

# Smoke Signals

July-Aug-Sep 2024  
Volume 1, Issue 3

## Can Emergency Vehicles Fit Down Your Driveway

In the event you need our services, whether it be for a fire or medical call, can our trucks safely reach your home? Emergency vehicles are bigger and harder to maneuver than your average vehicle. With this in mind, you can help the fire department respond to your emergency by establishing a safe route with adequate driveway and home access.

Here are few steps to prepare your driveway that could make all the difference to a quicker response.

- 1) Position your address sign so it is easily readable from both directions. If you don't have one the fire department will gladly make one for a small fee.
- 2) Make your home as visible as possible from the road so emergency vehicles can see if it is safe to proceed.
- 3) Clear trees, branches and brush from your driveway so it is at least 12 feet wide and there is a clearance of at least 14 feet.
- 4) It would be nice for emergency personal not to have to get out and open gates. However we all need our security, so if you have a gate with a code on it please either let 911 know what the code is so they can relay the information or let our department know, we have a secure way of keeping the information with responding vehicles.
- 5) Create a space at the end of your driveway, close to your house, with adequate room for an emergency vehicle to turn around. Remember it takes more room than your average vehicle.
- 6) Be sure your driveway's surface is able to support the weight of an emergency vehicle, even in the spring when the ground is soft.

Remember we want to be able to help you but we have to be able to reach you first!



## Make sure its Dead Out!

Who doesn't like sitting out in the evening and roasting some marshmallows around the campfire? It doesn't matter if you are in your own backyard, camping at a designated campground, or camping in the middle of the woods; you need to be aware that campfires can spread and cause more damage than intended.

The first and most important thing to know is if burning is allowed. If you are in Spokane County call Spokane Clean Air (509)- 477-4710 to see if any restrictions are in place. If you are outside of Spokane County, call the local fire department to see about any restrictions.

So what if you can burn? There are a few safety tips to help you keep the fire in the designated area and prevent it from spreading.

1. If you are camping in a designated campground, use the current burn pit that is on site. If you have to make your own select a level, open location away from heavy fuels.
2. Clear an area to at least a 10 foot diameter and scrape away any grass, leaves or needles down to the mineral soil.
3. Scoop a depressed area in the center of the cleared area and put a ring of rocks around it.
4. Make sure your wood is cut in short lengths that can be piled within the ring and light the fire.
5. Always keep a shovel and water supply nearby. Have a responsible adult next to the fire and never leave children unattended.
6. Make sure the fire is completely extinguished before leaving.



Drown the campfire ashes with lots of water.



Stir, add more water and stir again. Be sure all burned material is out cold.



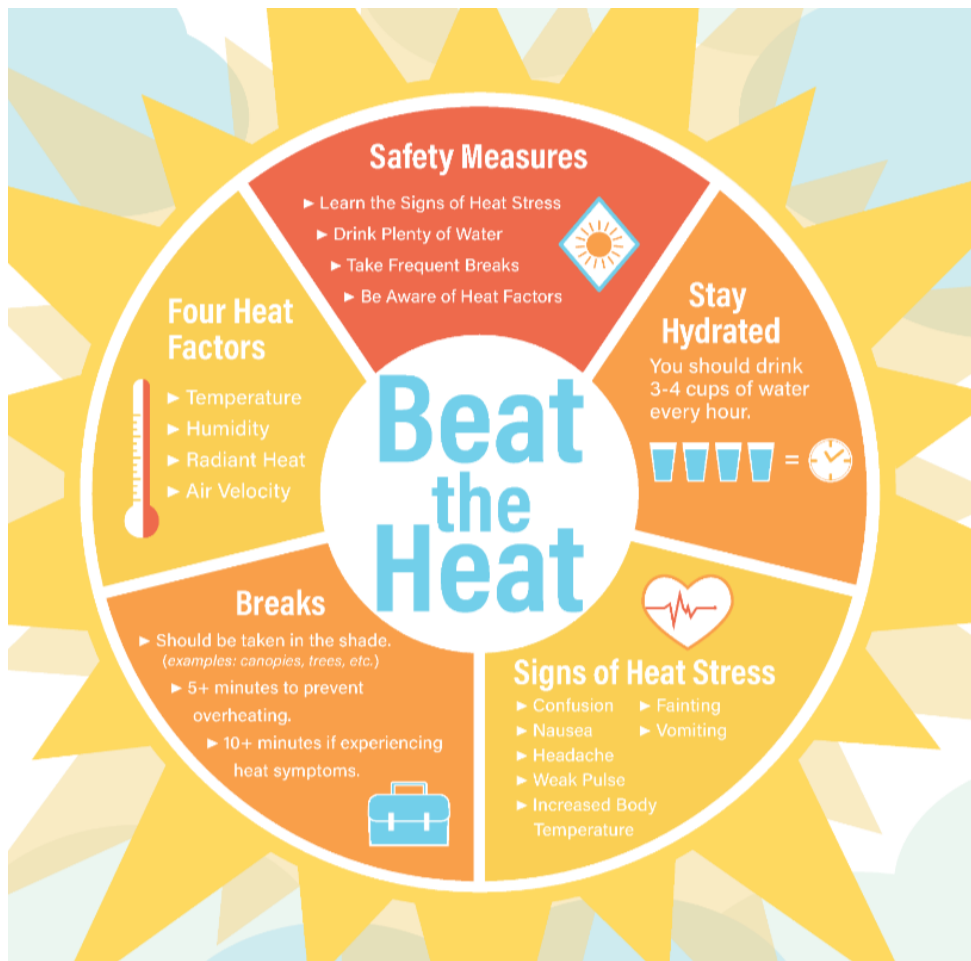
Feel materials with your bare hand. If it is too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.

