

Smoke Signals

Jan-Feb-Mar 2024
Volume 1, Issue 1

Levy Lift

Spokane County Fire District 5 (SCFD5) is your local fire department and the volunteers and commissioner are proud of what our district does for the community. We need your help with the rising cost of everything, fuel, electricity, medical supplies, equipment repair, office supplies, and general maintenance we are asking for you to vote for the Levy Lid lift we are running on February 13, 2024.

What is a levy lid lift. At the present time district 5 is only paying 74% of what is possible due to how fast our community has growing. Per RCW we can only ask for 1% over the year before tax income. By having the levy lid pass we would get the 100 percent plus 50% over the next 5 years. With that if you are presently paying .05 cents on the \$1,000.00 you would be paying .15 cents on a \$1,000.

At this time your Fire Fighters and EMT are 100% volunteers. They receive a small stiffen for their service. If you call in the middle of the night they arrive at your door. If a vehicle accident happens, they are there for you. The reason a volunteer does what they do is due to the love they have for the community they work/volunteer for. When COVID hit and the volunteers where out with proper gear on helping the community get the medical help needed. Not one volunteer said we can't go it might be COVID... Please return the support and vote on February 13, 2024.

Here is examples of why the needed extra funds are needed.

*Fuel cost in 2015 were \$2.60, 2018 \$3.09, 2020 \$2.38, now 2023 \$3.84

*Electrical price per KWH in 2015 were \$0.138, 2018 \$0.136, 2020 \$0.135, now 2023 \$0.168

*Fuel and Electrical prices are US city average taken from U.S. bureau of Labor Statistics (www.bls.gov)

A short break down on where your tax payer money goes to;

In 2023 the district received 137,000.00

Electrical was 10%. Which the department has no control over.

Truck maintenance 25%. Over half of our repairs are done for free by volunteers

Volunteers was 10%. The district pays on a point system so they get a point for responding to call.

Commissioners 5%. One commissioner does not take pay, one takes half the amount, one takes the full amount and in return buys the volunteers an award at the banquet.

The district has done a remarkable job at staying in good standards with local departments which have helped the district get better equipment and training. Your volunteers are working hard for you. Please help by voting yes on February 13, 2024.

Please call or visit us at 17217 W. Four Mound Road.

Sincerely,

Spokane County Fire District 5

A Word from your Commissioners

Thank you Larry Edmonds for your last six years of service as a commissioner for SCFD5. Larry had decided to retire and did not run for re-election this year. Our new elected commissioner will be David Alvarado. Thank you Dave for running to fill this position.

Our District Secretary, Caren Hubbard, also decided to retire last spring. Thank you Caren for all your work on implementing our new accounting system and working through our Washington State audit that we confront every two years.

After interviewing Bethany McCann, she decided to take the district secretary position. Bethany has proven to be a good fit for SCFD5. She has been a volunteer for 15 years and has worked with the Firewise and Community Defensible Space Grants. She also has our website updated and active. It can be found at SCFD5.org.

We would not have the fire protection equipment, apparatus, or trucks without the endless hours of work Bonita Cobb puts into grants. She is also very instrumental in receiving assistance for the Firewise Community and Defensible Space Grants for our district. She works very closely with DNR and FEMA. Thank You Bonita!

With inflation and the cost of everything going up, it is a balancing act to maintain our district with our limited budget, even with the grants and all the volunteer services. All our trucks and gear have to be kept up, fueled, and ready to roll at a moments notice.

I would also like to thank all our volunteers and Chief, Scott Lynch. Without all their many hours of training and responding to calls we could not protect our district and neighbors. You all do a great job and we appreciate each one of you!

Thank You for a great year,
Isla Durham
Commissioner, Chair



Inside this issue

Chimney Fires	2
Cold Weather Preparedness	2
Kids Corner/Escape Plan	3
Smoke Alarms	3
Smoke Alarms	4

Special points of interest

- Levy Lift, Please vote February 13, 2024
- Stay prepared and warm this winter season
- Make a Home Escape plan that the whole family can use

Don't forget about your Chimney!!



Do you have a wood burning stove? Make sure you are cleaning it regularly or you could be calling 911 for a chimney fire.

