

# House Calls



NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 9

SPRING 2022

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## When Disaster Strikes Others, District 9 Answers the Call for Help

**WHEN DISASTER STRIKES ACROSS THE STATE OF WASHINGTON** and other places, Spokane County Fire District 9 answers the call. The District has responded over the past several years and provided assistance on many large wildland fires, landslides, floods, and other all-risk emergencies outside the Fire District.

Interagency agreements with the Washington State Fire Marshal's Office, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the Bureau of Land Management have been in place for many years with Spokane County Fire District 9. The reason for these agreements is to provide a process to mobilize District firefighters and equipment to respond to emergencies outside the Fire District. In addition, the agreements allow the Fire District to



**FIRE 9 PERSONNEL SUPPORTING AIR OPERATIONS.**

**“By helping others during their emergency, our District firefighters are better prepared and equipped to provide emergency services to our communities.”**

receive help from other agencies in the event a large disaster occurred within our area of responsibility.

The agreements also provide the funding mechanism to reimburse Spokane County Fire District 9 for the services, supplies, vehicles, and personnel costs provided outside the District. The revenue received from other agencies by the District is then re-allocated to the general operating budget for the Fire District. The additional funding is used to purchase supplies, equipment, and provide additional training for District 9 firefighters. The reimbursement in turn

is a huge cost savings for the District 9 residents and taxpayers.

Chief Cates says, “By helping others during their emergency, our District firefighters are better prepared and equipped to provide emergency services to our communities.” The experiences and training gained by District 9 firefighters while supporting emergency incidents outside the District helps them to build their incident qualifications and certifications. District 9 firefighters are therefore more prepared to respond to emergencies right here at home.

# Fire 9 Receives CARES Act Funding for Medical Equipment

THE DISTRICT IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE RECEIPT OF \$488,000 VIA THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT for acquisition of first responder medical equipment. The Act enabled a variety of programs to address impacts and/or needs related to response and recovery specific to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The funding was utilized to purchase medical equipment to include airway suction units, oxygen and airway equipment bags, automated CPR devices, automatic external defibrillators, and portable patient ventilators. In addition, some of the funding reimbursed the District for disposable medical supplies and personal protective equipment utilized at the onset of the pandemic.

The equipment acquired will be utilized when treating patients with cardiac and respiratory illnesses in the pre-hospital setting.

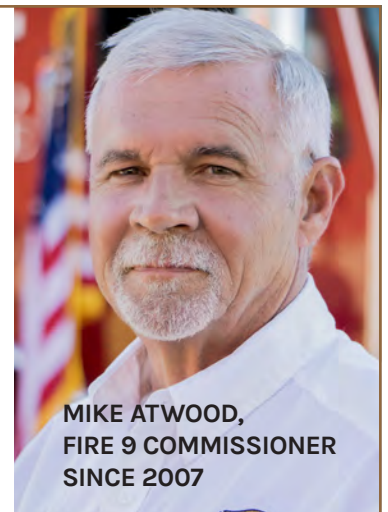


A PORTION OF FIRE 9'S CARES ACT FUNDING WENT TOWARD FIRST RESPONDER MEDICAL EQUIPMENT INCLUDING: AIRWAY SUCTION UNITS, OXYGEN AND AIRWAY EQUIPMENT BAGS, AUTOMATED CPR DEVICES, AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS, AND PORTABLE PATIENT VENTILATORS.

## THANK YOU, MIKE ATWOOD, FOR YOUR 49+ YEARS OF SERVICE

**THE ATWOOD FAMILY IS ONE OF THE DISTRICT'S LEGACY FAMILIES.**

Like his father Robert before him and his son Jason who has followed, Mike Atwood has worn our uniform as a volunteer firefighter/EMT and Station Captain at Station 96 in the Foothills Community for 35 years and as a Commissioner on our Board since 2007. Mike's time on the Board ended on December 31, 2021 with over 49 combined years of service. Mike is retired from Spokane Rock Products and he and his wife Dani still live in the Foothills community on the east side of Fire District 9 where they both grew up.



MIKE ATWOOD,  
FIRE 9 COMMISSIONER  
SINCE 2007





# Fire Technology Program with Mead School District

**THIS IS THE FIRST YEAR SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 9 HAS HOSTED A FIRE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM IN COOPERATION WITH THE MEAD SCHOOL DISTRICT.** Students from both Mead School District high schools took part in the first semester last fall learning Forest Fire Ecology. They began their second semester in late January when they will learn Wildland Firefighting, Introduction to Wildland Fire Behavior, and receive wildland fire suppression field training.

This two-year program for high school students provides basic training and information for both wildland and structural firefighting. The students will also receive training in emergency medical care. The courses are intended to introduce junior and senior high school students who are interested in seeking job opportunities and careers after high school with firefighting agencies and emergency medical services. Students will also obtain post-secondary education credits.

## WELCOME BRIAN MATHER TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**BRIAN MATHER WAS ELECTED TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 9 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022.**

Brian was born and raised in north Spokane, graduated from Mead High School and went on to earn his Doctor of Chiropractic Degree in 1996. He is the owner of Spokane Chiropractic & Sports Injury Clinic, located in the Wandermere area.

Brian is also the team chiropractor for the Spokane Chiefs Hockey Club since 2001. Dr. Mather served as chiropractor for the 2007 and 2010 U.S. Figure Skating National Championships held here in Spokane. He is a consultant to many of the areas semi professional and collegiate athletic teams.

He is married to his wife Sheleis, and they have three kids that are all very involved in sports and other activities in the community. Brian has served on various boards at St. Thomas More Catholic Church and School, and has been the Finance Chair for the parish and the school for many years. He and his family are often in the stands at local sporting events cheering on their kids, family or friends that participate in every level of athletics.

The Mather family loves to camp and hang out with their friends enjoying this wonderful community. Brian has always found his greatest joy in being of service to others. Whether it's his patients, his church or school communities he always enjoys making an impact in the community. He is honored to have been elected to serve the citizens of Fire District 9, and you will probably find him spending his free time at one of the fire stations or helping out in the fire district wherever he can.



**BRIAN MATHER, NEWLY ELECTED FIRE 9 COMMISSIONER**



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HOUSE CALLS is a publication of  
Spokane County Fire District 9

Jack Cates, Fire Chief  
James E. Bennett, Commissioner  
Brian A. Mather, Commissioner  
Thomas R. McGarry, Commissioner



## SHOUT OUT!

THANK YOU TO EACH OF THE LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS who volunteered their time and expertise to make our 2022 calendar the best yet!

Nichole Mischke  
Justine Nicole  
Ashlee Winlow  
Crystal Madsen  
Mike Franklin  
Philip Stokke  
Jenna Starr  
Andy Barth

## SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL DEMO DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 5TH  
10 AM - 2 PM

## 1,250+ POUNDS OF FOOD

Collected by Our Crews  
and Donated to the  
Mead Food Bank during  
Our Santa Operations  
in December

THANK YOU!