



Structure Training!

SMOKE SIGNALS

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



Volume 9; Issue 1

SUMMER 2010

BURNING QUESTIONS...

We are coming into the summer season and many of you have questions regarding outdoor burning. One of the most common questions we get is:

How do I know what I can burn and when I can burn?

There are many different agencies from your local fire district, to county, to state to federal that regulate burning conditions. We work with Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency and the Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources in establishing the following guidelines:

FOR YARD AND GARDEN DEBRIS BURNING

• 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**. Call 796-4793 or check out our website for further information (yard debris burn permit application downloadable form).

• **NOTE:** *Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, formerly SCAPCA, has removed the Spring 8-day yard debris burn (two 4-day open burn periods). If you read all the fine print on their website, however, you will notice that several fire districts offer burn permits in their area to qualifying residents; we are one of those districts. See our website for more info and a link to SRCAA's site.*

• **NOTE:** **You should call and/or check online for burn conditions the day you plan to burn for clearance whether you have a permit or not. Call 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 the following conditions are met

(called a 'Rule Burn'):

- **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.

SRCAA (Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency) formerly SCAPCA, puts restrictions on burning mainly based on air quality. Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources puts restrictions on burning mainly based on moisture levels and weather (although other factors are considered). Spokane County Fire District #5 uses any and all county, state and federal guidelines in determining restrictions on burning. That is why it is important to let us know what and when you are going to burn.

Inside this issue:

Burning Information	page 1
Lifesaving CPR	page 2
Roster/Dist. Info.	page 3
Volunteer Spotlight	page 4
Commissioner Column	page 5

Give a Hand to Save Others from Sudden Cardiac Arrest: Hands-Only CPR — Facts



Sudden cardiac arrest claims hundreds of thousands of lives each year. One of the main reasons is because no one at the scene does anything to help. In fact, less than one-third of sudden cardiac arrest victims receive bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Getting help right away — within a few minutes -- is the key to survival. People who have a sudden cardiac arrest and don't get help right away will probably die.

Fortunately, the American Heart Association has a new way for *anyone* to step in and help adults who suddenly collapse -- **Hands-Only CPR**.

Hands-Only CPR is CPR without mouth-to-mouth rescue breaths. It involves two easy steps: Call 911 and push hard and fast on the center of the chest. Don't stop until help arrives.

Anyone can perform **Hands-Only CPR** and *everyone* should perform it if they aren't confident in their CPR skills or haven't learned conventional CPR.

Hands-Only CPR is easy to remember and results in delivery of more, uninterrupted chest compressions until more advanced care arrives on the scene.

Hands-Only CPR Online is a new Web site dedicated to educating people about Hands-Only CPR. Find out more at americanheart.org/handsonlycpr.

The site includes:

A **Hands-Only CPR** instructional video

Survivor stories

Link to CPR Anytime, the associa-

tion's self-directed, use-at-home program for those who want to learn more about conventional CPR training. Conventional CPR is still required for infants, children, and for adults who have a sudden cardiac arrest due to respiratory causes.

Media materials, including photos and contact information

News coverage

Back in April 2008, the American Heart Association featured brief video vignettes on YouTube about **Hands-Only CPR**. The first of four videos, *Rocket Science*, debuted on April 1. It took a humorous look at three scientists discussing what they should do immediately after their colleague suddenly collapses. Links to the videos are on the American Heart Association's new **Hands-Only CPR** Web site, americanheart.org/handsonlycpr.

Bystanders must take action when they see someone suddenly collapse and stop breathing normally. When effective bystander CPR is given immediately after sudden cardiac arrest, it can double or triple a victim's chance of survival. **Hands-Only CPR** can help save lives.

Do not give Hands-Only CPR to infants and children — all infants and children who have a sudden cardiac arrest need conventional CPR.

Adults who nearly-drown or have cardiac arrest due to a respiratory cause need conventional CPR.



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 the office or check out our website for more information and downloads.

WEBSITE HAS BEEN UPDATED!

www.scfd5.org

SPOKANE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 5

DISTRICT OFFICE, STATION 51 796-4793

17217 W. FOUR MOUND RD.

How prepared are you for home emergencies?

- Have you checked your smoke detector lately? Check it monthly (maybe put a reminder in with your monthly bills).
- Do you have an escape plan for your family should your home catch on fire?
- Do you keep a fire extinguisher in your kitchen area and garage/shop? Is it current? Do you know how to operate it? (**P**ull, **A**im, **S**queeze, **S**pray)

~ OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM ~

We currently have 19 volunteers; 11 of them are Emergency Medical Technicians.

District 5's Team:

Kjell Anderson—FF/EMT/Trng Lt.
 Jason Burdick—FF
 Bonnie Cobb—FF/EMT
 Cindy Date—Station 52 EMT Lt.
 Mike Flint—FF/Equip. Manager
 Joe Gumminger—FF/EMT
 Rod Heimbigner—EMS Coord.
 Jennifer Jensen—Station 51 EMT Lt.
 Bill Leonard—Safety Officer/EMT
 Greg Lucht—FF/EMT
 Scott Lynch—FF
 Zach Martin—FF
 Miles McAdam—FF
 Brandon Meiers—FF

Mike Pankonin—FF
 Courtney Patterson—FF/EMT
 Dan Patterson—FF/EMT
 Van Wohl—FF
 Ron Wood—District Chief/EMT

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

Board of Commissioners:

Todd Lehman—Chairman
 Gary Pietz
 Larry Wendlandt

District Secretary:

Carol Harrington





Ron Wood is currently our Fire Chief and is spotlighted this issue!

