

House Calls



NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 9

WINTER/SPRING 2018

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SCFD9 ANNUAL DEMO DAY
JUNE 2ND

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509-466-4602



A Message from the Chief

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

In our last newsletter, I spent most of my time talking about the wildfire season and our dramatic increase in incidents. For the third year in a row that continues to be our theme. 2017 saw a record number of acres burned in Washington and Oregon. We saw areas of our state burn that typically do not experience large catastrophic fires. Is this the new norm? That is certainly what our friends at the National Weather Service tell us.

On the response front here at Fire 9 we continued our rise in call volume. **We set another record with 5690 alarms in 2017. This accounted for a 10% increase over 2016.** The vast majority of this increase is due to EMS calls and we have no reason to believe the increase will slow down anytime soon given how we have started off 2018. We will continue to plan for the increase to ensure we continue bringing you the best possible service when you need it.

Speaking of planning, you will see our 2019-2021 Maintenance and Operations levy on the April 24th special election ballot. One item of note is that the Board of Commissioners is asking for a three-year levy term instead of our usual two-year levy. This was done for two reasons. One, the Fire District is able to forecast and plan for an additional year and two, we save tens of thousands of dollars in election costs.

As we look ahead to the remainder of 2018 and beyond we see new construction and development continuing at a steady rate. The new Costco store along Highway 2 is going up and the old Kaiser property continues to move towards development. We at Fire District 9 are committed to being prepared for all that comes our way and to protecting you from fire and medical emergencies.



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

Your Vote Counts

ON THE UPCOMING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS LEVY

WATCH FOR YOUR BALLOT IN THE MAIL BEGINNING APRIL 4TH

See Inside for Details



Joint Training Helps Make Mutual Aid Agreements More Effective in Times of Need

AUTOMATIC AND MUTUAL AID IS THE PRACTICE OF NEIGHBORING FIRE DEPARTMENTS SHARING RESOURCES DURING PERIODS OF INCREASED CALL VOLUMES OR FOR MAJOR INCIDENTS THAT EXCEED THE CAPACITY OF THE HOST JURISDICTION. Fire District 9 has aid agreements with several neighboring fire departments. It is not enough to just have these agreements in place; crews from the different departments must train together on a regular basis so that during an emergency they can work together as an effective team. Fire District 9 has coordinated and participated in numerous regional training initiatives to support these evolving mutual aid agreements.

One area of focus for the Training Division has been to concentrate efforts on large-scale drills over multiple days so that hundreds of firefighters from different jurisdictions

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO JUST HAVE THESE AGREEMENTS IN PLACE; CREWS FROM THE DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS MUST TRAIN TOGETHER ON A REGULAR BASIS SO THAT DURING AN EMERGENCY THEY CAN WORK TOGETHER AS AN EFFECTIVE TEAM.

can participate. Through regional collaboration with the Training Divisions of neighboring fire departments, four topics were identified for these large-scale drills: wildfire, hazardous materials, high rise fire, and mass casualty incidents. Following each one of these drills, after-action reviews are conducted to identify future training needs and recommend updates to emergency plans and procedures. Some of these drills involved firefighters from neighboring Kootenai and Stevens County. Federal and state agencies were also involved.

In addition to the large-scale drills, Fire District 9 has hosted numerous live-fire training sessions at our training facility in Mead. These drills involve a smaller group of firefighters from different jurisdictions to practice fighting residential and commercial structure fires.

Fire District 9 also participates at the regional level in the initial training of new firefighters. Our new career personnel attend the Spokane Regional Training Academy that trains future fire fighters from five different Spokane area fire departments. District 9's new volunteers attend the North Spokane/Stevens County Basic Firefighter Recruit School which is held at our Mead training facility. We provide the instructors, facilities, and equipment to both recruit schools.

All these training programs have one goal; to improve the effectiveness of our firefighters so they are ready for any emergency situation.

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.

1,400+ POUNDS OF FOOD
Collected By Our Crews And Donated
To The Mead Food Bank During Our
Santa Operations In December
THANK YOU!

What Prop. 1, the Replacement M&O Levy Ballot Measure, Means to You



LOOK FOR YOUR BALLOT IN THE MAIL STARTING APRIL 4TH.