Signs of a chimney fire include;

- * Loud or crackling noise
- * A lot of dense thick smoke
- * Flames coming from the tops of the chimney
- * A strong, intensely hot smell
- * And more

If you have any of these get out of the house immediately and call 911!

All these and more can be prevented by cleaning your chimney at least once a year and keep-

ing it in good condition.

You can help decrease creosote buildup by using these steps:

- * Burn smaller, hotter fires
- * Burning properly seasoned wood
- * Make sure the chimney has a sufficient draft

Please don't let your chimney be the reason you need to call 911.



The First New Year's celebration dates back 4,000 years!!

Get out and have some Fun!!

Even though the days are short and the weather is nippy doesn't mean you and your family can't have some fun on the nice days. Some activities to do this season:

- Ice Skating
- Sledding
- Snowshoeing
- Going to a hockey game
- Make a Snowman
- Make Paper Snowflakes
- Drink hot chocolate
- Go to Ballet or winter concert
- Read a book snuggled in a blanket
- Bake cookies

The Possibilities are endless; Just have fun



Cold Weather Preparedness

Ice and snow are a part of everyday life in the PNW this time of year. It is a good idea to be prepared for anything the winter weather can bring.

Whenever there is a winter storm it can cause extremely cold temperatures, icy roads, power outages and more. To help prepare here are some helpful tips:

- Have an extra heat source like extra blankets or coats, a fireplace or portable heaters
- Have battery-powered flashlights or lanterns rather than candles, with extra batteries easily accessible
- Keep extra water and food supply that can be eaten without power or warmed up

When you are walking on icy surfaces you should take precautions including:

- Keeping knees slightly bent with hands out of your pockets to improve your balance.
- Make sure you are using handrails when they are available
- wear rubber sole shoes that give you optimal traction.

If you have a cell phone try to carry it with you at all times in case of an emergency and try to have a family member or neighbor know what you are

doing and check in frequently.

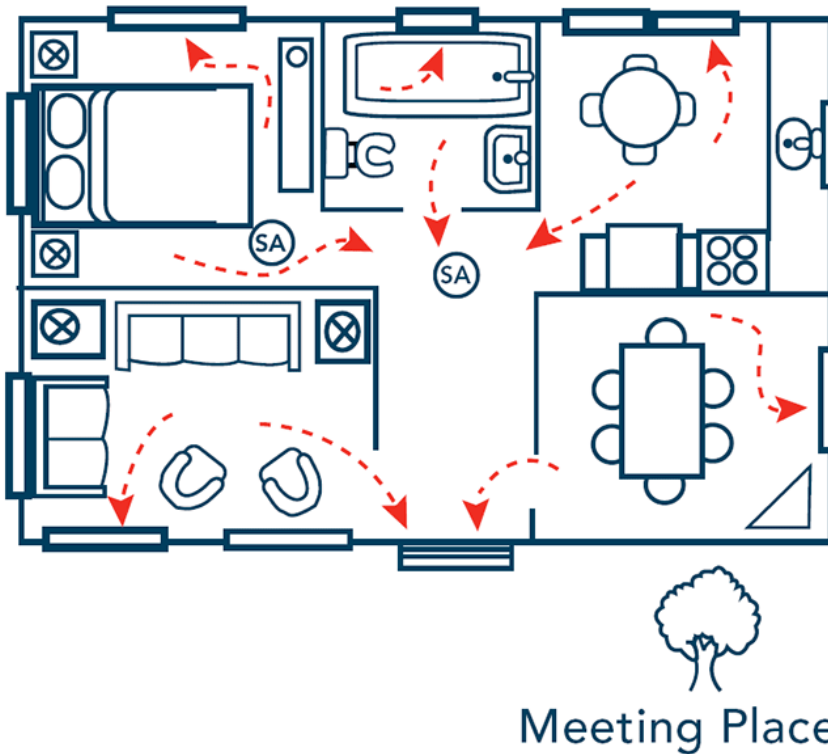
If you do sustain a minor injury from falling, it is a good idea to get checked by your primary care physician or go to a nearby urgent care to get checked out. If you can't get up or are in severe pain and think you have a broken bone or don't feel comfortable driving in your condition, call 911 immediately and ask for help.

