



Our Firefighter I Grads!

# SMOKE SIGNALS

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



Volume 7; Issue 1

**WINTER 2007**

## SAFETY AND TRAINING

**1,242 hours.** That's how many hours the volunteers of Spokane County Fire District 5 donated in 2006. That figure does not include any emergency response calls. It averages to over 100 hours per month. The hours each volunteer puts in has a direct effect on this community.

Monthly training drills and meetings accounted for 660 hours in 2006, other non-compensated training the volunteers received took 449 hours. Station maintenance and repairs took 73 hours while truck maintenance and repairs took 60 hours. This, of course, translates to monetary savings to the district and taxpayers each and every year.

The team has one training meeting and one drill meeting per month offered by this district. EMT's also attend OTEP (Ongoing Training for Evaluation Program) offered by Spokane County Fire District 10 once a month. There are other opportunities that arise monthly for ongoing training from many different sources.

Training for firefighters is predominantly steered by what local, state, regional and national standards require; many of those standards are in constant revision and change. Fire districts, including ours, follow the Basic Fire Fighter Training Program from the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Our Fire Chief and two Training Lieutenants plan training meetings with hands on practical skills including but not limited to: basic first aid, hazmat, rescue (including utilizing the district's Jaws of Life equipment), incident command, SCBA, truck operations, and firefighting tactics.

Though we have two stations with volunteers assigned to each one, they come together to train, learn from each other and build a strong camaraderie. Most, if not all of the vehicles are utilized throughout the year during training exercises as most of it is hands-on training so the operations of the vehicles during a real emergency become second nature. Volunteers wear proper Personal Protection Equipment (structure or

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wildland gear) during exercises. Not only is it a requirement for safety but it ensures they can respond and operate equipment and machinery quickly *in that gear* during a real incident.

Since the beginning of 2006, ten of our volunteers have taken the basic Emergency Medical Technician Course. It is a commitment of 120 hours over several months. Seven have passed and are now EMT's and two are almost done with the course and will be testing soon. (Good luck Ron Wood and Dan Patterson!) Grant money paid for six of those volunteers' course fees and books.

Ron Wood and Jennifer Egbert also took the Firefighter I Course sponsored through Spokane County Fire District 10. This also required 120 hours and was a grueling course as Ron and Jennifer had to study both for classroom tests as well as gear up to train and test in different fire situations at FD10 as well as at the Fire Training Center located next to Spokane Community College. They both passed the course and received their FFI Certifications at an award banquet held at Fire District 10.

Danger doesn't make distinctions between volunteer and paid career firefighters. Our team trains because they want to make operations safer and more effective for the community they care about and are dedicated to serving.



## 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.scf5.org](http://www.scf5.org)

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS: FIRE DISTRICT #5 796-4793

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

CRIME CHECK: 532-9266 Note: This is for non-emergencies only Mon.—Fri. from 8am.-8pm. and Sat. 8am-5pm; for emergencies always dial 911. You may also access Crime Check on the Web at [www.spokanecrimereportingcenter.org](http://www.spokanecrimereportingcenter.org).

#### ~ NEW VOLUNTEERS ~

We currently have 24 volunteers; 14 of them currently are Emergency Medical Technicians and 2 are taking the basic EMT course.

#### District 5's Team:

Ted Adams—Station 51 Training Lt./EMT  
Kjell Anderson—Fire Chief/EMT  
Patty Bonner—FF/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  
Terry Huffman—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  
Dan Ritchie—FF/EMT  
John VanSant—FF/EMT  
Van Wohl—FF  
Ron Wood—Station 52 Captain

#### Board of Commissioners:

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

#### District Administrator:

Carol Harrington

**Go to [www.scf5.org](http://www.scf5.org) for an application to become a volunteer!**



#### GRANT NEWS

*Show me the money!*

Grants in writing stage... 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG). 5% match

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



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



We would like to introduce Dan Patterson and family. Dan is a welcome addition to our team. His family moved into district about six years ago. He was a volunteer in Oregon state with the Mckenzie Fire Department in 1986 in his senior year of high school. Dan said, *"I was hooked after my first burn to learn!"* He took the EMT course at the end of '87 and passed the state exam January of '88. The following year he received a scholarship through Marion County Fire District #1 in Salem, Oregon. Dan worked and lived as a resident volunteer while going through Chemeketa Community College's two year fire suppression program. During that time he attained an EMT-I. At the end of the program, he had earned his Firefighter I, II, & III, Apparatus Operator I & II, Hazmat I & II, Fire Instructor I, and Aircraft Crash & Rescue accreditations through the Oregon State Fire Marshal. He worked for the USFS fighting forest fires for three seasons, including the Yellowstone fire at which he was on for a month.

