

House Calls



NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 9

SUMMER 2013

INSIDE

DEMO DAY RECAP

COLORING WINNERS

WILDFIRE SAFETY

DID YOU KNOW?

More than
2 OUT OF 3
of our calls

are for Emergency Medical Services (EMS).



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Ready, Set, Go! Create Your Wildfire Action Plan

ADVANCE PLANNING SAVES LIVES AND PROPERTY

As temperatures go up, the chances we'll experience life threatening and property destroying wildfires rises with them. Despite wet weather this spring, the occasional thunderstorm and welcome summer shower, sooner than later fire season will be upon us. It's an annual reality in eastern Washington, that requires firefighters and residents to be on heightened alert throughout the summer and fall.

CONTINUED INSIDE



WHAT IS DEFENSIBLE SPACE?

Defensible space is the required space between a structure and the wildland area that, under normal conditions, creates a sufficient buffer to slow or halt the spread of wildfire to a structure. It protects the home from igniting due to direct flame or radiant heat. Defensible space is essential for structure survivability during wildfire conditions.

ZONE 1

Zone 1 extends 30 feet out from buildings, structures, decks, etc.

- Remove all dead or dying vegetation.
- Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches a minimum of 10 feet from structures and other trees.
- Remove leaf litter (dry leaves/pine needles) from yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Relocate woodpiles and other combustible materials into Zone 2.
- Remove combustible material and vegetation from around and under decks.
- Remove or prune vegetation near windows.
- Remove "ladder fuels" (low-level vegetation that allows the fire to spread from the ground to the tree canopy). Create a separation between low-level vegetation and tree branches. This can be done by reducing the height of low-level vegetation and/or trimming low tree branches.

ZONE 2

Zone 2 extends 30 to 100 feet out from buildings, structures and decks. You can minimize the chance of fire jumping from plant to plant by removing dead material and removing and/or thinning vegetation. The minimum spacing between vegetation is three times the dimension of the plant.

- Remove "ladder fuels".
- Cut or mow annual grass down to a maximum height of 4 inches.
- Trim tree canopies regularly to keep their branches to a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.

Demo Day a Huge Success



HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOINED FIREFIGHTERS AND STAFF AT FIRE STATION 92'S TRAINING FACILITY in Mead to experience "a day in the life" of SCFD 9 firefighters during District 9's third annual Demo Day. Attendees witnessed firefighters recreating the rescue of injured

passengers from a car after a severe collision. They saw crews control and harness the flames from a propane fire and learned just how quickly some common household hazards could turn into dangerous fire emergencies. One of the day's highlights involved watching our crews in action while rescuing someone hanging from the top of our six-story training tower.

This year's event also included a Wellness Fair featuring numerous community organizations including: 2nd Harvest Food Bank, Therapeutic Bliss Massage, Avista Safety & Health, Fred Meyer Pharmacy, Spokane Regional Clean Air, SCOPE, WSU Master Gardeners, NW MedStar, United Way, Camp Fire/Camp Dart Lo, Mead Food Bank, Spokane Regional Solid Waste, Costco, American Medical Response and RSVP of Spokane. Representatives were available to answer questions, provide information on everything from campfire cookout safety and electrical dangers, to the "Plant a Row" program to help feed those in need, recycling and composting, and volunteer opportunities.

Many stopped by to learn "Hands Only" CPR, watch "Sim-Man" in action and have their blood sugar checked while the kids entered a coloring contest in hopes of winning a Frisbee golf set donated by Costco, and tried their hand at the Junior Firefighter Challenge Course!

The day also featured fire station tours, fire trucks and equipment, an ambulance and various emergency vehicles for people to check out too. Even Smokey Bear was there for handshakes, "high fives" and pictures. It was a great day filled with fun and lots of information. We hope to see you all here next time!

THEY REALLY DO CALL IT FIRE ENGINE RED...

...AND YELLOW, AND PURPLE, SOMETIMES EVEN A LITTLE GREEN. You can tell by taking a look at the winning entries in our recent Fire District 9 Coloring Contest. Thanks to all who entered and a special thanks to Costco for donating our Grand Prize.



GRAND PRIZE WINNER, CALEB



COLORING CONTEST WINNER CALEB WITH HIS PRIZE, A BRAND NEW DISC GOLF SET COURTESY OF COSTCO.



AGE 3-4 WINNER, LILLIAN



AGE 7-8 WINNER, BRANDON



AGE 5-6 WINNER, LOGAN



AGE 9-10 WINNER, COLE

Summer Fun Means Playing it Safe

WE LIVE IN A BEAUTIFUL REGION BLESSED WITH SCORES OF LAKES, RIVERS, CREEKS AND STREAMS — NOT TO MENTION THE CITY AND COUNTY POOLS THAT DOT OUR NEIGHBORHOODS. Many of us grew up around the water and think of it fondly as a medium for fun and frolic. But being reckless around the water can have consequences. So it pays to take extra care.

Every year people drown in our area's lakes and rivers.

And even though the weather is getting warmer, the water takes a long time to catch up. People tend to underestimate the power of moving water as well as the effects of water temperature. In fact, the average adult has a just a 50/50 chance of swimming 50 yards in 50 degree water.

Fire District 9 Firefighters train every year to perform water rescues, but sometimes, when we're called to the scene, it is too late. Most accidental drowning's could be prevented simply with the use of Life Jackets. So take precautions, be aware and be safe around the water this summer.



