recruit Academy is off to a great start! With 13 recruits from SCFD10, AHFD, and SCFD3, this class brings a wide variety of experience and perspectives to the table.

Travis Barrett of DHP has returned once again to assist with coaching and fitness for this academy, working diligently with the recruits. Physical fitness is just one aspect of the rigorous training these recruits will undergo over the next 16

weeks. Academic progression and practical skill demonstration are also key areas they must balance to become exemplary firefighters serving the West Plains.

With a strong emphasis on hands-on skill repetition, our instructors are receiving outstanding feedback. These 13 recruits are on track to graduate in the first week of June, and the West Plains community will greatly benefit from the experience and certifications they will gain.

If you are interested in volunteering please visit our website www.scfd10.org

Fire Commissioner's Report

We are pleased to welcome **Evan Lutz** as the newest Fire Commissioner of Spokane County Fire District 10. With a diverse background in public service, business ownership, and technical expertise, Evan brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to our department.

Evan has an extensive history in law enforcement, having served as both a reserve and full-time Deputy Sheriff,

where he took on several important collateral assignments. Beyond public service, he has demonstrated strong leadership and problem-solving skills as the owner of two small businesses specializing in heavy equipment repair and rental. For the past 16 years, he has been a senior field service technician at Western States Cat, further expanding his experience in technical operations and team collaboration.

As a board member for District 10, Evan is committed to strengthening our department through proactive decision-making, collaboration, and transparency. By fostering a culture of continuous improvement and accountability, he aims to enhance our capabilities in all areas—ensuring that we become an even stronger and more resilient department.

Training Highlights

Rescue Taskforce (RTF)

We are in the process of launching our Rescue Taskforce (RTF) program. Training has begun for all district members and will be completed by early April 2025. At that time the program will go live and we will be carrying ballistic vests and helmets on our first out engines and all crews will be trained to respond to active shooter incidents in conjunction with law enforcement agencies and neighboring fire departments-districts.

Water Rescue Awareness

We would like to thank the Spokane Fire Department for instructing Fire District 10 members on water rescue awareness training in February. We recently purchased life jackets (PFD's) and rope throw bags for the first out engines to assist the water rescue team from the Spokane Fire Department in the event of a water rescue on the Spokane River. We are planning to train with them throughout the year.

Training Facility Updates

We are excited that we will be updating our training tower at Station 10-1 in Airway Heights. We will be adding 3 containers and interior stairs to our prop which will give us more ability for more advanced training scenarios. We are also looking to add a standpipe system in the future. We have also purchased a stainless steel propane car fire prop which will arrive at the end of June. This prop will prepare us better for fighting car fires.

EMS Education

Spokane County Fire District 10 is proud to partner with EMSConnect LLC to provide an in-depth Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course for its members. Over the course of 14 weeks, eight dedicated SCFD10 members are undergoing extensive training to develop the skills necessary to provide high-quality pre-hospital care.

Throughout the program, students learn to assess and treat a wide range of medical conditions and life-threatening emergencies, preparing them to respond effectively in critical situations. Upon successful

completion of the course, participants will take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) exam, a required national certification to become an EMT in Washington State.

This training reflects SCFD10's ongoing commitment to strengthening emergency response capabilities in the community. We commend these individuals for their dedication to serving and protecting the public in times of need.

For more information about EMSconnect training programs, visit www.emsconnect.org

HELP US FIND YOU!

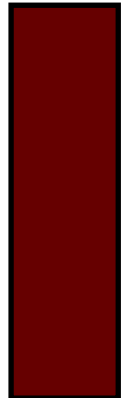
At some point in our lives, most of us will experience a medical, fire or some other type of emergency where minutes can make a difference. Properly addressed homes with reflective signage in rural areas give Fire District 10 the best opportunity for a fast, professional response minimizing confusion. We highly encourage you to order these address signs for your driveway and/or for your house.

