

Know the facts and
make an educated
decision before you
vote!

SMOKE SIGNALS

THIS PUBLICATION PUT OUT BY
THE BOARD OF SPOKANE COUNTY
FIRE DISTRICT #5



Volume 7; Issue 2

FALL 2007

ELECTIONS AND EMS LEVY VOTE

On November 6, 2007 you will be asked to vote on whether or not Spokane County Fire District 5 (FD5) should collect .50 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation each year beginning in 2007 to be collected in 2008 and each year after to maintain the level of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). This fact sheet will answer many questions you may have in order to make an informed and educated decision on November 6, 2007. Information regarding two commissioner position elections can be found in the Voter's Pamphlet or online: google Spokane County Elections, choose "Online Voters Guide" then "View Candidates" and follow pull down menu to Fire District 5 Candidates.

What taxes am I currently paying for Fire District services? You pay \$1.10/\$1,000 assessed value; that tax money is collected for fire services, not EMS services though we have spread the revenue out for both fire and EMS for years. FD5 has the lowest rate out of all 11 fire districts in Spokane County. And other than Fire District 3 (Cheney), we are the *only* district that does not already have a separate levy or bond to supplement revenue in maintaining the district's operations or EMS program.

What kind of services does FD5 provide to me? We currently provide fire protection and emergency medical services to approximately 2,000 residents over 90 square miles. We respond to approximately 70 emergency calls per year with over 60% of those being EMS calls.

What resources does FD5 use to respond to emergency medical calls? (1) We currently have 3 vehicles that meet state standards for Basic Life Support (BLS). They all carry necessary emergency supplies including an automatic emergency defibrillator. They are located in three different places, one in each of our two stations and one with the lead responder to ensure better response coverage over our large area. One vehicle is strictly an emergency rig purchased new in 2004. (2) We have 23 volunteers, 16 of them are also Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's). They have successfully completed a Basic EMT course and attend ongoing training monthly with other fire districts to keep up on their skills and learn new ones.

FD5 also conducts hands-on training a minimum of two times per month. The most important part of our team is our volunteers; they give a very precious commodity... **time**. Each volunteer trains and is equipped with personal protective gear required by national safety codes as well as a pager and radio. (3) We also have Automatic Mutual Aid Agreements with all of our neighboring fire districts and ambulance services. That means that when you call 9-1-1, one or more of these neighboring districts are also automatically paged/alerted and are responding to the call until our crew cancels them. Most of these districts have full-time career emergency staff. Bottom line is...help is always on the way.

So if FD5 has established good response, good coverage, and great resources on my taxes so far, why do they need more money? Tax revenue resources have dropped in recent years; I-695 regarding motor vehicle excise tax and I-747 capping property tax increases to 1% have cost the state almost 2 billion dollars annually; that meant cuts to many resources including fire districts in all counties. Fuel, insurance, and communication bills have increased. We are expected to provide the same or better services with less revenue. It has cost a lot of money to get us to this level of service. We need help in order to maintain that service; it is simply not possible without it.

THESE ARE THE FACTS:

In the last three years (since 2004) to present:

- Our average number of volunteers has increased from 17 to 23.
- Our average number of Emergency Medical Technicians has increased from 4 to 16.
- The percentage of EMS calls has increased from 31% to 62%.
- Our average response time *just for EMS calls* has **dropped** from 18.62 minutes to 11.66 minutes.
- Our equipped and available EMS vehicles has increased from 1 to 3.
- Our Firefighter training has increased from 1 to a minimum of 2 times a month; the EMT training increased from 1 to 3 times a month including training with our neighboring districts.

THIS ALL COSTS MONEY TO ATTAIN & MAINTAIN

What's inside...

- Page 2 Business Mtgs, Team roster; smoke alarms
- Page 3 Burn info, Grants
- Page 4 Address signs



TRAINING SAVES LIVES!



What is the best way to find out what your fire district is doing?

Come to our monthly business meetings!

The district office is located in Station 51 on the SW corner of Four Mound and Dover Rd. We also have Station 52 on the corner of Valley and Charles Rd. We conduct our business meetings on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00p.m. at the district office. We have informational handouts available regarding burning and emergency preparedness as well as fun and educational items for children. This fire district operates on volunteers; we are always looking for community members who want to join our department. Call for more information.

WEBSITE: www.scfd5.org (currently under construction)

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS: FIRE DISTRICT #5 796-4793

S.C.O.P.E.: 796-2391 (call re: Neighborhood Watch)

~ O U R v o l u n t e e r s ~

We currently have 23 volunteers; 16 of them currently are Emergency Medical Technicians.