CONTINUED FROM COVER

Ready, Set, Go! Create Your Wildfire Action Plan

Each year, wildfires consume hundreds of homes in the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI). Studies show that as many as 80% of the homes lost could have been saved if homeowners had followed a few simple fire-safe practices. Wildfire-related deaths occur because people wait too long to evacuate.

Fire departments take every precaution to help protect you and your property from wildfire. However, in a major wildfire, there are simply not be enough fire engines or firefighters to defend every home. Successfully preparing means taking personal responsibility for protecting yourself, your family and your property.

Ready, Set, Go is a campaign designed to furnish you with the tips and tools you need to be prepared. Wildfires, fueled by a build-up of dry vegetation and driven by hot, dry seasonal winds, are extremely dangerous and impossible to control. However, many residents have built and landscaped their homes without fully understanding the impact a fire could have on them. And few have adequately prepared their families for a quick evacuation.

It's not a question of 'if' but 'when' the next major wildfire will occur. That's why the most important person protecting your life and property is not the firefighter, but you. Through advance planning and preparation, we can all be ready. You'll find a wealth of information to help you create your wildfire action plan at www.readyssetgospokane.org.



**FREE First Aid/CPR
& CPR Classes**
for Spokane County Fire District 9
Citizens and Businesses

For more information, please call
Administration at 466-4602 or
visit our website, www.scf9.org.



House Calls

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*If you are a resident of the District and would like a **FREE address post**, please contact:
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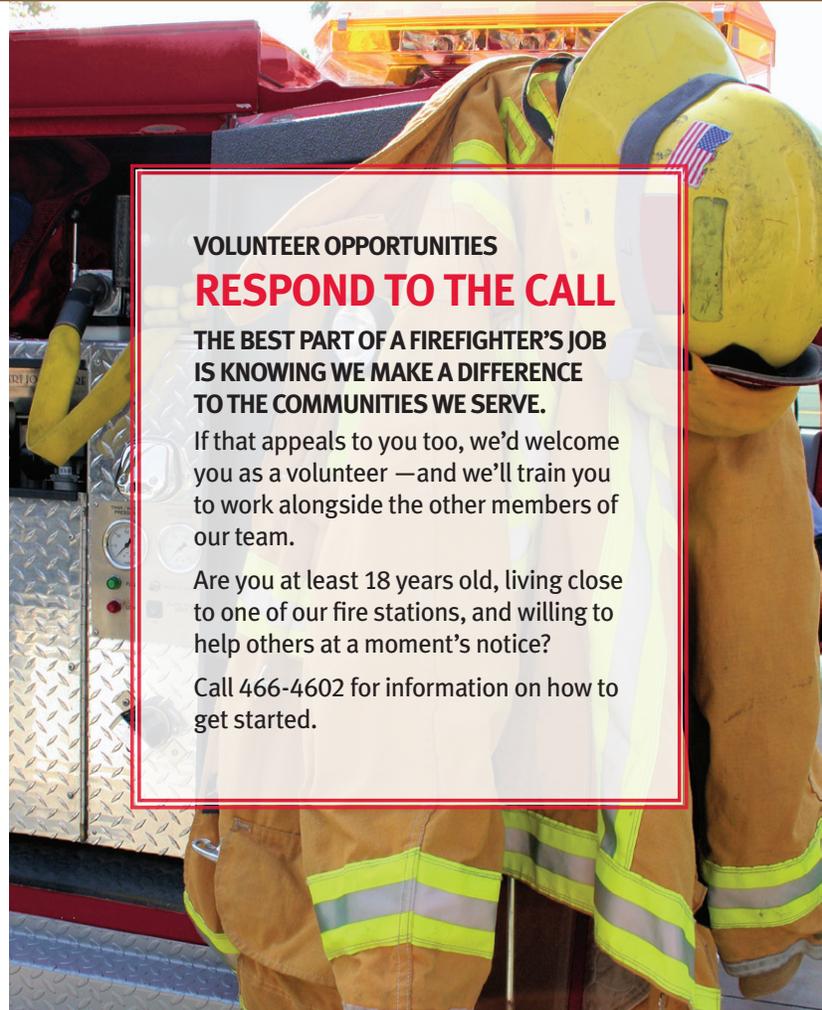
Sim-Man Provides Realistic Training

LAST YEAR, FIRE DISTRICT 9 PURCHASED AN EMS SIMULATION MANNEQUIN TO HELP



PROVIDE MORE REALISTIC TRAINING SCENARIOS FOR THE DISTRICT'S PARAMEDICS. "Sim-Man" comes with a blue tooth communications system that allows a trainer to be in complete control of the "patient's" vital signs and basic medical condition including: blood pressure, heart rate, respiration rate, and heart rhythm. The system allows two-way communication between the trainer in control of the teaching scenario and the paramedics providing treatment.

Sim-Man allows the District's paramedics to practice a majority of their Advanced Life Support (ALS) skills, including cardiac monitoring for life threatening arrhythmias, IV (intravenous) therapy and intubation where a tube is placed into the mouth extending into the lower airway to help increase oxygenation. At Fire District 9, when it comes to preparing for life saving procedures, we take practice very seriously.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES **RESPOND TO THE CALL**

THE BEST PART OF A FIREFIGHTER'S JOB IS KNOWING WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

If that appeals to you too, we'd welcome you as a volunteer —and we'll train you to work alongside the other members of our team.

Are you at least 18 years old, living close to one of our fire stations, and willing to help others at a moment's notice?

Call 466-4602 for information on how to get started.