

# Smoke Signals

Jan-Feb-Mar 2025  
Volume 2, Issue 1

## 2024: A Year in Review

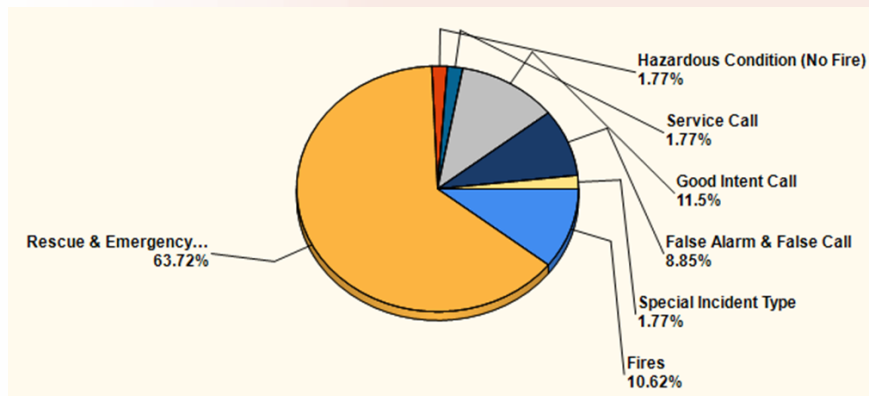
Another year has flown by! The fire department stayed busy with responding to a total of 113 calls this year. We responded to 12 fire related calls, that could be either house fires, wildland fires, car fires and anything in between. 72 emergency medical service calls, including falls, car accidents, health concerns and many others. The rest of the calls include hazardous conditions (with no fire)-2, service calls-2, good intent calls-13, false alarms-10 and special incidents-2. Our volunteer firefighters and EMT's make themselves available and give their time to help the community and for that we would like to say thank you! Sometimes the calls can be late nights or early mornings, during holiday's or bad weather and someone will come and help.

This year we had a new commissioner, Dave Alvarado, elected to serve the community. His understanding of business dealings is helping the district become more efficient. We had a long time firefighter, Alex Benko, retire this year and we are sad to see him leave but excited for him to spend time with his family and enjoy other activities, Thank you for your Service! We have also hired some new volunteers that are eager to learn about serving the community that they live in.

The Fire department had another Trunk or Treat this year resulting with many happy kids, and parents, that enjoyed dressing up, getting candy, and getting to know neighbors. We hope to continue having a safe and fun place for the community to come and celebrate.

We hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable winter holiday with good food, family and friends. We wish you a happy New Year!

Spokane County Fire District 5



## A Word from your Commissioners

As your commissioner for the past 9 years, it is an honor to write about Spokane County Fire District 5. It is with my warmest Thank You to all the volunteers of SCFD5 for their endless work and devotion to the residents in our community. The volunteers are up in the middle of the night. The group never complains about leaving their family at dinner to go help the person in need. It's very unselfish to care so much for their community. I also would like to Thank the residents in the community that have taken the time to work on defensible space around their structures. This helps the firefighters at the time of a fire to be able to get up to the structures. This also may prevent the structures from an ember landing on a structure in the event of wildfire. If you have questions about defensible space and would like more information, please contact SCFD5 at 509-796-4796, Spokane Conservation District or Department of Natural Resources. I'm also around to answer questions. Bonnie Cobb 509-981-1713

Sincerely, Bonnie Cobb



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### Special points of interest

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## New Year, New Safety Habits



Do you make New Years resolutions? Do you want to lose weight, get out on the town more, or just enjoy family more? Those are all great resolutions to have but what about fire Safety? Now I'm not just talking about making sure the fire department can find you, but everything that goes into keeping your home safe from a fire or hazard.

Here is a little checklist with some fire safety goals that you could practice to help keep your home and family safe this year.