In 1990 he married Tonya. Dan did his best juggling college for a paramedic certification during the day time and working nights for Pepsi to provide for his family, not to mention trying to find the time for his clinical and intern responsibilities. He held up for a year but found it was more than he could juggle, so he put his goal of becoming a career fire fighter on hold and continued working for Pepsi as he still does to this day. Now that his children are older he is back at pursuing that goal. Tonya, his wife, got her CNA her senior year of H.S. and is also interested in becoming an EMT. Dan says that she is quite the gal. She's a great cook, home schooled their daughter through sixth grade and their son through fifth, along with helping Dan split wood and buck hay on the farm. She also likes to fish, hunt, and play ball.

Their daughter, Courtney, is 16 and is on the honor role, a cheerleader and a great piano player. She also likes to hunt, fish, baby-sit and hang out with her friends. Keenan is 12 and also does well academically. He is a great artist, likes to hunt, fish, skateboard, and play his guitars. Keenan attends



Westgate Christian School and will for one more year.

Dan says the most rewarding aspect of being part of the fire district team is doing something he loves to do. He said that, *"I was really encouraged at the car accident incident that occurred recently on Superbowl Sunday, seeing every one jumping in together as a team to achieve the same goal. Everyone knew what needed to be done and just started taking care of the tasks... including watching out for our safety. It's nice to be part of that team. In regard to the community, I really like living in a farming /rural community because of the people. They are very friendly and helpful neighbors that take the time to share their wealth of wisdom. In regard to my family, my wife's least favorite part is that she can't go with me on the calls and finds it frustrating that I can't tell her much about them. They all, of course, don't always like the time involved in volunteering, but realize what a worthwhile cause it is and how much I love it. Sometimes they worry about my safety. I hope that maybe someday they'll join me as volunteers."*

We are very fortunate to have Dan and his family as part of our community and especially part of our Fire District's team! He is currently taking the Basic EMT course for our district!



# 1st Annual Volunteer Award Banquet

On January 28, 2007 our fire district held its first ever volunteer award banquet celebrating accomplishments for 2006. The volunteers, their families, and other guests enjoyed a Spaghetti dinner served by S.C.O.P.E. members in the Springhill Grange Hall.

Each member present was asked to come forward and be recognized for their dedication and sacrifice to the community. Greg Lucht, chairman of the district, gave special thanks to the children and spouses of the volunteers for their support while volunteers were away on emergency calls as well as regular monthly training meetings and drills.

Greg then asked a surprised Roger and Michelle McDonald to come forward. They both received Community Volunteer of the Year Awards for their time and support in helping out whenever the district needed some extra assistance with any projects.



**Roger and Michelle McDonald,  
Community Volunteers of the Year**

This fire district is extremely fortunate to have many members who have served for many years. They each received a Certificate and Pin commemorating their years of service: Kjell Anderson—10 years, Terry Huffman—20 years, Van Wohl—20 years, and Ron Wood—20 years.

Kjell then called Carol Harrington up to thank her on behalf of the

district team for her work as the administrator and for the grant work she does for the district.

The EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) of the Year Award was presented to Cindy Date for her excellence in responding to and handling many EMS calls as well as extra fire district duties with efficiency and professionalism.



St.52 EMT Lt. Cindy Date receives **EMT of the Year** from Fire Chief, Kjell Anderson.

All of the volunteers on the district were asked to vote for who they thought should receive Firefighter of the Year for 2006 and why. It came as no surprise when Ron Wood's name was called. Affectionately referred to as 'Cap'n Ron,' everyone on the team has come to know and love this big guy who leads by example, inspires by words and action, and tirelessly and doggedly pours himself into this fire district and community. A quote from one of the volunteers who nominated Ron states, **"I have not been on a single fire where Ron Wood was not there leading, teaching or working side by side with his crew. He has always inspired me to reach for excellence."** Kjell then asked Ron to remain up front while he presented him with the Chief's Award. This is given to honor a volunteer who, in the Chief's eyes, has distinguished himself by meeting and exceeding standards set and



St.52 Capt. Ron Wood, receives both **FF of the Year and Chief's Award** from Fire Chief, Kjell Anderson.

the caliber of character exemplified throughout the year to both the team and the community he serves.

We were fortunate to have Ed Lewis, Fire Chief of Spokane County Fire District 4, as our guest speaker that evening. He presented a power point show on the Katrina Hurricane Disaster. He spent quite a bit of time down in that area as one of the key figures organizing an Incident Command System at a time where basic needs were difficult, if not impossible to obtain like food, water, electricity etc. His expertise and leadership in a disaster/destruction event is recognized by many in the fire/emergency service nationwide as a benchmark.

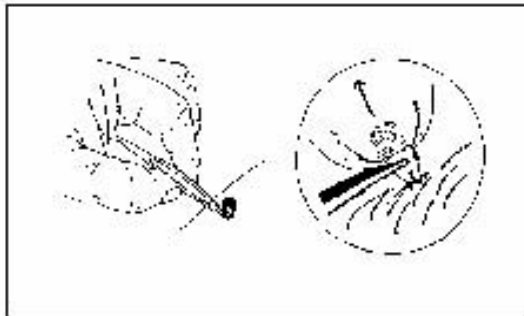
We would like to thank the many community volunteers who donated time and efforts to making the night successful: John and Jean Mangan, Nancy Secrist, Dave Foxworth, Kelly Koberstine, Jim Wilson, and Sunny Hedquist. Thanks so much!



