



Fire District 4 FIRE & RESCUE

Serving North Spokane County

3219 E. Chattaroy Rd.
Chattaroy, WA 99003
509-467-4500
www.scf4.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 17, 2016
Contact: Chief Randy Johnson (509) 467-4500 randyj@scfd4.org



Firefighters from Fire District 4 work to extinguish a burn pile that got out of control.

Prepare now to reduce risk from wildland fires

Information available on outdoor burning and preparing a defensible space

[Chattaroy, Wash.] – The year 2015 was the worst year on record for wildland fires in Washington State. Three thousand firefighters and 800 National Guard members were deployed to fight the fires that destroyed 1.1 million acres and 300 structures. Three firefighters died and four others were injured. (Source: National Fire Protection Association Journal, Nov-Dec 2015.)

Spokane County Fire District 4 is reminding local residents that wildland fire season is ahead and to take steps to reduce risk. The fire district is encouraging local residents to learn the rules for outdoor burning in their area and prepare a “defensible space” around homes if a wildland fire should occur.

Fire District 4 does not regulate outdoor burning, but is often called to extinguish fires that are out of control. Recent windstorms and heavy snows have resulted in a significant amount of vegetation and downed trees for area residents. Removing flammable debris – especially around structures, like your home – is one of the best things you can do to protect your investment.

Some areas allow for outdoor burning, but others require that debris be taken to a refuse and recycling site. Property owners can find the rules for outdoor burning in their area through the Spokane Regional

Clean Air Agency (www.spokanecleanair.org/burning) or the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (www.dnr.wa.gov/OutdoorBurning).

Fire District 4 residents also are encouraged to prepare a defensible space around their property to reduce the risk of damage if a wildland fire should occur. A defensible space is the area around a structure that has been maintained and designed to reduce fire danger.

Homeowners can download an information brochure about creating a defensible space on the home page of the fire district's web site at www.scf4.org. Fire District 4, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the Spokane Conservation District will provide a free inspection of your property to assess and provide information on ways you can reduce risk of damage from wildland fires. More details can be found at www.sccd.org/programs/firewise.

###

Spokane County Fire District 4 provides fire suppression and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to 45,000 people over 330 square miles in north Spokane County, including the city of Deer Park. Volunteer and part-time firefighters respond to more than 3,100 emergency calls per year; 77 percent on average are for EMS. Fire District 4 is proud to operate under a balanced budget and has passed all financial and accountability audits by the state.