- Practice escape Plans
- Check smoke alarms monthly
- Clean chimneys
- Clean lint traps in dryer
- Don't overload outlets

*Make sure your smoke alarms are 'heard' in the New Year.*

### 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

## Should you call 9-1-1?

Ask this question before calling 9-1-1; is this a real emergency? A true emergency is when something poses an immediate risk or threat to health, life, property or the environment. 9-1-1 should only be used when the situation needs an IMMEDIATE response from Fire, Police or Emergency Medical Personnel. Everyone has a different view if this is an emergency. Here are some situations that you should call 9-1-1 or visit an emergency room immediately:

### Medical

- \* Difficulty Breathing
- \* Symptoms of a heart attack
- \* Symptoms of a stroke
- \* Trauma resulting in major broken bones, lacerations and concussions
- \* High fever in newborns younger than 9 months
- \* A major cut that is deep or won't stop bleeding

### Fire

- \* Smell of smoke
- \* See fire

### Serious Crimes

- \* People Fighting and hurting each other
- \* Someone being robbed or beaten
- \* Someone acting suspicious, stealing or breaking into a building

### What to say when you call 9-1-1

- \* Tell the operator what is wrong
- \* Tell the operator your name, address and telephone number,
- \* Do not hang up until 9-1-1 operator tells you it's okay, they may have to ask for more information.

**Stay Calm, Speak Clearly, be prepared to answer question and receive instructions on what to do until emergency personal arrive**



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



**MAKE A PLAN**



**BUILD A KIT**



**STAY INFORMED**

*Make a plan and practice it often!*

# Kids Corner

It's a scary thing to think about your kids or family in any sort of disaster, whether big or small. To a child your car sliding off the road with icy conditions could be considered a disaster but also getting evacuated from your house during a wildfire could have adverse effects on children. Here are some tips and advice to help prepare your family for when disasters strike.

### 1. Your child's response could be a response to yours.

Feeling scared is a healthy and natural response to many things. However in an emergency your actions will demonstrate how to act. For example, if you are calm and in control of what you can do, your kids will be calmer also.

### 2. When a child feels *afraid* they are *afraid*

Don't downplay how your child is actually feeling. Yes they could be exaggerating but they haven't been through the situation yet. Try to talk to them about the big picture and be truthful and stay calm.

### 3. Practice makes perfect!

Now you can't always know what the next disaster is going to be. However you know what is common in our area; forest fires, power outages, winter conditions; as well as household emergency that can come up; fires, getting sick, falls. In any of these emergency's try to practice with kids so they know what to do. Do they know how to get out of the house in a fire, is there an escape plan? Do they know where flashlights and spare batteries are? Do they know how to call 911? Stop, Drop and Roll?

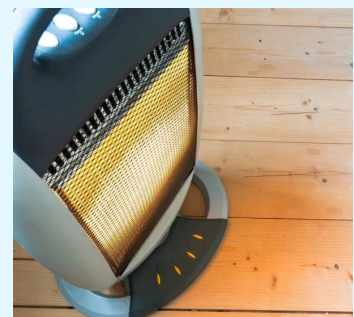
There are many resources online and in the Spokane area that can help with letting kids know what could happen and how to prepare for them.

## Space Heaters

It is getting very cold outside and you might need some extra heat. Space heaters can help but they can also become a fire hazard. Here are some things to remember when using them.

- Make sure there is an automatic shut-off
- Keep heaters at least 3-5 feet away from anything flammable
- Know how your heater works
- Never plug space heater into power strip
- Don't expose the heater to moisture
- Never put the space heater in front of a doorway or egress point
- Check for certifications

Please stay warm this winter season and use safety with whatever heat source you use.



# 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.

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F O S L E D D I N G T W R N E

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

BOOT	FIRE
ICE	OUTSIDE
SHOVEL	SLEDDING
WEATHER	WINTER
COAT	HOT COCOA
MITTENS	SCARF
SKI	SNOW
WIND	SNOWBALL

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

