

House Calls



NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 9

WINTER 2017

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509-466-4602



A Message from the Chief

GREETINGS, AND WELCOME TO THE FALL/WINTER EDITION OF OUR FIRE 9 NEWSLETTER.

In our last newsletter, I discussed the wildfire season and our dramatic increase in incidents. What's new this time around is that we got somewhat of a reprieve from the number of fires we became accustomed to during wildfire season 2014 and 2015.

While the frequency of wildfires dropped this past Summer, the destructive nature and intensity due to fuel conditions was still very much present. This was most evident on August 21st — a horrific day for not only our citizens living on and around Mt. Baldy, but also for our neighbors to the south in Fire District 8 and to the west in Lincoln County.

The Wellesley Fire (Mt. Baldy), Yale Fire and Hart Road Fires would all start within twenty minutes of each other leaving us in a terrible predicament for resource availability. What would make matters worse was the weather. We saw Red Flag conditions that day with winds gusting to 40MPH, humidity around 10% and temperature near 90 degrees. These conditions are not our friends when there are fires on the ground. Sadly, we lost two homes, two out buildings, and experienced extensive damage to two other structures. We saw something else that day too; acts of incredible bravery and valor as our crews and crews from the



JACK CATES, FIRE CHIEF, SPOKANE COUNTY
FIRE DISTRICT #9

Spokane Fire Department did everything they could to save homes located in the direct path of the fire. When the fire reached the first row of homes at the top of the Baldy Hill, the effective wind speed (combination of wind speed and the effects of terrain and convection) was near 70MPH. When the flame front hit, we had crewmembers lying face down on the asphalt driveways with their face directly on the ground protecting their head with a flowing hose line in an attempt to breathe. Our crews endured these conditions for up to five minutes while the flame front passed over their heads. Thankfully, they had paved driveways to take refuge in while the fire burned around them. Later that evening, the temperature dropped and the wind died down allowing our crews to halt the fire's progress at Thierman Road. The next day we were fortunate to have fire crews arrive from across the state to assist with snuffing out the remaining fire. We are very thankful that we did not endure any civilian or firefighter injuries at this fire or any others that day.

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CONTINUED FROM FRONT A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Another common theme, in addition to wildfires, has been our steady rise of incident volume. In 2014, we saw a 12% increase, in 2015 a 14.7% and this year we are on pace to set another record with a 20% increase! We will see an additional

800 alarms this year over last. At the end of October, we had already surpassed the total incident count for all of 2015. We will eclipse 5000 incidents for the first time in Fire District 9 history. Thankfully, we predicted and prepared ourselves for the unprecedented rise in incidents. You, our taxpayers, also saw this coming and prepared by passing our special levy in February by record numbers; with an over 70% YES VOTE! You have passed our special levy every year it has been on the ballot since 1990! This is an unprecedented level of support and trust that we are very proud of here at Fire District 9. THANK YOU!

As we look ahead to 2017, we will prepare for another record year of incident volume. We see no reason to believe that demand for service will drop. Construction in the District continues at a steady rate and our schools continue to be overcrowded, two examples of steady growth within our District borders. This coupled with the Costco and Kaiser developments means we will continue to see years of steady growth. We are committed to being prepared for all that comes our way and to protecting you from fire and medical emergency both today and in the years to come.



Free Address Posts for Rural Residents from SCFD9

IF YOU'RE A RURAL RESIDENT OF SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 9, WE'LL HELP YOU ENSURE WE CAN FIND YOUR HOME QUICKLY AND IT WON'T COST YOU A THING!

We've been using plastic highway delimiter posts for addresses in rural areas for several years now. We put reflexite numbers on both sides of the post. It gives high visibility during the day and the reflexite shows up great at night.



Benefits:

1. It's free and we do the work for you!
2. The address numbers are four inches tall which meet Spokane County Code requirements and are highly visible to our crews.
3. We use reflexite numbers that really stand out at night (65% of all fires in Washington State occur after dark).
4. The vinyl highway delimiter post stands up to snowplow abuse pretty well.
5. We put the address on both sides of the post so it's visible traveling in either direction.
6. The address posts help us find rural addresses quickly.
7. Even if we're not looking for your house, knowing what address range we're in aids in finding your neighbor's home too.

Call our administrative offices at 509-466-4602. Our staff will need your name, phone number and address. Give us a few days to get the number stickers ordered up and we'll get someone out to install the post at your driveway.

**STOP BY ANY OF OUR
FIRE STATIONS TO GET
YOUR LIMITED EDITION
2017 FIRE 9 CALENDAR.**



Interagency Relations and Training Update

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 9 STRIVES TO MAINTAIN A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH NEIGHBORING EMERGENCY SERVICE AGENCIES THROUGHOUT SPOKANE COUNTY BY PARTICIPATING IN NUMEROUS INITIATIVES AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS THAT BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITIES IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS.

Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreements

Mutual and automatic aid agreements allow participating agencies to share fire fighting resources such as personnel and apparatus, across Spokane County during times of

TRAINING AND PROVIDING RESPONSE IN A COOPERATIVE MANNER, RESULTS IN AN IMPROVED LEVEL OF EFFECTIVENESS AND SERVICE

extreme emergency, such as a large wildland fire or a big commercial structure fire. Participation in these agreements authorize resources to engage fires directly or to back-fill at fire stations allowing firefighters to respond to additional

calls for service while local resources are committed to another incident. These agreements allow for reciprocal use of resources at no additional cost to our taxpayers.

Borderless Response

The District participates in a borderless response agreement with the City of Spokane Fire Department. Borderless response means the highest level of customer service through faster emergency response from the closest and most appropriate

fire service resource, regardless of jurisdiction. Currently, the District is in the process of developing the same response agreement with the Spokane Valley Fire Department.

Technical Rescue Training and Response

District 9, in conjunction with the City of Spokane Fire Department and Spokane Valley Fire Department, participate in combined technical rescue/urban search and rescue training and response. The purpose of the technical rescue is to mitigate incidents that require the use of specialized skills and equipment to reach and remove victims to safety. Examples of technical rescues include: water rescue, building collapse, high angle rope rescue, trench failure, confined space emergencies, heavy machinery and transportation incidents.

Training and providing response in a cooperative manner, results in an improved level of effectiveness and service when we're called upon to deal with emergency rescue incidents.

These cooperative services provided by each participating agency are provided at no additional cost. The agreements affect operational response, with local control remaining in the hands of the officials elected to serve and represent their respective communities.

COLORING CONTEST WINNERS

TAKE A LOOK AT THE WINNING ENTRIES FROM OUR 2016 FIRE DISTRICT 9 COLORING CONTEST. Thanks to all who entered.



AGE 3-4 WINNER, CLARA



AGE 7-8 WINNER, ELIZABETH



AGE 5-6 WINNER, SAM



GRAND PRIZE WINNER, CHASE, AGE 10



2016 coloring contest winner, Chase, with the grand prize, a 5 Game Combo Set courtesy of an anonymous donor. Chase's artwork also appears in our 2017 calendar.



House Calls

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HOUSE CALLS is a publication of
Spokane County Fire District 9

Jack Cates, Fire Chief

Michael R. Atwood, Commissioner

James E. Bennett, Commissioner

Thomas R. McGarry, Commissioner



SCFD9 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.



**FREE
Classes**



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

For more information, please call Administration at 466-4602 or visit www.scfd9.org.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK



Stop by and see us on the first Tuesday of every month from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Wandermere Fred Meyer.

**FREE
Check**