# Tick Tips

During the spring and summer ticks appear in brushy areas of Spokane County and the surrounding region. Ticks embed their mouth parts in the skin of people and their pets. Ticks can potentially transmit a variety of diseases, including Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Tick Paralysis, Lyme Disease, and Relapsing Fever.

**Inspect** for ticks at least twice a day when in brushy areas. Pets should get the same attention. Although insect repellent and proper clothing provide some protection, ticks often find some accessible body area (scalp, ankles, beltline, etc). To be safe, inspect the body for ticks.



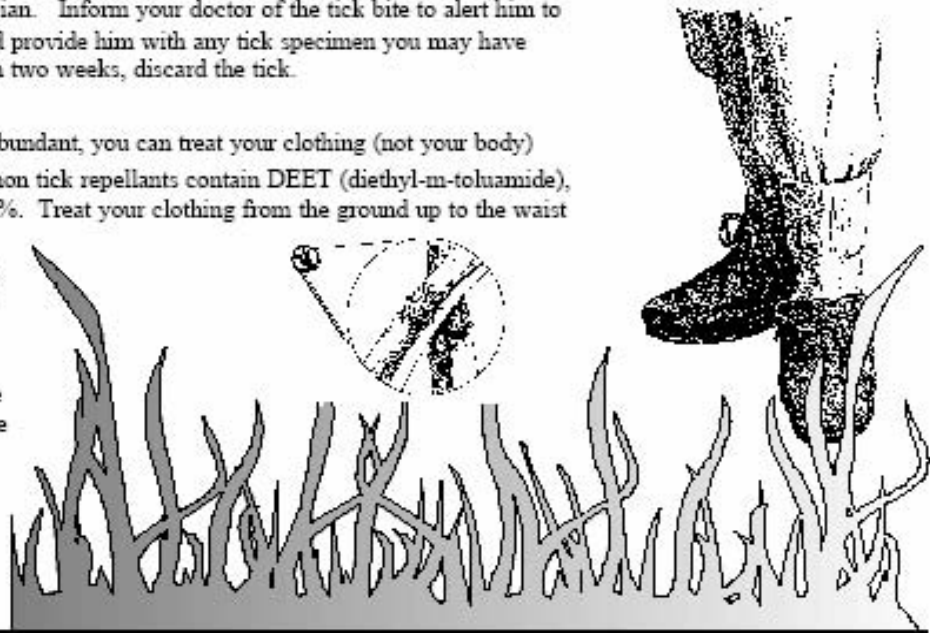
**Remove** an embedded tick using tweezers or gloved hands. Grasp the tick's head gently as close to the skin as possible and pull with a steady, gentle motion until it releases. **Caution:** Do not grasp the tick by its body. This could cause the tick to transmit disease to the victim.

**Wash** the bite area thoroughly with soap and water and apply an antiseptic. Then carefully wash your own hands with soap and water. If possible, save the tick in a closed container. To maintain moisture, include several blades of grass with the tick. Ticks may be stored this way, preferably refrigerated (not frozen) so they do not become dried up.

Keep a record of the date and location of the tick contact. Should any unusual signs of illness develop within 14 days, such as fever, muscle pain and weakness, severe headache, or rash, consult your physician. Inform your doctor of the tick bite to alert him to possible tick-borne infections, and provide him with any tick specimen you may have saved. If no illness occurs within two weeks, discard the tick.

**Repellants:** If ticks are abundant, you can treat your clothing (not your body) with a repellent. The most common tick repellents contain DEET (diethyl-m-toluamide), or the insecticide permethrin 0.5%. Treat your clothing from the ground up to the waist (shoes, socks, pants). Allow clothes to air dry before wearing. **Caution:** DEET concentrations exceeding 30% are not recommended, especially for children. Permethrin 0.5% is an insecticide and is recommended for adult use only.

*Tucking your pant legs into your socks makes a continuous "seal" that prevents ticks from reaching your skin. Wearing very light-colored socks and pants enables you to spot and remove ticks as they crawl up the outside of your clothing.*



Environmental Health  
 1101 West College Avenue, Room 402  
 Spokane, WA 99201  
 324-1560 ext. 7  
 TTD (509) 324-1464

# *Community Dance*

*Springhill Grange Hall*

*Sponsored by S. C. O. P. E.*

*Friday evening April 6th, 2007 at 7p.m.*

*Easter Hat (men) and Bonnet (women) Competition*

*Raffles for local artwork*

*Music provided by: Big Show Mobile Entertainment*

*Pie, coffee and punch provided*

*Donations accepted*



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