



SMOKE SIGNALS

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



Spring 2012
Volume 12; Issue 1

NEW FIRE TRUCK COMING

We applied and received an award of \$391,000 for a new fire truck from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through an Assistance for Firefighter's Grant program (AFG). This is very exciting as it is difficult, at best, to receive a vehicle award.

After an extensive study of our aging fleet, as well as what kind of emergency services we need to provide for our community, a hybrid type of truck was selected that operates both as a tender truck for water transfer and



as an engine for pumping capabilities. It will replace one of our tenders and one of our engines. It will also be equipped and registered as an EMS rig carrying all medical equipment as well as extrication equipment. Our crew will all be fully trained on its operations shortly after it is delivered sometime in early spring of 2013.

An outline of the vehicle is below; please check our website regularly as we update it monthly with what is going on in your fire district.

www.scfd5.org

NEW TEAM MEMBERS!

There have been several changes to our all-volunteer team this year. Bonnie Cobb, who began serving with our team in 2006, was selected by the board as our new Fire Chief as of January 1, 2012. She is working hard to serve in a Chief's capacity to maintain and improve the quality of education and response for our community.

Did you know that over half our volunteers have given approximately 220 hours of class time, hours of additional study at home and passed a national board certified test to become Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT)?

Recently, five newer members have earned their EMT status. This is a great accomplishment and a huge asset to our team and this community as over

60% of all our emergency calls are EMS related.

Five of our members have already served a decade or more and another five members have served over five years. We have an excellent mix of older and younger volunteers working together to keep you and your property safe.

If you would like to become a volunteer with our district, go to our website, download the application and send it in or drop it by our main station.

We train several times a month, year round in a classroom setting,

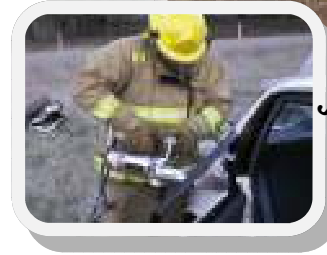


outdoors in our district and with other districts. Our volunteers are

trained in:

- ◆ Wildland Fires
 - ◆ Structure Fires
 - ◆ Motor Vehicle Fire/Rescue/Accidents
 - ◆ Medical Emergency Basic Life Support and Treatment
 - ◆ Incident Command Communications
 - ◆ Public Information and Education
 - ◆ MedStar Helicopter landings
- And other areas.

Wildland Training



Jaws of Life

CHIEF: Compassion, Helpful, Involvement, Energy, Fun

My personal mission statement as your new Chief.

Compassion: to help the district be safe.

Helpful: for all the volunteers to be trained to help the district be safe.

Involved: in community and the training of volunteers.

Energetic: keep the volunteers excited about growing stronger for the district's safety.

Fun: keep training fun so we have a strong team of volunteers.

In achieving this mission I want to make sure every volunteer goes home by incorporating **safety** into every training meeting and incident. After taking a survey of what the volunteers thought were the top five items we shifted our focus on: trucks, pumps, our response area, equality, and report continuity. I attend Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings, Inland Empire Fire Chief Association meetings, explore the Major Incident Report Team for a possible trainee position and work with two other Chiefs for joint training in neighboring Districts.

To keep you **involved**, we have had two community functions at the fire station including a Firewise Community Awareness meeting regarding how to best manage urban interface areas. Upcoming events we hope you attend are: Open House, Safety Awareness with Santa Clause, and of course our monthly business meetings. We also plan on going through the community door to door to see what we can do for you. **Always check our website for upcoming events.**

Every time a volunteer comes up with a new idea and wants to do great things for the community it helps me keep our **energy** up. So if you have an idea please let us know as we are always looking for new ideas. We have had the Department of Natural Resources come out for training as well as other **fun** and knowledgeable trainers. Our EMS Coordinator, Rod, always has **fun** ideas to engage the crew.



Please have a safe and fun summer. Remember to be fire safe at all costs. One match is all it takes to change the lives of many. Special thanks to: Joe Gumminger and Rod Heimbigner for the great job at trainings, district of-

ficers for working so hard, and Joshua Cobb for being Santa Clause for the Kid's Safety event. A special thank you to Larry & Isla Durham, Ed & Carol Lynch and Don Pietz for helping paint the office. Please give a thank you to Carol Harrington, our secretary, and to our commissioners: Todd, Larry and Gary. Thank you for your support of this fire district.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Cobb
SCFD5 Chief



From the Board of Commissioners:

You might be wondering what we are doing for you. Well in the last two years we have been able to save over \$30,000 in a reserve fund. We did this while *still* providing our firemen what they need for equipment and supplies, and not asking you for a dime more than what you pay in taxes. You are probably asking what we are going to do with that money; well thanks to a group effort between us and our firemen and the grant writing skills of our secretary, Carol, we were able to secure an AFG grant for a brand new pumper tender. The cost to you as a tax payer is zero dollars. Our share is just 5% (\$20,000) which we have saved. The grant from FEMA pays the rest. We also appointed a new Fire Chief. She has been working very hard to help make our fire district the best it can be. She has brought on many new volunteers, and is getting them up to level they need to be as firemen and EMT's. Great job Bonnie. Thanks to all you volunteers who give your time and effort to be firemen and EMT's for the community. We appreciate it very much.

Larry Wendlandt, Commissioner

Thank You Ron Wood and Van Wohl for 25 years of service!



Ron Wood

Two volunteers, Ron Wood and Van Wohl, recently retired after serving this community for 25 years. They both joined the fire district the same day back in 1987. Ron was appointed as Station Captain in 2006 then led the district as Fire Chief in February 2010.

We thank them for the countless hours of training for and responding to all kinds of emergency situations to help protect the community they live in and make this a safer place to live. We also thank their families for their support and sacrifice.



Van Wohl



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 information:

www.scfd5.org

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.



SMOKE SIGNALS

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: www.scfd5.org

~ OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM ~
We currently have 21 volunteers; 14 of them are Emergency Medical Technicians.

District 5's Team:

Kjell Anderson—FF/EMT
 Bethany Cobb—FF/EMT
 Bonnie Cobb—Fire Chief
 Josh Cobb—FF
 Linda Dougherty—FF/EMT
 Sarah Engan—FF/EMT

Ken Fisher—Safety Officer
 Mike Flint—FF
 Joe Gumminger—FF/EMT
 Rod Heimbigner—EMS Coord.
 Jennifer Jensen—FF/EMT
 Blake Lehman—FF
 Greg Lucht—FF/EMT
 Scott Lynch—FF
 Luke Martin—FF
 Miles McAdam—FF
 Alan McNew—Station Capt.
 Brandon Meiers—FF

Dan Patterson—FF/EMT
 Joy Quam—FF/EMT
 Theresa Scheidt—Station Lt.

Board of Commissioners:

Todd Lehman—Chairman
 Gary Pietz
 Larry Wendlandt

District Secretary:

Carol Harrington



SPokane County Fire District 5
 17217 W. FOUR MOUND RD.
 NINE MILE FALLS, WA 99026
 (509) 796-4793