Address Sign Order Form

The sign is a 6" X 24" double sided BLUE REFLECTIVE aluminum sign with WHITE REFLECTIVE numbering on both sides. **Cost: \$35.00**

CHOOSE ONE AND WRITE NUMBERS IN SHADED BOX

OPTION #1: Horizontal _____
OPTION #2: Vertical _____



NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Fill out this form and email to us at info@scfd10.org

Or you may also call 509-244-2425

Or Stop in Station 10-1 at 929 S Garfield Rd Airway Heights
WA 99001

Smoke Alarm Installation Request

Fire District #10 staff will provide and install smoke alarms free of charge.

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____



Test your smoke alarms— It's a sound you can live with!
Mail to: Fire District #10 929 S Garfield Rd Airway Heights WA
99001

Or call 509-244-2425

Or email: info@scfd10.org

Fire Chief's Corner

As we move into the second quarter of 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work accomplished by the dedicated men and women of Spokane County Fire District 10. The first three months of the year have been a testament to the professionalism, resilience, and commitment of our firefighters, volunteers, and support staff. From responding to emergencies to strengthening community ties, this district continues to set a high standard for fire service in our region.

First Quarter Successes

- **Emergency Response Excellence:** With the close of 2024, our call volume has increased over 46% in the last four years and is expected to continue that trend, with calls ranging from structure fires, hazardous materials incidents, vehicle accidents, and medical emergencies. This increase underscores our community's growing needs. The efficiency and skill demonstrated by our crews have led to improved response times and better outcomes for those we serve.
- **Training & Readiness:** Our team has already completed significant training, including Swiftwater Awareness Rescue Training, Emergency Bail-out Training for self-rescue in the event of a flashover or significant fire growth during firefighting operations, Fire Officer I Leadership training, and other advanced firefighting tactics, medical response, and specialized rescue operations. This dedication to continuous training ensures our readiness for any challenge.
- **Community Engagement:** We've continued to strengthen our presence in the community through station tours, fire safety messaging, and smoke alarm installs. Public education remains a key pillar of our mission to prevent emergencies before they happen.
- **Station 10-2 Relocation Progress:** Work continues on options to relocate Station 10-2 to the Thorpe and Grove area, a move that will enhance our ability to serve the community more effectively. We are making great strides in securing resources and finalizing logistics for this critical project.

Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony

In February, we gathered for our annual banquet to recognize the outstanding service and achievements of our team members. It was an evening filled with camaraderie and well-deserved recognition. These awards reflect the dedication, professionalism, and hard work of our entire department. Here are some of the notable awards presented:

- **Rookie of the Year:** John Gibby
- **EMS Provider of the Year:** Ben Skalstad
- **Resident of the Year:** Ben Skalstad
- **Firefighter of the Year:** Corbyn Ziemer-McConahy
- **Support Services Member of the Year:** Cliff Denman
- **Volunteer Officer of the Year:** Steve Copeland
- **Career Officer of the Year:** Evan Zeuschel
- **Chief's Awards:** Shaun Pitts, Rob Sayers, & Jeff King

These individuals exemplify the spirit of service that defines Spokane County Fire District 10, and I couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

As we look ahead to the rest of 2025, I am confident that we will continue to grow, adapt, and excel in our mission. Thank you to every member of our fire family and to the community for your continued support. Stay safe, and as always, we stand ready to serve.

~ Chief Don Malone
Spokane County Fire District 10



Join the Spokane County Fire District 10 Team



We are on the web!
Www.SCFD10.org

Mission Statement

Protecting life, property, and the environment. Presenting education and prevention information. Providing fire, medical and emergency services safely. Performing professionally and politely.

Vision Statement

Fire District 10 is a professional emergency service organization dedicated to meeting the current and future needs of the West Plains community by enhancing service through cooperation, technology and continuing education.

Values

A Firefighter is a person of integrity. As a firefighter I will:

Respond quickly to aid those in need. Act with compassion, empathy, and integrity. Exceed citizen expectations. Recognize that I am a servant and good steward of public trust. Continually improve my knowledge, skills, and abilities



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