### Inside this issue

Beat the Heat .....	2
Home Safety Tip .....	2
Did You Know? .....	2
Dates to celebrate .....	3
Kids Corner .....	3
Word Search.....	4

### Special points of interest

- Know the signs of heat-related illness
- Don't forget the sunscreen
- Stay Hydrated
- Drown, Stir, Feel
- Clean Your Dryer Vent



*Did you remember the sunscreen?*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

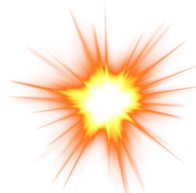
Sparks from chains dragging.....



Throwing a cigarette out the window.....

Firearms and exploding Targets.....

Any sparks.....



Electric Fences.....

**CAN CAUSE A WILDFIRE!**



**Safe Home Tip**

Do you have a dryer that you use regularly? When was the last time you cleaned the vent?

If you have a newer dryer on a warranty then there could be a timeframe to keep the warranty current. However if you have an older dryer it is a good practice to clean the vent every 1-3 years.

You as a homeowner can clean it yourself using kits or possibly something that you already own.

There are also professional companies that will come out and clean them for you.

Keeping your vent clean can reduce the chance of an accidental house fire.



# Kids Corner

Summer is an exciting season for kids, they have no school, longer days and more activities options. But summer can also carry an increase danger for children. Drowning incidents increase and the hot sun puts kids at risk for heat-related illness and sunburns.

Here are some summer safety for kids that the whole family can practice.

1. Keep watch to prevent drowning. A responsible adult should always supervise children at all times when in or around water. It only takes seconds for drowning to happen.
2. Look for signs of heat exhaustion. Cases of heat-related illness spikes during the summer months and can be life-threatening in children. Make sure you know the signs, keep kids hydrated and wear lightweight clothing when playing outside.
3. Check for car safety. Make sure your child's car seat is properly fitted and never leave a child unattended in a car.
4. Protect skin from the sun. Apply a broad spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 30 whenever you go outside. Reapply at least every couple hours or immediately after being in water.



5. Drink enough water. Everyone needs to stay hydrated when the temperature starts to rise, make sure you take lots of breaks and keep drinking.
6. Be Safe on the Playground. Make sure to supervise children on the playground and choose the right play equipment for your child's age and skill. Remember that playground equipment can get hot after being in the sun all day, check for hot surfaces before playing on it.

## 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:

- July 4th— Independence Day
- July 14th— National Mac & Cheese Day
- July 20th— Ice Cream Soda Day
- July 23rd— Picnic Table Day
- July 26th— Summer Olympics Begin
- Aug 3rd— Sandcastle Day
- Aug 10th— National S'mores Day
- Aug 16th— National Tell a Joke Day
- Aug 24th— National Waffle Day
- Aug 31st— International Bacon Day
- Sept 2nd— Labor Day
- Sept 6th— Read a Book Day
- Sept 13th— Fortune Cookie day
- Sept 18th— National Cheeseburger Day
- Sept 23rd— Checkers Day
- Sept 28th— National Public Lands 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 or email him at [fcddavedist5@gmail.com](mailto:fcddavedist5@gmail.com)



# 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](http://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.

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

- WILDFIRE
- SUMMER
- SMOKE
- VEHICLE
- DRIVEWAY
- SUNSCREEN
- HOT
- CAMPFIRE
- SMORES
- WATER
- HOUSE
- HYDRATE
- CELEBRATE
- SEASON

## Spokane County Fire District 5

17217 W Four Mound Rd  
Nine Mile Falls WA 99026

Phone: 509-796-4793  
Website: [scfd5.org](http://scfd5.org)  
E-mail: [admin@scfd5.org](mailto:admin@scfd5.org)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