Ron joined this fire district back in 1987. He says he didn't know anything about the fire service but wanted to help people and keep his community safe. He worked for Burlington Northern as a conductor for 35 years. Ron's favorite part of the job is helping others. He was a fire foreman with the Department of Natural Resources one summer in Okanagan back in 1967. He got the bug for firefighting back then. *"I really enjoy the Wildland firefighting because I started with that back when I was a teenager."* he explains.

Since became a volunteer, the changes he has seen in the community as well as the way we fight fires is extensive. He said, *"We have a lot more people that have moved out here from town who are used to fire hydrants on every corner, think they can use burn barrels, and may not have a clear understanding of what a protective green space is around their home. Some may assume there are manned fire stations and not realize we are an all volunteer fire district made up of their neighbors who have families, activities and jobs and do the best they can in training and responding to all kinds of emergencies. When we first started out it was more of an individual effort where you'd pull the fire truck up in regular street clothes and do the best you could as an individual. Now it is an organized team effort where a clear command structure is in place; each responder has a job to do and a command officer oversees the incident communicating clearly with each team member. Volunteers are assigned to certain positions and wear Personal Protective Equipment from boots to helmets, including SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus), to protect themselves so they can better aid those in need. Our trucks now meet the same National Standards as fire trucks you'd find in a fully manned career fire district. Training has gone from once a month to approximately four times per month including Firefighter, Emergency Medical and Officer Training classes. Medically, we used to just be 1st Aid Responders but now have eleven of our nineteen volunteers as State licensed Emer-*

gency Medical Technicians who have gone through over 120 hours of training that is ongoing monthly to keep up to date." When asked what kind of a team does this fire district have, Ron replied, *"We have a well organized crew that knows their job and looks out for each other. Their camaraderie is noticed by others in the community; they work hard and are proud to be in service for this area."*

Ron said his vision for the fire district is to see more volunteers apply, replace older fire trucks with newer ones (our oldest truck is a 1964 International), to pass an EMS Levy as over half our calls are EMS related (we receive no funding for EMS, just fire fighting), to see one paid firefighter on our crew to help maintain stations, trucks, and be available, and to see a third fire station built at the corner of Coulee-Hite and Wood Rd. to better serve the southern end of our 90 square mile district.



Continued on next page...

Cont'd from page 4...

When asked how many hours, on average, per month does he, as Fire Chief, put in toward the district attending training, going to county meetings, and at home on the phone and computer making sure things are running smoothly, he said about 70 hours per month. Only training and response to calls are compensated for gas and mileage.

Ron's wonderful wife, Corky, says she is proud and feels that Ron has successfully carried on what started years ago in bringing the fire district members closer together with a better understanding of what they need to do and how to do it. It has definitely been a labor of love.

When asked if she wakes up when Ron has to leave in the middle of the night, she said, "Yes, sometimes I can get back to sleep but often worry about him getting hurt. I know they will all be okay, as they watch

out for each other, but worry about them; I worry like I'm a mother to them all."

Chief Ron said that the number one thing he wants residents to know about their fire district members is that "...we need your support to continue to provide the service we want to give you, whether that is through attending business meetings, voting to approve fire district levies, or educating yourselves on preventing emergencies."

Thanks Ron for over 24 years of selfless volunteer service and attention to training excellence that makes this community a better and safer place to live!

COMMISSIONER'S COLUMN

From Todd Lehman, Gary Pietz and Larry Wendlandt

Since it has been some time since the last newsletter was posted we would like to take a moment to explain some of the changes that have occurred.

In September the County Commissioners selected Marvin Davis to fill the remainder of the open position created by Sheri Rhoads resignation. (We thank Marvin for his efforts in a difficult situation). Then, in November Larry Wendlandt and Gary Pietz were elected, and joined Todd Lehman to complete the new SCFD#5 Commissioner roster.

We Commissioners are learning to work together, and trying to establish criteria that will fulfill the expectations of the citizens that elected us. That means that we sometimes have to make difficult decisions that initially are unpopular but that we believe best serve the district patrons. We have established new guidelines for volunteer attendance at both training and response to calls for service expecting that when a person makes a decision to volunteer they also make a commitment to the community. We have revised the job description of the District Chief and will soon be working on the District Secretary position. The evaluation of how the District functions is constantly changing and we will be making decisions on an on-going basis, trying to provide the best service possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to invite anyone (firefighters, EMT's, taxpayers) to contact us with any and all concerns or questions. Our phone numbers are listed on the District website. Our meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month at Station 51 at Four Mound and Dover Rd. and are always open to the public. Please attend a meeting and see what transpires in our efforts to serve you.