

Smoke Signals

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Volume 1, Issue 2

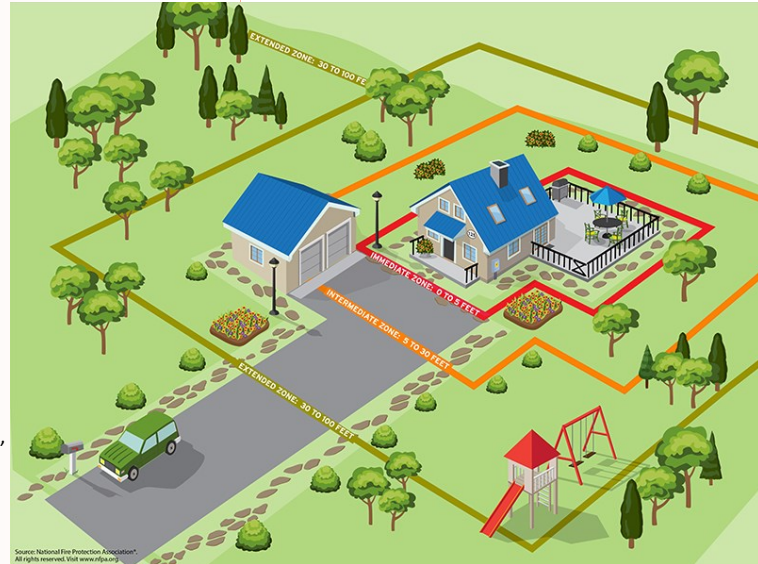
Be Prepared for a Wildfire

The hot summer months are approaching faster than we realize. Is your home and family ready for a wildfire if one comes?

There are many resources that can help you be better prepared and even help your local fire department safely combat a wildfire. The biggest and most important action to remember during a wildfire is do not panic, this is when you can either hurt yourself or others and make the situation worse. Here are some safety tips to prepare your home and family in case of a wildfire or evacuation:

1. Follow burn restrictions for the area. You can always look online at spokanecleanair.org for any burning restrictions or you can call them at 509-477-4710 to see if there is any restrictions in Spokane County.
2. Clearly mark your home address, we do sell address signs at the firehouse. These help greatly with finding your home in any emergency. Make sure they are clearly visible from both directions on the roadway and not hidden behind growing grasses, flowers, or any vegetation.
3. Create a defensible space around your home. This means keep lawn green and mowed down to at least 4in, remove flammable objects, and clean up yard waste and tree debris at least 30ft surrounding the house.
4. Keep your trees trimmed up so no ladder fuels can reach the crowns of the trees.
5. Choose heat and flame resistant building materials for homes, decks, fences and any other construction.

The Fire Department has many educational material that we would gladly help answer any questions. A couple good websites are nfpa.org and spokanecleanair.org.



Evacuation Safety

In case there is a wildfire and it becomes to dangerous to stay in the area, the fire command will issue an area evacuation, which can come as an emergency alert on your phone, word of mouth, or by the media. To help prepare for an evacuation it is a good idea to have a vehicle prepared with extra clothes, blankets, personal documents; like birth certificates, SSN, Drivers License, and any valuables that can't be replaced. It is a good idea to keep your documents in a place where you can grab them in a hurry and have them all together, like a binder.

There are three levels of evacuation:

1. **Advisement Issued**– Level 1 warns that the current or projects threats from the fire(s) are severe. It is recommended that you get everything ready to leave, including pets and livestock.
2. **Evacuation Advised**– Level 2 notifies home owners that threats have not decreased and it is advised to be prepared to leave at a moments notice. Level 2 could be the first notice you receive depending on where the fire is to your residence.
3. **Immediate Evacuation Advised**– Level 3 Evacuations mean to get out now! The threat is immediate and emergency services may not be available. This level often includes locations of nearby temporary shelters if needed.

It is a good practice to know at least two ways out of your property. Always try to follow what the evacuation notice is stating. It is key to stay calm and don't panic. There is a lot going on when evacuation notices get issued and some information can get confusing when getting informed from multiple media outlets. Try to stay focused on reputable sources and what the Sheriffs Office has issued.