Save the Date FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSES – 2018

Station 91 10-1 pm	Saturday, June 9th 616 W Hastings Road, Spokane
Station 92 10-2 pm	Saturday, June 2nd (Demo Day) 3801 E Farwell Road, Mead
Station 93 11-2 pm	Saturday, June 16th 9915 W Charles Road, Nine Mile Falls
Station 94 6-8 pm	Tuesday, June 12th 7017 N Jensen Road, Spokane
Station 95 5-8 pm	Monday, July 2nd 3028 W Strong Road, Spokane
Station 96 5:30-8 pm	Thursday, June 28th 11019 N Forker Road, Spokane
Station 97 6-8 pm	Thursday, July 12th 15222 N Charles Road, Nine Mile Falls
Station 98 6-9 pm	Tuesday, June 19th 6606 N Regal Street, Spokane
Station 99 1-4 pm	Saturday, July 21st 9105 N Whitehouse Street, Spokane

FUNDING FOR SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 9 COMES SOLELY FROM PROPERTY TAXES.

The regular property tax levy generates about 40% of our revenue, and an annual M&O levy – approved by the voters – generates the remainder. Revenue from the regular levy supports the District’s basic fire services with our volunteer personnel, while the M&O levy supports 24/7 career staffing, advanced life support (paramedic) and emergency medical services. Together, these funding sources support the existing level of service district-wide.

The current M&O levy expires on December 31, 2018, and the proposed M&O levies will replace the expiring levy and provide funding for 2019, 2020 and 2021. These annual M&O levies are for specific dollar amounts so they will not increase if assessed property values increase. Instead, any further increase in assessed value will result in a reduction of your tax rate for the M&O levy.

You’ll find the 2019, 2020 and 2021 M&O levy renewals on your April 24th ballot.

SPECIAL MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS (M&O) LEVY

- Fire District revenue is generated solely from property taxes.
- Proposition 1 is for calendar years 2019, 2020 and 2021.
- Proposition 1 is a replacement for the expiring 2017 and 2018 M&O levy. **This is NOT AN ADDITIONAL TAX.**
- Used for the maintenance and operations costs of our fire and emergency medical services.
- The Special M&O levy funds approximately 60% of our total budget.
- The Special M&O levy provides the funding to maintain existing service levels (both staffing and services).
- Proposition 1 will be on the April 24th special election ballot.
- Our current 2018 M&O levy rate is \$1.69 per \$1,000 of assessed value (AV), or \$253.50 on a \$150,000 home.
- The 2019, 2020 and 2021 M&O levy rates are estimated to be \$1.78, \$1.85 and \$1.93 per \$1,000 of AV, or \$267, \$277.50 and \$289.50 on a \$150,000 home.
- The M&O levy rates for 2019, 2020 and 2021, when combined with the non-voted regular fire levy rate which keeps dropping as property values rise, will provide the Fire District with approximately the same \$3 per \$1,000 of assessed property value as in previous years.
- Emergency call volumes in Fire District 9 have increased by almost 10% per year since 2010.
- The Special M&O levy requires a super-majority 60% “yes” vote to pass.
- The Special M&O levy requires at least 40% of the number of voters from the last general election.



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

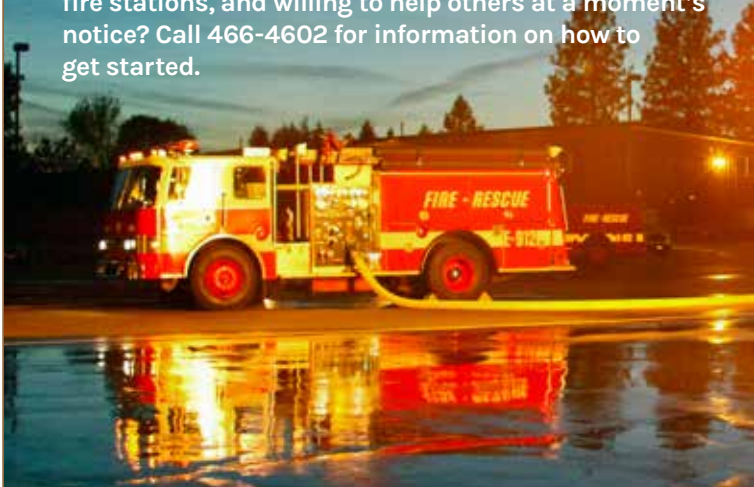


SCFD9 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES RESPOND TO THE CALL

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