District 5's Team:

Ted Adams—Station 51 Training Lt./EMT
 Kjell Anderson—Fire Chief/EMT
 Bonnie Cobb—FF/EMT
 Cindy Date—Station 52 EMT Lt.
 Jennifer Egbert—Station 51 EMT Lt.
 Tim Fenton—FF
 Mike Flint—FF/Equip. Manager
 Bob Gambrel—Station 51 Captain/EMT
 Joe Gumminger—FF/EMT
 Jim Hansen—FF
 Bill Leonard—St 51 Safety Lt./EMT
 Peter Liebfried—FF
 Greg Lucht—FF/EMT
 Scott Lynch—FF

Miles McAdam—FF
 Karen Namani—Station 52 Training Lt./EMT
 Mike Pankonin—Comm. Mgr./EMT
 Dan Patterson—FF/EMT
 Dan Ritchie—FF/EMT
 John VanSant—FF/EMT
 Van Wohl—FF
 Ron Wood—Station 52 Captain/EMT

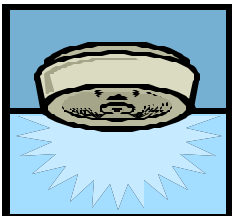
Board of Commissioners:

Greg Lucht—Chairman/FF/EMT
 Jim Ryan
 Sheri Rhoads

District Administrator:

Carol Harrington

Go to www.scfd5.org for an application to become a volunteer!



We still have some free smoke alarms available. Call our main office at 796-4793 if you are interested.

A smoke alarm should be in each bedroom of your home, the hallway, kitchen and main living areas. Smoke alarms reduce fire fatalities by 40-50%. Check your alarm's batteries once a month.



THE CAMPAIGN SIGN LOCATED JUST YARDS NORTHWEST OF STATION 51'S BAY DOORS IS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY AND DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THIS FIRE DISTRICT'S OPINION.

B u r n i n g I N F o r m a t i o n

FOR YARD AND GARDEN DEBRIS BURNING

- Yard and garden waste may be burned with no permit required on Friday through Monday the first two weekends in April only (8 days total) unless otherwise posted. **-OR-**
- Yard and garden waste may be burned by purchasing a permit from Spokane County Fire District #5. The permit costs \$25.00 and is good for **one calendar year**. It allows you to choose which 8 days to burn during the year. Call 796-4793 for further information.
- **NOTE: You must always call the day you plan to burn for clearance whether you have a permit or not. Call SCAPCA at 477-4710 and this fire district at 796-4793.**

FOR FOREST DEBRIS (SLASH)

Burning in undeveloped forest areas is delegated by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. In forested areas protected by DNR, debris burning is permitted without a written permit if **all** of these conditions are met:

- **Burn one pile at a time** of forest debris that is less than 4 feet in diameter at any time of the year.
- **Burn only natural vegetation** or untreated wood

products.

- **Burn piles are at least 50 feet from structures** and 500 feet from any forest slash.
- **Clear the area** around the burn pile of any flammable material.
- **The winds are calm or light.** It is too windy to burn if trees are swaying, flags are extended, or waves appear on open water.
- **Maintain a connected water hose** or at least five gallons of water and a shovel nearby.
- **Attend the fire** until it is completely extinguished.
- **Be prepared to extinguish the fire** if it becomes a nuisance.
- **Call 1-800-323-BURN and 477-4710** to obtain updated burning information on the day of the burn.

If any of these conditions cannot be met, a written DNR burning permit is required.

To obtain a DNR burning permit call 1-800-527-3305 at least a week before you plan to burn.

Our district's website, www.scfd5.org has links to both DNR and SCAPCA sites for more information.



G R A N T N E W S
Show me the money!

Grants in the writing stage:

Dept. Nat. Resources II 2007: 50% match

Grants turned in waiting for result...

None at this time.

Grants Awarded...

- 2006 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) \$38,641.00. 5% match

- 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) \$25,500.00. 5% match
- EMS Training Council 2007: \$4,139.00 no match.
- Dept. Nat. Resources II 2006 \$15,276.00. 50%match.

*** "Match" means the percentage the recipient is responsible for paying toward total amount funded.

Hey, Help us cut response time to your home in an emergency! Order a reflective address sign. Fill out the information below and mail in with a \$10.00 check to:

**Spokane County Fire Dist. #5
17217 W. Four Mound Rd.
Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Signs are 6" X 24", blue with white reflective numbering on one or both sides (both sides are recommended).

The sign is two feet tall, metal, blue, with white reflective numbers on one or both sides (both sides are recommended). Your sign will usually be done and delivered within 10 -14 days.



17217 W. Four Mound Rd.
Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026