When you have to clear snow and ice off sidewalks or driveways make sure you use the proper precautions. Dress in warm clothes and use layers, Once you start to work you will get warm but the weather is still cold.

If you are an elderly person and need help clearing a sidewalk or the driveway please ask a neighbor or relative for help. We are a small tightknit community and can help everyone out in times of need.

Try to stay inside if you can but we all know that is not always possible. Don't forget about your kids or animals either. They can become susceptible to the cold weather faster than you think, and they can have trouble telling you what is wrong.

Think warm thoughts!!!



Meeting Place

Make sure your escape plan has two exits out of every room

Kids Corner

Looking for a way to engage your kids to help them understand fire related topics? Here is one way to start the year off right, an ESCAPE PLAN. Every public building has to have one, so why shouldn't your home have one also? As an adult you might not think about how you would get out in case of an emergency, it doesn't just have to be a fire. But as kids they don't know what could be an emergency or where to go if there is one.

When you start to think about an escape plan/route devise a plan with a kids perspective.

- ◆ Can the doors and/or windows open easily
- ◆ Is anyone handicap where they need extra help
- ◆ Where is a safe spot away from the house that is easily accessible?
- ◆ Is your house a multi-level house? Everyone should be able to exit from every level
- ◆ Are there two exits for every room

Make sure you draw your house layout, including doors and windows, and plan two ways out of every room with your meeting spot marked also. Make sure you practice your fire escape at least twice a year, maybe more with kids until they have it mastered. Make any drill you run as realistic as possible.

If you would like any more information or a template for your house plan there are many websites to help, listed below are two of them:

A kid focused website: sparkyschoolhouse.org/resource/home-fire-escape-plan-grid

A general information website: www.nfpa.org/public-education/staying-safe/preparedness/escape-planning

Smoke Alarms

Do you have smoke alarms in your house? Are they working correctly?

Smoke alarms are a key part of a home fire escape plan. They will give you an early warning so you can get out quickly.

Some Safety Tips:

- Install Smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level.
- Larger homes may need extra alarms
- It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms: when one sounds they all sound.
- Test all smoke alarms once a month by pressing the test button
- Smoke alarms should be on the ceiling or high on a wall, Keep at least 10 feet away from the stove.
- There are special alarms that have strobe lights or bed shakers for hard-of-hearing or deaf people.
- Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.

If you need a smoke alarm please contact the fire department for a free one.



You could be a Winner!!

Spokane County Fire District 5

17217 W Four Mound Rd

Nine Mile Falls WA 99026

As a district we are located on the northwest plains. We cover approximately 90 square miles. We currently have two stations, the main office St. 51 is located on Four Mound Rd and St. 52 is located on the NE corner of Charles and Valley Rd. These stations are unmanned and we are an all volunteer fire district.

C R E S C A P E P L A N L D D
 T O N T E M P E R A T U R E S
 H C M M K P I L W G G T P V Q
 A H E M E I J F A D I S A O I
 N I L F I E R V O T E P I L C
 K M E I M S T V B A A H C U S
 Y N V R B A S I K F I V E N M
 O E Y E F K R I N C C K V T O
 U Y R W T Z E C O G O R N E K
 T O A F M I J X H N P L D E E
 C O M M U N I T Y P E L D R C
 J A N U A R Y P R K W R A S H
 Q S L E D D I N G U I M S C I
 S N O W M A N K I D S I D F E
 F E B R U A R Y E T F T Q D F

Find the below words and return to the firehouse for a chance to win a \$5 gift card to Eagles Nest. *Make Sure your name is on the wordsearch

- Commissioners
- Meeting Place
- Temperatures
- Five
- Escape plan
- Community
- Thank You
- Vote
- Volunteer
- Chimney
- Snowman
- Cold
- March
- January
- Chief
- Kids
- Smoke
- February
- Sledding
- Levy
- SCFD
- Fire
- Ice

Spokane County Fire District 5

17217 W Four Mound Rd
Nine Mile Falls WA 99026

Phone: 509-796-
Website: scfd5.org
E-mail: admin@scfd5.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