If you have pets and large animals it is advised to move them out of the area. However; this is sometimes difficult. There are many tips to help your furry friends get returned to you in case they get separated. For dogs and cats, get them micro chipped, any animal shelter or vet has a way to look up who the animal belongs to. For large animals and livestock you can paint/write your phone number on hoofs of horses or put ribbons with your number and/or address tied in their mane/hair. It is safer for animals not to have any collars, halters or leads on them if they aren't use to having them on constantly, they can get caught on something and then the animal can panic.

If you have more questions please reach out and ask them. Be prepared!

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Special points of interest

- Create a defensible space around your home
- 3 Levels of Evacuation
- Drink plenty of fluids when weather is warm
- A life jacket only works if you wear it
- Be Road Safe

Get to know your Volunteers



Alex-FF 11 years of service

Robert- FF 5 years of service

Kayla-FF/EMT/Officer 5 years of service

Cory-FF 10 years of service

Mike-FF 18 years of service

Gary-FF 2 Years of service

Clifford-FF 5 years of service

Zack-FF 5 years of service

Larry-FF 5 years of service

Joe-FF/EMT/Officer 25 years of service

David-FF 2 years of service

Adam-FF 2 years of service

Dustin-FF/Officer 5 years of service

Greg-FF/EMT 21 years of service

Ashlee-FF 3 years of service

Scott-FF/Chief 23 years of service

Miles-FF 24 years of service

Bethany-FF 13 years of service

Mason-FF 13 years of service

Leah-FF/EMT 6 years of service

Robert-FF 8 years of service

Van- FF 26 years of service

*FF-Firefighter

*EMT-Emergency Medical Technician

Please tell your volunteers thank you for their service next time you see them. They don't just respond to calls, there is training once a week and multiple community activities they help prepare for.

Hip Hip Hurray, Warm Weather is on the Way!!



Life Jackets

As the weather gets warmer don't forget to use life jackets when you are around/ on the water.

When looking to buy a lifejacket you should always physically try it on. There are many different types and sizes for all water activities.

When looking for a life jacket you need to remember a few key items:

- * Must be approved by Unites States Coast Guard (USCG)
- * Make sure it is the correct size, If it rides up around your face; its to big. If it's to small it won't be able to keep you afloat
- * Make sure it isn't ripped, torn or waterlogged
- * Don't forget to get a life jacket for your pets also

A great life jacket only works if you wear it!

Stay Cool This Summer

Now that the weather is starting to get warm its time to go outside and be active. There are plenty of outdoor activities to do in the Spokane area. Going for a walk, run, bike ride, camping, yard work or improvement and many more.

While your out and about don't forget that your body can become overheated. Be sure to keep aware of what your body is telling you. While people over age 65 and under age 2 are most at risk for heat related illnesses, however, everyone should be proactive.

Some helpful tips to keep you safe as the summer heats up:

1. Stay inside in an air-conditioned location if possible
2. Drink plenty of fluids even if you don't feel thirsty. Caffeinated, sugary and alcoholics drinks are not advised due to the beverages making you lose more fluid than you take in.
3. When outside wear loose clothing, pace yourself and if possible schedule activities during the cooler parts of the day.
4. Take cool showers or baths to cool down
5. Check on friends and neighbors regularly to make sure everyone is being safe.
6. NEVER leave children or pets in vehicles

The National Weather Service is predicting a seasonal temperature above normal and a below normal precipitation amount for our area. So please take caution and stay cool.



Always wear a properly fitted helmet and follow the rules of the road.



Kids Corner

Looking for a good activity to get your kid and family outside? Going for a bike ride is a great option. Bicycling is a fun and healthy activity but remember a bicycle isn't a toy; it's a vehicle. Here are some riding tips to help protect from serious injuries.

- **Wear a bicycle helmet:** Any age cyclist should wear a helmet, no matter where you are riding. If you need help fitting a helmet the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is a great resource.
- **Adjust your Bicycle to fit:** when you stand over the bike you should be 1-4 inches between the rider and the top bar depending on what type of bike you are using; mountain or road. The seat should be level with the height adjusted to have a slight bend in the knee when leg is extended.
- **Check your equipment:** make sure the tires are properly inflated and the brakes work.
- **See & be seen:** no matter what time of day you ride, make yourself visible to others. Wear neon, fluorescent or other bright colors. Wearing anything that reflects light or use flashing lights. Remember just because you see a driver doesn't mean the driver can see you.
- **Control the bicycle:** ride with two hands on the handlebars, except to signal a turn. Keep books and other items in a carrier or backpack. Make sure you keep an eye out for hazards on the road, like potholes, broken glass, puddles, leaves, animals
- **Make Sure you have a properly fitted helmet.** There are many sizes and adjustments that need to be done correctly. It could save a life.

It is an important message to send to your kids to use all safety precautions when you are on the roadway, whether you are riding a bike, walking, or driving a vehicle. Please instill the importance of following all rules of the road.

It's a Celebration

Looking for a reason to have a special dinner or just a pick me up from a long day at work.

Here are some happy days:

- April 1st– April fools day
- April 6th– National Handmade Day
- April 13th– Scrabble Day
- April 19th– Bicycle Day
- April 30th–Bugs Bunny Day
- May 5th– Cinco de Mayo
- May 12th– Mother's Day
- May 18th– Armed Forces Day
- May 27th– Memorial Day
- May 31– International Space Day
- June 4th– National Cheese Day
- June 8th–Best Friends Day
- June 16th– Fathers Day
- June 20th– National bald Eagle Day
- June 23rd– Let it Go Day
- June 30– Meteor Day

There are many more holidays this quarter. Feel free to search them if you have a certain day you are looking for.

Our monthly commissioners meetings are the second Tuesday of every month at 6PM located at St 51, 17217 W Four Mound Rd.

The meeting is open to the public and all are welcome. Please come and personally meet your commissioners and ask any questions you might have.

Our newest Commissioner Dave Alvarado is also open to having phone calls with questions or concerns, feel free to call him at 509-601-9532



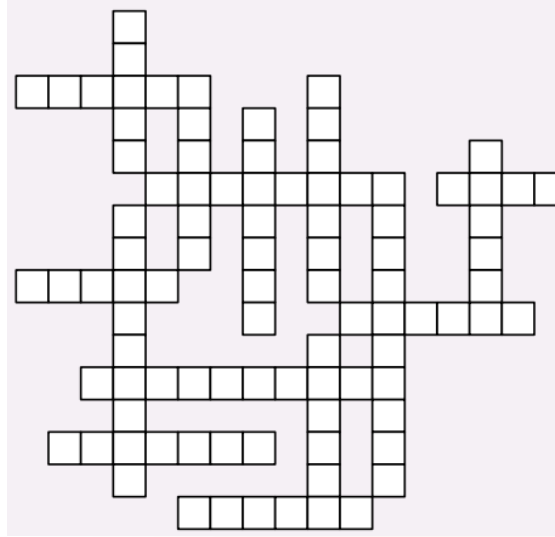
You could be a Winner!!

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.

Feel free to visit our website at scfd5.org for more information. Our secretary is a notary so please feel free to call and make an appointment if you need something notarized.



Can you fill in the puzzle to fit all the words below?
Return with your name to enter a drawing on June 11th for a \$5 Eagles Nest gift Card.

4 Letters

•Cool

5 Letters

•Green

•Trees

6 Letters

•Helmet

•Levels

•Notice

•Safety

•Spring

•Summer

7 Letters

•Address

•Bicycle

•Visible

8 Letters

•Wildfire

9 Letters

•Emergency

10 Letters

•Department

•Evacuation

Spokane County Fire District 5

17217 W Four Mound Rd
Nine Mile Falls WA 99026

Phone: 509-796-4793
Website: scfd5.org
E-mail: admin@scfd5.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

